

The CLARION

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



It is a month now into the new year. Are we all used to writing 2010? Some years seem easier to remember than others! Ten years have passed since the dreaded Y2K. Gloom and doom were predicted

but it came with very little incident and we all survived! The past decade though has brought many changes around the world, to our country and in our individual lives. That brought me to think about what type of changes have occurred within WSMTA. The Board of Directors and the Education Board are preparing for the winter board meetings where we discuss the different programs and the everyday running of our organization. I thought it might be nice to let our members know that WSMTA has been in very capable hands the past 10 years.

Our membership has slightly grown from around 1088 in the year 2000 to about 1120 today. We added one chapter, bringing our total to 35 and have raised our number of Collegiate Chapters from 4 to 6. Members who are Nationally Certified have grown from 153 to 186 with more who are State Certified as well. This is all something to be very proud of, but we should continue to strive to increase membership as well as to encourage more members to become certified.

In 2001 the Hall of Fame was established, which has allowed 43 of our members to be honored. Technology caught up with us and in 2005 WSMTA obtained the domain name for our current website. Also in the

same year the Outstanding Artist Competition was created. Another new program came about in 2007 with the Musicianship Examinations, and recently WSMTA has made a commitment to encourage and promote Collaborative Music.

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BRAVO!

MTNA Northwest Division Composition Competition Washington Winners

Level Student/Teacher

Elementary

William Zhang/Sharon Van Valin

Junior

Gabriel Soileau/Barbara Miller

Senior

Edward Yaman/Dr. Peter Mack

Judges

David Robbins, Pacific Lutheran
University

Patrick Williams, University of
Montana

Robert Lundquist, Bellingham, WA

Carolyn Malnes, Chair

**LOOK FOR 2010
CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION
FORMS &
SCHEDULES IN
UPCOMING ISSUES
OF THE CLARION**

FUTURE EVENTS

WSMTA Conference 2010



Downtown Olympia & the Black Hills

Time seems to be flying by quickly, and as you are reading this Clarion article, we are less than 5 months away from our annual WSMTA Conference. Here in Olympia, within our Chapter, committees are coming together to ensure that Conference attendees feel cared for and that details are covered to make sure that you will be glad you made the commitment to come.

Have you made your reservation for the Red Lion Hotel? In talking to hotel representatives, we know some of you have and we thank you for doing so. We've blocked out 40 rooms, and would love to do more, so please pick up your phones and call soon! Please remember to identify yourself as a member of our WSMTA group to receive the group rate. The phone number is 1-800-325-4000.

We had alluded to an announcement/information related to the Conference of interest not only to keyboard folks, but also including our strings teachers/members. There will be several workshops for string players that we are very excited about. On Thursday evening of Conference week, we are pleased to announce a recital with cellist Rowena Hammill, and pianist Dr. Jeanine Jacobson. Olympia is very happy to have Jeanine as a member of our Chapter and we have benefited from her teaching, friendship, and master classes here in our area!

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CLARION Contributors Notice

Articles must be submitted no later than the 1st day of the month preceding the publication date.

1. PLEASE submit articles ONLY as MS Word attachments to emails.
2. PLEASE DO NOT use any special formatting other than standard paragraph indents and returns. This includes single spacing vertically.
3. PLEASE DO leave two spaces between sentences.
4. PLEASE DO NOT submit articles embedded with direct email links.

ADVERTISING:

Advertising Request Forms are available from the WSMTA Executive Office.

CLARION Board of Directors List Correction

Adjudications Chair Janice Smith's email address should be: jsmithpiano@gmail.com

Chapter of the Year

Chapters may have been preparing their entry in the 2010 Chapter of the Year Award. Remember that the deadline is March 1. If you have any questions you may contact Marilyn Linde (jmlinde@embarqmail.com), or Judy Price, Executive Manager.

Forms were provided in the President's packets, last fall, but may be obtained from Judy Price, if needed. If your chapter has presented an entry in a previous year and not been selected as the winner, the entry may be updated and re-submitted.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members!

Clark County Chapter

Shannon Anderson

Elizabeth L. Kohl

Clarkston Lewiston Chapter

Jeri Krieg

Enumclaw Chapter

Diana Heinrichs

Olympia Chapter

Ramona Allen

Ryan Sowers

The CLARION is published 9 times during each public school year: Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., Feb., March, April, May, and June. It includes membership news and announcements, as well as pertinent news of the Music Teachers National Association.

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Uliya G. Ustemchuk

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Financially our organization has been blessed with donations and careful tending to our investments. Because of this WSM TA was able to create an Investment Fund that is separate from the Treasury Budget Fund. This Investment Fund has allowed us to offer many benefits to members and students. For members, financial help has been given to those attending the Leadership Seminar and Board meetings, the Chapter of the Year Award was created, and Certification Grants have been awarded. For students, Scholarship Funds have been established, assistance to the winners of the MTNA Competitions for traveling expenses to the Divisional and National Competitions, aid to Collegiate students wanting to attend the National Conference, and this past year prize monies were raised for the Young Composers Project.

These are just a few of the highlights that WSM TA has seen in the last decade. Each year your Board members continue to strive to put forth the best programs and are always looking to the future to better our organization.

Jani Peterson, NCTM
WSM TA President

Budd Inlet, near Olympia



FUTURE EVENTS

(Continued from Page 1)

WSM TA Conference 2010

(Continued from Page 1)

OLYMPIA!



Winged Victory Monument in front of
Capitol Building

Jeanine Jacobson grew up in Gig Harbor and studied piano with Marybeth Gilbert. She attended the University of Washington and studied with Berthe Poncy Jacobson (no relation) and John T. Moore. She obtained her Master's degree from the University of Minnesota and her Doctorate from the University of Oklahoma. She taught at California State University, Northridge for twenty years and currently holds professor emeritus status. She has written numerous articles and four books. Two books apply movement activities (Dalcroze) to the teaching of elementary piano students. Jeanine's first piano pedagogy textbook, *Professional Piano Teaching*, was published by Alfred Publishing in 2006. The second volume will be released in 2011. She currently performs chamber music, teaches, conducts master classes, and gives lectures and workshops.

Originally from Sydney, Australia, Rowena Hammill came to the United States to study with famed Russian-born cellist Raya Garbousova, who taught at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. She then studied at Indiana University with Janos Starker. She taught for four years at the University of Northern Iowa before moving to Los Angeles to take a professorship at California State University, Northridge. While in Los Angeles she joined the Los Angeles Chamber orchestra as assistant principal and assumed the same job at Los Angeles Opera, a position she still holds. She has played at many

summer festivals, including the Ravinia festival, the Oregon Bach Festival and the Carmel Bach Festival, and on hundreds of movie and television soundtracks.

Their recital will include both a Brahms sonata and Beethoven sonata, and pieces by Ginastera, de Falla, Granados, and Chopin.

So, as we all head into our teaching activities in these next few months, we can anticipate a wonderful week in June to let the busyness of our lives go and to fill our ears and souls with glorious music. We are looking forward to seeing you, and to be able to put faces to names we will see on those registration forms that will be included in your March, April, and May issues of the Clarion.

Jan Rowen Music, NCTM
& Cherie Felts

2010 WSM TA Conference Co-Chairs

Conference Master Classes

Jon Kimura Parker will be conducting 2 master classes during the June 2010 Conference. If you would like to have a student considered to play for one of the master classes please log onto the WSM TA website under "Conference" and download the application. To be fair to everyone, please submit only one application per teacher. A CD recording of the student playing the piece needs to accompany the application. I do not want to set a time limit so please be mindful of the length. If the piece is too long it will not leave much time for Dr. Parker to work with each student. The deadline is **April 12, 2010**. The application/CD should be sent to Conference Co-chair Cherie Felts, 936 Gregory Way SE, Olympia, WA 98513.



Jon Kimura Parker
as an Educator

I have written about Parker's educational background and his amazing career as a pianist. Now I'd like to tell you about the side of him that cares about the musical education of all ages. In the television world, he was a guest celebrity in Disney's *Un-*

der the Umbrella Tree -- a children's program. *Whole Notes* was a classical music TV series that Parker hosted for two seasons. In this series he told stories about musical masterpieces and their composers. On the radio, Parker hosted CBC Radio Two's five-part series *Up and Coming*, which showcased the talents of promising young musicians across Canada. Another project that he was involved with was called *Piano Six*. Parker was one of 6 pianists that in 1993 made a ten year commitment to give recitals, master classes and school presentations in remote rural areas across Canada. Their goal was to expose school children to live concert music performances at a low cost and make classical music more accessible.

In 2005-2008 Jon Kimura Parker joined the Schwob School of Music faculty as the Dr. E. Stephen Purdom Distinguished Visiting Artist. Recently he was the Honorary Co-Chair of the Piano Pedagogy Research Laboratory at the University of Ottawa. Dr. Parker has also given master classes and lectures at The Juilliard School, The Steans Institute, and Yale University. He is now a Professor of Piano at The Shepherd School of Music at Rice University where he continues to share his love of music.

Jani Peterson, NCTM
WSMTA President

EDUCATION

Young Composers Project

Young Composers Project Entry Deadline February 16

The postmarked deadline for entries to this year's Young Composers Project is Tuesday, Feb. 16. Project Rules, Guidelines and Entry Form are available on our website: www.wsmta.net. Click on the Student Programs link, then under the Young Composers Project description, click on the highlighted phrase that will bring you the needed forms.

Please take time to carefully re-read all instructions. Remember that the only materials that will be returned to teachers and students are the Adjudicator Evaluations and the Certificates for your students. As is customary in many projects and competitions, the materials sent for evaluation

(compositions and recordings) will not be returned. Thus, you will need to send copies, not originals.

It is wise to play through your student's composition to see if the work is readable for the judges.

If you have questions or are unable to access the WSMTA website, please contact me at ks88keys@gmail.com or 206-842-7150, and I will send the information to you via e-mail or US Mail.

Krista Seely
Young Composers Project Chair

CERTIFICATION CORNER

The New Face of Certification

Welcome to 2010 and to the new certification process! The official Piano Teacher Profile Overview, "Workbook" and "What Will Evaluators Be Looking For?" documents are now available on the MTNA Certification web site at: www.mtnacertification.org/Default.aspx?tabid=649. (Or, from the MTNA Certification home page, click on the "Apply After January 1, 2010" portal.) The Violin, Voice and Flute Teacher Profiles will be available when finalized.

Over the past year and a half, the National Certification Commissioners have given countless hours of hard work and professional expertise to creating this exciting New Face of Certification. The staff at MTNA headquarters has also provided tremendous support and given many hours to getting it "web-ready." Check it out and, as you are considering the certification process, let me remind you that we still have 4 certification grants available from WSMTA!

Two grants were awarded in December to:

Sally Ramsden, South King County
Heather Forbes, South King County

Congratulations to the following certified teachers!

MTNA Certification in Piano
Deborah Rambo Sinn, NCTM
Olympic Peninsula
Marilyn Jacobson, NCTM
Mt. Rainier

**MTNA and WSMTA
Certification in Flute**
Bonnie Blanchard, NCTM
Seattle

As always don't hesitate to call or email if you have questions.

Karen Hollenback, NCTM
WSMTA Certification Chair

ENRICHMENT



A Valentine for You

Here we are in 2010, the month of February and thoughts of Valentines Day already! How fast time goes by!

Has your mind ever lingered on how great it is to be a piano teacher and have all the great relationships we get to enjoy over the years with both students and their parents?

During the December holidays I ran into a former student while shopping at a local store. She was home for the holidays from her second year at college. I was grabbed and hugged so tight it almost hurt. This coming from a girl who cried all the way to her lesson every week for a whole year because she did not want lessons. After that year it did get better. Now she wants to be a piano teacher also.

Some of my younger students sang a Christmas Carol for me at church and gave me a candy gift. I have students now who are the children of former students. I often tease them that it will be time to retire if I ever find myself teaching their grandchildren. We get graduation announcements from high school and college, wedding invitations and birth announcements over the years. Sometimes we get little thank you notes and/or gifts, especially as our former students mature and realize what a gift music is in their lives. I've had lots of reports of "I wish I had practiced more, or I wish I had done more of my theory" but I have never had a student tell me they were sorry they had learned to play the piano. There have been CD's or tapes sent to me of their final performance at college, notices of jobs they have with their music as music therapists, teachers, organists, etc. We are treated as great friends and they visit when they are home for holidays or summertime and it is always accompanied by smiles and hugs.

I told my husband as we walked away from my former student at the store, "That is my 'real' pay for teaching." The money is nice but the close relationships are even better. My hope in sharing these thoughts with you is that it will bring to mind all the wonderful "Valentines" in your own lives and teaching careers. Those of you just starting out, see what you have to look forward to!

As a short P.S. to this article, here are a few questions people put on their questionnaire at our June conference. I would love some input from you as to how you deal with them so they can be addressed in future articles. Lots of ideas make for more interesting articles!

How can we get students excited about practicing, performing, adjudications and competitions?

What can we do to re-create motivation when students reach those invariable plateaus?

How do you keep a full studio during this recession and what do you do about lesson rates/fees?

Do you have some ideas for fun recitals rather than just the printed programs?

Thanks for your help and a Valentine to all you wonderful teachers!



*Doreen Slaugh, NCTM
IMTF Chair*

CHAPTER NEWS

Spokane Chapter Anniversary Celebration

The Spokane Music Teachers' Association celebrated its 80 Year Anniversary on December 9 with a festive Christmas brunch at the home of Margaret Presley. The Spokane Chapter was founded February 4, 1929. President Colleen Hunter read the history of the Association's Steinway piano, purchased about 1955 from a Spokane estate sale. Members celebrated the occasion by sharing their memories of relationships within the Association over the years. Each member was given a commemorative ribbon marking the 80 years, 1929 - 2009. New members were presented with gifts by Vice President Carolyn Stuart who planned the

party.

During the 80 year history, there have been 45 SMTA presidents. WSMTA presidents from the Spokane Chapter have been George Stout, Mary Short, Margaret Ott, Martha Raynor-Mader, and Margee Webster.

The Spokane Chapter has great vitality and its members look forward to many future years of teaching young people and adults to make music.

*Miriam Patterson, Spokane Chapter
Historian*

DISTRICT NEWS

Mark your calendars...

District VII Winter Conference Masterclass & Workshop Featuring Jay and Sandy Mauchley

Saturday, February 20, 2010
Kimbrough Music Building,
Washington State University
Campus, Pullman, Washington

10:00 – 12:00 Workshop: "Why Am I Afraid?" How to Secure Our Memory and Control Our Stage Fright (Rm. 101, Kimbrough Music Bldg.)

12:00 – 1:30 Lunch (Compton Union Bldg.)

1:30 – 3:00 Master Class (Kimbrough Concert Hall)

**Registration Deadline for reduced rate is February 6, 2010.
Registration Fees for the workshop are as follows:**

Member \$15.00

Non-Member \$20.00

Full-time Student with ID \$ 5.00

Please make checks payable to "Clarkston/Lewiston WSMATA" and send to:

Stephanie Hill
1132 Ripon Ave.
Lewiston, ID 83501
(208) 746-1122
smhill@clearwire.net

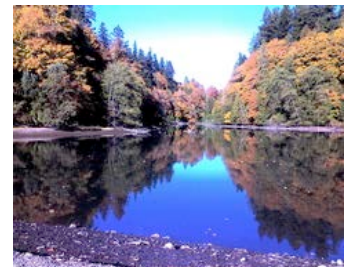
Confirmation of your registration will be made by e-mail.

MTNA NEWS

Teachers Discounts!

Whether shopping for music, office supplies, or making copies, teacher/educator discounts are available. The question is—how to find them? The fact is, to receive these discounts, often times you must investigate on your own and find out how the programs work. If you don't ask—they might not tell you! Many businesses offer "educator" discounts, but do not consider independent music teachers to be part of their "educator" program. Don't be afraid to talk about the similarities between being a qualified music teacher and a home-school educator, which are usually recognized as educators by discount programs. In times like these, it makes sense to try for every discount and "frequent-buyer" program you can. Places to check out include Kinko's, Staples, and stores that sell music and school supplies. Some stores give discounts on items at the time of sale, while others offer frequent-buyer programs that offer rebates or discounts. Another way to find savings is by signing up for "My Education Discount", a web site that notifies teachers of discounts offered by many stores. Be sure to sign up for the site's free e-mail alert system, which informs teachers of new and exclusive discounts. Visit the web site by clicking the link below: www.myeducationdiscount.com/emailaler.

Also, we would like to hear from you! If you know of any stores (particularly national chains) that offer educator discount programs, we would like to start a resource list for MTNA members. Please let us know by sending an email to Rachel Kramer at mtnanet@mtna.org and we will update the list for all members. Remember, if you don't inquire, in most cases you will miss an opportunity! Let the savings begin!



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Russian Chamber Music Foundation of Seattle

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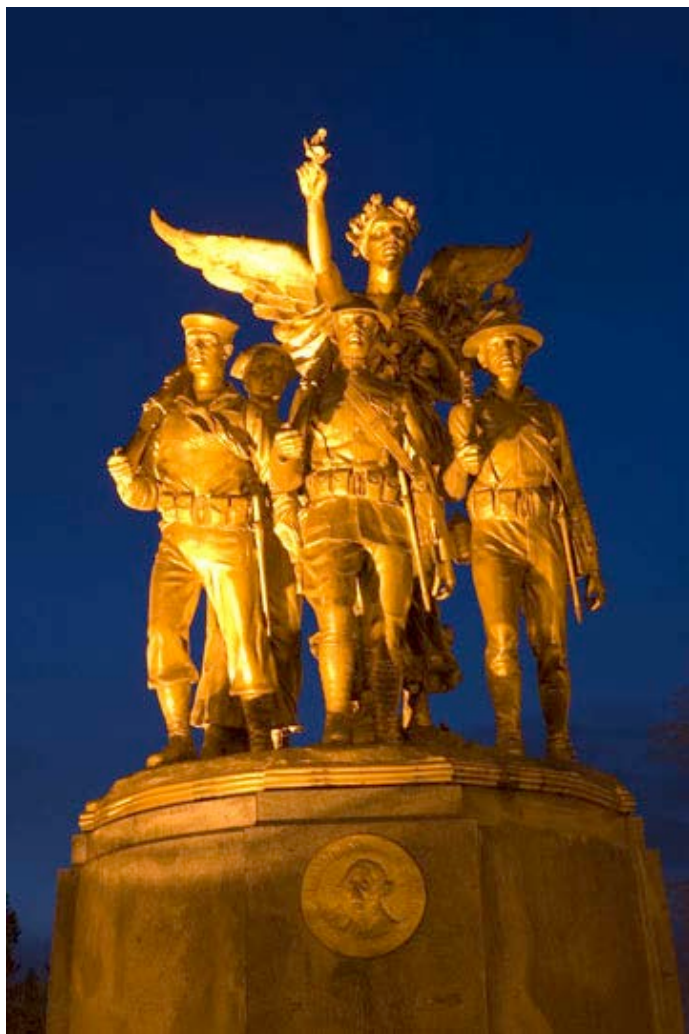
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City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Dates & Deadlines

Feb. 5: Russian Chamber Music in Seattle (see Bulletin Board).

Feb. 16: Deadline for Young Composers Project entries.

Feb. 20: District VII Winter Conference (see District News).

March 1: Postmark deadline for submitting Chapter of the Year application.

March 20-24: MTNA Conference, Albuquerque.

April 12: Deadline for entries to participate in the John Kimura Parker master class at Conference 2010.

June 21-25: WSMTA Conference 2010, in Olympia.

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Visit your WSMTA website at : www.wsmta.net & see *The CLARION* in full color!