

The CLARION

Volume LXII, No. 1

September, 2009

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



As I am writing, the Palouse is already aglow with waves of amber. By the time you receive this, it will be harvest time and all of our studios will be in full swing. We ended the school year in Yakima where we were inspired by Ingrid Clarfield's Artistry and Mastery in music to the wonderful performances at all of the recitals. MANY thanks to Carol Cross and all who gave of their time, to take the plans from paper and bring it all to life and to make it such a wonderful week of learning and sharing. Believe it or not, we are already in the planning stages of the 2010 Conference which will be held in Olympia! Thank you to Cherie Felts and Jan Rowen Music for accepting such an important job. Look in each month's Clarion for sneak previews!

So as the seasons keep changing, so do your officers within your chapter and within Washington State. This letter brings you greetings from your new President in Moscow, Idaho! Hopefully many of you remember the 2007 Conference in Pullman. If you do, then you know where Pullman is on the map. If one traveled 10 miles farther east you would trip across the state line to Moscow, Idaho. It is a very unique area with 2 Universities, many cultural events and all that comes with small town America. I'll try and share more about my area in future Clarions.

I believe I'm the first President not to actually live in the State of Washington. You are probably wondering how this can happen? While I now reside just inside Idaho, Washington is my home state. I grew up in Shelton (you'll have to look that up if you don't know where it is!) and in the early 1990's my husband and I moved to the Tri-Cities. This, shall they say, is where it all began. Because of one special person, I was invited to attend a Tri-Cities Chapter meeting. There I met wonderful people and teachers who to this day are still very dear friends. What a wealth of musical knowledge: all the sharing at chapter meetings, the workshops, adjudications, lunches and the list could go on. I certainly would not be the type of teacher or have said yes to the many positions I have held if it were not for this fabulous support group, who are proud to be members of WSMTA. So as your chapters start their yearly meetings, take a look around. Are there long time teachers in your area that are not members? Did a new teacher just move to your neighborhood? Reach out and share what WSMTA can offer. It only takes one person to extend that first invitation!

I look forward to visiting each chapter over the next two years and getting to know as many members as I can.

All the best as we start this yearly journey together,

*Jani Peterson, NCTM
WSMTA President*

BRAVO!

Hall of Fame Awards Conference 2009

The three Hall of Fame Inductees were honored on Sunday, June 21st, 2009 at the WSMTA Conference banquet at the Red Lion Hotel in

Yakima. This year we welcomed: Ella Mae Durkee, South King County Chapter; Marilyn Linde, Sunn Valley Chapter; and Helen Madsen, Tri-Cities Chapter. Their family and colleagues joined in recognizing all they have accomplished and contributed in their careers. These three each in their own way have genuinely demonstrated their joy and passion for music and have spent their lives being involved in sharing that passion with those in their communities.



L-R: Helen Madsen, Ella Mae Durkee, Marilyn Linde.

(Continued on Page 3)

FUTURE EVENTS

2009 Leadership Seminar Yakima Sept. 26-27

Calling all WSMTA Chapter Presidents or other chapter representatives, to join our State Board of Directors, Education Board, Committee Chairs and other NW Division State Presidents for twenty-four hours of encouragement, challenge, stimulating ideas, laughter, renewed friendships and the chance to make new friends! You won't want to miss this opportunity to be inspired and motivated.

(Continued on Page 3)

**WSMTA Conference 2010
in Olympia!**

(See Page 4)

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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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CLARION Contributors Notice

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

A helpful guide, covering CLARION format requirements is now available. Please contact the Editor before submitting articles.

ADVERTISING:

Advertising Request Forms are available from the WSMTA Executive Office.

Corrections

State Recitalist Competitions Mason County Chapter:

Unranked Honorable Mention:

Gabriel Kwong

Teacher: Gary Bensen

Excited about Certification?

WSMTA needs you to be the next Certification Chair! Contact Margee Webster at johnmargee@comcast.net if you are interested in this opportunity.

Margie Webster, NCTM
Education Board Chair

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members!

Bellingham Chapter

Angeline M. LeLeux, NCTM

Eastside Chapter

Dennis Helleppie

Edmonds Chapter

Tamara Wagle

Gig Harbor Chapter

Nancy Kelley Sheng

Kitsap County Chapter

Jane Melin

Lynden Chapter

Julie Clark

Catherine L. Ungersma

Seattle Chapter

Linda R. Allen

Rosemarie Tamburri

Snohomish Chapter

Loreen J. Petty

Spokane Chapter

Aline Fletcher

Scott David Miller

Joyce Hawkins

BRAVO!

(Continued from Page 1)

Hall of Fame Awards Conference 2009

(Continued from Page 1)

Please look for the Hall of Fame nomination form in the November and December issues of *The CLARION*. Since its initiation in 2002 to date there have been 44 Hall of Fame Honorees. Each year the Hall of Fame Committee can select three individuals to receive this honor. Who do you know that deserves to be recognized for their accomplishments for the betterment of music in our state, country, and around the world?

*Jane Campbell, NCTM
WSMTA Hall of Fame Chair*

Sunn Valley Musicianship Examinations High Honors

Students of Emily Hurlburt

LEVEL 1: Brett Basore, Tyler Basore,
Austin Basore, Michaelyn Kuns.

Students of Charla Wheeler

LEVEL 1: Michael Harkins, Drew
Thomas, Bailey Maya.

LEVEL 3: Aric North, Annie Brouwer.

Students of Marilyn Linde

LEVEL 2: Maribeth Grabner, Matthias
Rice, Jessica Linde.

LEVEL 3: Elisa Grabner.

LEVEL 4: Konrad Grabner, Janelle De-
Groot, Danika DeGroot, Tara Van-
Corbach.

LEVEL 5: Rosemary Porter, Kristen Van-
Wingerden.

LEVEL 6: Asia Rose Aguilar, Michelle
Munck

A Mighty Great Gift From a Mighty Small Chapter

Members of the Yakima/Ellensburg Chapter presented a marvelous WSMTA conference experience to all who attended the 5-day event June 21-25, 2009 at the Yakima Red Lion!

In Yakima - the warm and inviting heart of our state - the host chapter's dozen members, including 2009 WSMTA Conference Chair Carol Cross, created an ambiance where delightful "Yakima Valley Visions" enlightened everyone in some way.

Perhaps enlightenment occurred throughout the nine (9) stunning recitals held in The Seasons Performance Hall; or maybe during the inspiring lectures and master classes given by renowned clinician Ingrid Jacobson Clarfield; or possibly in one of the wide variety of interesting sessions led by experts from around the country and state; or maybe even whilst WSMTA's various informational and business meetings took place!

A couple of Yakima/Ellensburg Chapter's sister District VI chapters - Tri-Cities Chapter and Sunn Valley Chapter - jumped in to help with planning and hosting the elegant Sunday evening banquet and the festive Tuesday evening post-recital reception.

Although many people gave of themselves to add to the conference's success, it was the Yakima/Ellensburg Chapter's efforts that turned it all into a well-run Major Event. A few of the signature touches this thoughtful chapter shared throughout the week included the clear and concise conference booklet (complete with lovely scenes from the beautiful Yakima Valley), as well as goodies tucked into the registration packets (the lovely fans continue to be used on hot summer afternoons), gorgeous flowers, delicious menu selections for lunchtime - always an important consideration, and the fun and adventurous Wednesday Wine Walk! The friendly monitors and hospitality crews made up of chapter members and their family, student, and friend volunteers were a very helpful presence in all of the session, recital, and dining rooms.

The Yakima/Ellensburg Chapter did a superior job of carrying out the daunting task of hosting a WSMTA Conference. They join a list of all sizes of chapters who have hosted the conference in the past several years: Bellingham (District I), Grays Harbor (District IV), Kitsap County (District III), Olympia (District IV), Pullman (District VII), Seattle (District II), Snohomish County (District I), Spokane (District VII), Tacoma (District III), Tri-Cities (District VI), Walla Walla (District VI), and West Sound (District III). Thirteen (13) chapters out of thirty-five (35) have hosted this annual event recently. If the hosting opportunity comes to some of the other twenty-two (22) chapters in the

next decade, may the chapters (and districts) listed in this paragraph be inspiration enough to accept the job.

WSMTA extends many thanks and hearty congratulations to the most recent host of its annual conference, 2009 WSMTA Conference Chair Carol Cross and the Yakima/Ellensburg Chapter.

*Mary Kaye Owen, WSMTA
Immediate Past President*

BRAVO! Section
continued on Page 6

FUTURE EVENTS

(Continued from Page 1)

2009 Leadership Seminar Yakima Sept. 26-27

(Continued from Page 1)

I am very pleased and excited that **Dr. Gary L Ingle**, our own **MTNA Executive Director** since December 1996, has accepted our invitation to be our speaker for the weekend. Dr. Ingle has served as executive director, president and chair of an extensive list of national organizations in addition to MTNA. He holds a DMA from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, in Kentucky. He has a Bachelors and a Masters degree in Music from Samford U in Birmingham, Alabama, his native city, and has additional studies at the Cumberland School of Law also in Birmingham. During his career at Southwest Baptist University in Missouri Gary Ingle attained the rank of full professor of music, and served as Chair of the Music Department, Dean of Casebolt School of Fine Arts and Vice President for Enrollment Management. Since that time Dr. Ingle has become a career professional in association management.

I challenge each WSMTA Chapter to seize this rare privilege to gain greater insight to building a stronger, more enthusiastic membership from this seminar. As a chapter you might consider helping with the expenses for your president or representative to attend. WSMTA helps underwrite the room and food expense. You will also be up to date with information about our state and district events as well as ideas from other NW States. You should have received your registration information by now, if not,

contact me at Dianne@silverlink.net or 360 297 3972.

Place: Red Lion Hotel, Yakima

Date: September 26 – 27, 2009

Time: Saturday Noon to Sunday Noon

Make your own room reservations at the Red Lion Hotel by September 5, 2009. If you haven't made them yet, call 800-733-5466 or 509-248-5900.

Check your mail for the WSMTA registration form and more information.

*Dianne Johnston
WSMTA President Elect*

2009 Outstanding Artist Competition Nov. 6-8 Eastern Washington University, Cheney

The September 15th deadline for the WSMTA Outstanding Artist Competition is fast approaching. This year's competition will be held November 6 - 8th, 2009 at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington. This competition runs concurrently with the MTNA Competition. The Junior Piano Division is open to students 11 - 14 years of age and the Senior Piano Division is for students 15 - 18 years of age, both as of January 1, 2009. We invite students who enjoy competition or who may be considering the MTNA Competition in future years to participate. Cash prizes are awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each division. Winners of both divisions will also be invited to perform in the Washington State Winners Recital at the June 2010 Conference.

The application form can be found either in the June Clarion or at www.wsmta.net. All applications must be postmarked no later than September 15th. If you have any questions, you may contact me at swienty@clear.wire.net or phone 253-266-7804.

Julie Swienty, OAC Chair



Cats will sleep anywhere!

2009 WSMTA/MTNA Performance Competitions Nov. 6-8 Whitworth University Spokane WA

Our state level MTNA Competitions will be held at Whitworth University in Spokane, WA on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 6-8, 2009. **Entry guideline information is available at www.mtna.org and in the April/May 2009 issue of American Music Teacher magazine (pp.32-44).** Please note that there have been changes in performance times, and accompanist fees. The Senior Concerto requirement and the Junior Brass category have been eliminated from the competition. Refer to the March 2009 Clarion article on pages 1 and 3 for exact changes.

Student entry registration for the competition is online only and will be available in August 2009 at mtna.org under "programs" then "competitions". No repertoire changes will be allowed once application is submitted.

WSMTA charges a teacher entry fee of \$40 for the first student, plus \$20 for each additional student. The Teacher Entry Form was included in the June Clarion issue, and is also available at www.wsmta.net. The form and check payable to WSMTA must be sent to me, 1924 S. Post St., Spokane, WA 99203, postmarked by **September 17, 2009**.

WSMTA members are needed as volunteers! We will need registrars, door monitors and timekeepers. If you can volunteer for a few hours and/or provide refreshments, please contact me at laurie52@aol.com or 509-747-6964. Your help will be greatly appreciated! We are looking forward to another outstanding competition!

*Laurie Eash NCTM, 2009-2010 MTNA
Performance Competition Chair*

WSMTA Conference 2010 in Olympia!

Mark your calendars now for our 2010 Conference, scheduled for June 21st – 25th. The Olympia Chapter will be pleased to welcome you to our beautiful city. We are hoping to "take over" most of the Red Lion Hotel, which overlooks Capitol Lake and the wonderful Capitol building. We've blocked out 40 rooms beginning on Monday, June 21st (after-

noon registration and banquet evening), but we'd love to be asking for double that amount or more!

Your 2010 Co-Chairs have heard that some of you have never toured YOUR state Capitol building. If you are one of those people or it's been many years since you have seen it, then this should be on your "must see" list. We know you will be glad that you did! Between the downtown waterfront, Farmers Market area, the views of the Olympic Mountains and Mt. Rainier, you are in for a treat!

We are excited to announce that *Jon Kimura Parker* has accepted our invitation to come as our guest artist! As an internationally acclaimed concert pianist, his extraordinary career has taken him from Carnegie Hall and the Sydney Opera House to the Canadian Arctic and war-torn Sarajevo. Parker is also a Gold Medal Laureate of the Leeds International Piano Competition. He currently is Professor of Piano at The Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Houston.

Other wonderful plans are falling into place as the days roll by. We would love to hear from our members about creative teaching ideas/workshop themes that you would like to have considered for the conference. Proposals must be received by November 10th and emailed to both Jan Rowen Music at: farris@yahoo.com and Cherie Felts at: jscffelts@comcast.net. Please title the subject line "2010 WSMTA" to make sure that we recognize you and respond in a timely fashion. We are looking forward to a great time!

*Cherie Felts and Jan Rowen Music
Co-Chair, 2010 WSMTA Conference*

EDUCATION

ADJUDICATIONS

Entering Students into Adjudications is Marketing for Your Studio!

As I write this article, August is in full swing, my garden is lush, the grass is green and the piano is in need of tuning. It's definitely hard to think about the upcoming teaching year and absolutely difficult to think about ADJUDICATIONS! But as

you're reading this article, September has arrived, the teaching year has begun...and hopefully the piano has been tuned!

At the 2009 WSMTA Conference, I listened closely to not only Ingrid Clarfield, but to Jody Graves, Yelena Balabanova, and several other presenters who all spoke of the same issue – we music teachers are in unremitting competition with sports. So we need to start thinking like coaches and provide our students with the same level of training, anticipation, preparation, and encouragement that sports teams provide.

Music students need the same thing as kids who play sports – something to measure their progress against. Sometimes it's in a master class where another teacher works with the student to improve their abilities; sometimes it's in a judged performance that is more formal with written evaluations; and other times it's in competition where the piano students receive a grade and someone wins! These events are "student-savers". It keeps the students involved, interested, excited, very nervous, and pushes them to achieve and excel!

I find that students who participate in Adjudications tend to stay with music. Without performances, practice becomes boring and routine. The adjudicator's observations are always helpful, positive and encouraging, and you never know what the judge will hear and comment on that's distinctive and new. It can also be very beneficial for students to hear the same instruction from another teacher: such as "has your teacher asked you to count your ½ notes?" (Of course the student will say "no, they hadn't heard that before...." but we all know better). I tell my students that their practice goal is to make it difficult for the judges to find anything to say!

Don't forget that Adjudications is also about the teachers! Adjudications keeps **teachers** involved, interested, excited, very nervous, and pushes them to achieve and excel! An adjudicator always has new ideas and ways to improve a piece – and even though I'm a great teacher, I don't know everything. I look forward to learning as much from Adjudications as the students!

WSMTA does the job of making sure your students receive the BEST

coaching and instruction (think of our Adjudicators on the same level as college football coaches) and the time spent preparing your students, organizing the schedule and doing the paperwork, will pay off in big dividends for your studio.

Entering students into Adjudications is marketing for your studio just like football coaches are marketing tools for their colleges and universities – parents and students will share their excitement and success and spread the word about what a great experience you provide in your studio! Use this event to create excitement, energy and anticipation for your students this year.

Janice Smith
WSMTA Adjudications Chair

WSMTA Woodwinds

Non-Keyboard Adjudications

Non-Keyboard adjudications—not as difficult as you think! It has been a joy to attend honors recitals at the state conference these past years. There seems to be a decidedly permanent representation of exemplary non-keyboard performers amongst the superb pianists. A prerequisite to the district non-keyboard competition is participation in chapter adjudications.

There are several ways that your non-keyboard students can be in adjudications. The critical factor for having adjudications take place is that there must be a minimum of four hours of time primarily consisting of student performances and feedback. But don't forget—the four hours will include fifteen minutes at the beginning and fifteen minutes at the end of adjudications for consultation with the adjudicator by the chapter adjudication chairperson (probably you, if you are the only teacher!). In addition, teacher evaluation time is required and you can buy extra time. A teacher can combine with a teacher in another chapter as well to achieve the minimum time. Another way that non-keyboard students can participate is by having them heard by piano adjudicators that your chapter is using if the adjudicator is agreeable to hearing the students. This is a great option if you do not have the minimum four hours.

To find an adjudicator, you can consult the state adjudicator list or if you have a favorite higher institution teacher you would like to see adjudicating your students, it is not a difficult matter to put them on the list. Janice Smith, our state adjudications chairperson, will send the necessary paperwork directly to the professor to fill out.

So the items to be accomplished in a timely matter, before November, are estimating the amount of time you might have for an adjudicator and procuring an adjudicator (even if paperwork needs to be filled out later). What I do for the adjudicator, is allow the prospective person to select the date between as wide of dates I can possibly give.

In addition to having the potential to have students perform in a conference honors recital competition there are other benefits to non-key-board adjudications.

- Students have a tangible goal.
- Students who are outside the ages of solo-ensemble festivals for school can have a chance for feedback such as elementary age students and ADULTS!!
- Non-keyboard students can be represented in their own chapter adjudications honors recitals (and truly feel honored to be playing there).

For questions about non-keyboard adjudications you can contact the ever helpful and speedy Janice Smith by email or contact me at:

iris_ingram@yahoo.com

Iris Ingram
WSMTA Woodwind Chair

CERTIFICATION CORNER

Congratulations to the following newly certified teachers!

MTNA Certification in Piano

Chelsea Bloomberg, NCTM,
Sultan
Kathryn Horntveldt, NCTM,
Puyallup
Heather Hayes, NCTM,
Port Orchard

WSMTA Certification in Piano

Mary Foster Grant, NCTM,
Bainbridge Island
Ann Paul, NCTM,
Coeur d'Alene, ID

At the June 2008 meeting, the WSMTA Board of Directors voted to reimburse one half (\$100) of the Certification Application Fee for the first ten teachers who apply. Documentation of submitting an approved certification application and fee must be sent to the WSMTA Certification Chair before reimbursement is made. One grant is still available, as of August 1. Please email me if you have any questions.

Grants have been awarded to the following teachers:

Bonnie Blanchard, Seattle
Cathy Baylor, Lynnwood
Rachel Matthews, Seattle

Diane Stober, NCTM
WSMTA Certification Chair

MUSICIANSHIP EXAMS

New Chair for Musicianship Examinations Program

My name is Karen Scholten, and I am very excited and honored to be the new chair for the Musicianship Examination program for Washington State. I live in the country near the town of Everson about two miles from the Canadian border. My husband and I have a 90 acre certified organic farm where we grow different herbs used mostly for medicinal purposes along with organic beans and corn. I have three sons and a piano studio of 25 students.

It was a real joy to meet a lot of you at the ME workshop at the state conference this year in Yakima.

Quite a few chapters have tried the new program, and really have loved the variety it has to offer. The program was purchased from the Kansas Music Teachers Assoc. and this year we will be doing the set 2 tests. Along with the written theory is Rhythm, sight-reading, technique, listening or ear training and options. There will be some new updates soon Kansas MTA that I will be receiving. But, to get you started to look at this program for your chapter you can download the new handbook on the state web site www.wsmta.net or it may be ordered from the WSMTA Executive Office for \$7.50.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about this program. I hope to hear from many new chapters this year who wish to offer these exams. My phone number is 360-966-4895 or my email is:

Karen.Scholten@msn.com

Karen Scholten, WSMTA
Musicianship Examinations Chair

ENRICHMENT



The Piano

By Sean Johnson



*Exotic black elephant
hunkered down in the living room
corner,
snoring blues scales and Beethoven
sonatas.*

*Jukebox of jazz.
Hummer of hymns.
Tons of tunes.*

*My fingers stroll along
the promenade of your keys,
ambling in and out melodies-*

*now "Waltz in G,"
now Chopin,
now "Chopsticks."*

*No matter how badly I play,
you can't help but show
your gap-toothed grin, from high C to
low.*

No wonder they call you grand.

When I read this wonderful poem, my first thought was that I wanted to share it with all of you, so I got permission from the poet to do so. His mother is a piano teacher in the Portland area. My next thought was, wouldn't it be great if all our students felt this way.

One of the concerns some of you have expressed is getting the students motivated and getting them to practice effectively. I have been thinking about it and I wonder if motivation is caught more than taught. The dictionary defines motivate as: to inspire, stimulate, incite, spur. I

had one teacher who was so enthusiastic at lessons I could hardly wait to get to a piano. That was in my 2nd year of college though. Didn't you come home from our state conference motivated to incorporate into your lessons some of the things you learned there?

As the students come back for this new studio year my plan is to share this poem with them. I want them to think about how they feel about playing the piano. I intend to ask them some questions like how they feel when they play, how they would feel if they were not allowed to use their talent to play, what kinds of music they like to play and why, when they most like to play, etc. etc. I am hoping, with some thoughtful pondering on their part and more inspiration and stimulation on my part, we can create greater motivation and more effective practicing.

Doreen Slaugh, NCTM
IMTF Chair

NEW MUSIC

Turkey Talk by Kevin Costley
(early elementary solo published by FJH, \$2.50)

This charming solo includes lyrics and a teacher duet. It includes quarter notes, half notes, legato phrases, staccato chords and an accent at the end.

The Woolly Mammoth by Mary Leaf
(early elementary solo published by FJH, \$2.50)

This solo is worth purchasing just for the illustration on the cover. Again, the solo has lyrics and a teacher duet. I like the words..."It was many years ago in a frozen land, lived the woolly mammoth, powerful and grand." Middle C position, legato phrasing.

The Blue Dolphin by Timothy Brown
(early elementary solo published by FJH, \$2.50)

This spirited solo is in ¾ time, again with lyrics and a teacher duet. Utilizes 8va, and a fermata at the end.

Solos such as the three mentioned above are very appealing to young students. Possibly the first sheet music the student will be assigned, and appropriate for recital.

Pedal Happy by Kevin and Julia Olson (elementary solo published by FJH, \$2.50)

This instructive solo gives the student a chance to hold the damper pedal down for a LONG TIME. The lyrics begin "My teacher says I'm pedal happy! I just don't know what she means..." A clever way to teach pedaling. I personally am acquainted with several "pedal happy" students.

Turbocharged by Christopher Goldston (early intermediate solo published by FJH, \$2.50)

With its energy, perpetual motion, and syncopation this solo will appeal to those who like to play FAST and LOUD (I certainly have students who qualify!) The toccata-like nature and big ending make this a surefire recital piece.

Robin Chadwick, NCTM, New Music Reviews Chair, 2007-2009

BRAVO!

(Continued from Page 3)

2009 WSM TA Conference Review

As you read this, you and I are putting the finishing touches on Fall program plans, preparing to start another school year. Part of my planning includes reviewing notes gleaned from the many inspirational sessions at the 2009 Conference held last June in Yakima, and reflecting on how the experience enriched my life as a teacher, musician and human being.

I cannot close the notebook without expressing my deepest gratitude to all who helped bring "Yakima Valley Visions" from concept to reality. First, to Ingrid Clarfield, who despite her paralyzed left side, delivered three presentations, each packing a wallop of insight and information. Patti Robertson, who provided the left hand to hundreds of pages of repertoire, completed the ensemble with agility and grace, always in perfect balance with Ingrid's right.

But Ms. Clarfield's great gifts as a teacher/musician/communicator were most evident in her two master classes. She demonstrated the ability to engage the audience ("Applaud if you like it!"), honor the home teacher, and to bring the performance of each well-prepared student to yet a

higher level—all done with a great deal of humor and respect for each student.

I have appreciated all the fine comments about the presenters and performers, all of whom contributed to a memorable and valuable Conference week. It was truly a team effort and I am indebted to the many people who said "yes" to Conference tasks and then performed them with energy and imagination. A huge thank you to: members of the Yakima/Ellensburg chapter for so ably handling registration, packets, name badges, tickets, hospitality, flowers, booklet production, and to all who volunteered their time and energy; to the Tri-City chapter for the lovely opening banquet; to Walla Walla and SunnValley chapters for providing sumptuous receptions following the evening recitals of John Pickett and Peter Mack; to Jani Peterson, Krista Seeley, Valerie Roubos, and Dianne Johnston for the organization of the Honors, Young Composers, Washington Winners and Commissioned Composer Recitals. Last, but not least, a heartfelt thank you to Judy Price, Mary Kaye Owen, Gary Hind and Patti Robertson for tirelessly answering my questions and providing endless encouragement.

Clearly, the Conference was a group effort! Good job, Team!

*Carol Cross, NCTM
2009 WSM TA Conference Chair*

Thank You Letter from Victoria Ebel-Sabo

Dear Washington State Music Teacher's Association:

THANK YOU and BRAVO!!

Matching funds, earmarked by the MTNA and the WSM TA, for the commissioning of a new work by a "Composer Of The Year", provide a marvelous musical opportunity for any composer who is bestowed this award.

Please allow me to express my deepest appreciation for receiving this honor. My husband, Dan, and I shared my commissioned composition, "The Legend Of Silverheels" at the State Music Teacher's Conference in Yakima, the last week of June. We performed the 18 minute, two-piano fantasy in a lovely and intimate hall with great acoustics, known as The Seasons, on two wonderful 9-foot Steinway Grands, which was a real

treat! The use of the second piano was donated by Mr. Kevin Rindlisbacher, owner of the Steinway Piano Gallery of Spokane. Additional thanks go to Carol Cross for heading the committee, which organized the Music Teachers Conference.

Dan and I concluded the Composer's recital, which showcased the winning student composers from throughout Washington State, who performed their prize-winning compositions. The youngest composer, whose work depicted a dragon and a bird, wore a flowing princess dress and could barely reach the pedals! We listeners were treated to a marvelous variety of pieces and styles, including solo piano, singers, a flutist, piano duets, and a string quartet! Congratulations to all the composers and performers!



Young Composer Project Winners with Composer of the Year, Victoria Ebel-Sabo

Being from Bellingham myself, I was delighted to find that the Junior and Senior winners were also from Bellingham. These young composers made the four-hour drive to share their music in this composer concert. At the conclusion of the performances, Krista Seely, who organized the young composers program this year remarked aptly, "Creativity is alive and well in the State of Washington." Thanks to all the teachers who encourage and guide their students in composition. KEEP COMPOSING!



WSM TA Composer of the Year Victoria Ebel-Sabo & her co-performer husband Dan

Besides the joy of creating music, composers have the delightful opportunity to dedicate their works to significant people in their lives. With heartfelt gratitude and deepest reverence, I make the dedication of "The Legend of Silverheels" is to my dear friend, Ford Hill.

Ford Hill

Ford Hill is an inspiring and beloved musician in Bellingham, all of Whatcom County, as well as to many of you throughout the state of Washington. He is an active arts advocate and a professor emeritus from Western Washington University. Throughout the years he has adjudicated or coached many of your students and perhaps you have had the pleasure of hearing him perform, in concert.

Please allow me to share a collection of quotations from letters of few of his friends, fellow musicians, and former colleagues and students, who wrote to me regarding Ford, when asked if they would participate in this dedication: "There are no words to express how much richness and beauty he has added to my experience"; "Ford Hill has been a steady and inspiring presence in my musical life for over 25 years"; "He was the guide who opened the door to a different way of looking at life." "Lessons took on a greater, spiritual dimension"; "Ford is the embodiment of integrity, forgiveness, empathy, and empowering love"; "I admire his fine musicianship, his high intelligence, his wonderful sense of humor --and his terrific martinis!" "He supports, organizes, and directs his world and those in it, with sensitivity and an infectious sense of humor"; "The pleasure he derives from music making certainly captures us all"; "What distinguishes Ford from the countless other mentors in my life is his ability to see a person at his or her core." "Other than the support I received from my family, no one has ever been as generous to me as Ford Hill has been"; "When I came to know the depth of love and devotion he felt for his dogs, I knew: What a wonderful man."

From the first time I met Ford, I felt a connection with him. Perhaps it is due to our shared rural backgrounds. He was raised on a Wisconsin dairy farm and I worked as a

cowgirl on a cattle ranch in Colorado. Land and space are formative parts of our psyches. Over the years, besides sharing bountiful musical experiences with him, I have grown to love his refined elegance and his generous spirit, which enhances all those he knows.

THANK YOU AND BRAVO, WSMTA,

*Victoria Ebel-Sabo, 2009 Composer
of The Year, Bellingham Chapter*

Honors Recitalists Perform at WSM TA 2009 Conference



Honors Recital No. 1



Honors Recital No. 2



Honors Recital No. 3



Honors Recital No. 4



Honors Recital No. 5

CHAPTER NEWS

South King County Chapter Finisterra Trio Concert

Tanya Stambuck (piano), Kevin Krentz (cello), and Simon James (violin) will perform September 27th, 2:30 pm at the First Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Renton.

"Chamber music at the highest level," says Richard Lester, cellist of the famed Florestan Trio. This Seattle-based trio has emerged as one of the most recognized chamber ensembles in the Northwest, with a rapidly growing audience across the U.S. The group has been featured on national broadcasts by NPR and Seattle's classical station, KING FM, and live at Benaroya Hall. Their work as a group brought them much acknowledgment when they won the Silver Medal at the Zinetti International Chamber Music Competition in Italy out of groups from 20 different countries. They have been invited to perform in Europe and the Americas, including an invitation from the Florestan Trio, who recently invited Finisterra to London for performances and dialogue.

We are very fortunate to have this group of world renowned performers come to Renton. The combination of music and dialogue is a treat! For more information contact Sharon Clark at:

sharonclarkpiano@hotmail.com

Spokane Chapter Cassandra Carr Workshops

Dr. Cassandra Carr will give a series of workshops from 9:00 am to Noon, and 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm, October 10, at Whitworth University Recital Hall.

Session 1 (9:00 AM) - 10:30 AM):

Strategic Thinking: How to quickly find a "Big Picture" framework for each student (length of Focus=his or her years of study with the teacher); The initial interview; the first few months of observation: note-taking to arrive at the larger focus. How to stay flexible within the big plan as students circumstances change. Various ways to handle the end of the relationship, if things change so drastically that it probably shouldn't continue: An Exit Strategy. Post studio: A continuing professional relationship while the ex-student is studying music in college: various scenarios.

Session 2 (10:30 AM - Noon):

Great Composers: Making a strategic curriculum of the works of great composers. Why this is superior to a diet of "fun" pieces; How it works with a really long-term plan.

Session 3 (1:30 PM - 3:00 PM):

Creating an annual plan, progress report, repertoire lists, tech-nique plans a year at a time, with the Strategic Plan in mind all the time.

Session 4 (3:00 PM - 4:30 PM):

Interpretation: The intersection of the student's thoughts and composer's score. How, without violating the composer's wishes, (as we both see them in the score and also intuit them based on our own knowledge of style) we can offer a variety of interpretations for most pieces, allowing the student to have both the creative pleasure and responsibility for a great composer's piece.

Dr. Carr has published articles on the humorous music of Hayden, Ives, and Beethoven and the connections of music with the other arts and arts activism. Her newest book is *The Piano UnMethod*. Her musical work and interests include music criticism, musicology, performance, and teaching. She performs in chamber recitals throughout the state and has served on the music faculties of Seattle University, City University, and the University of Washington. Her spirited lectures and work as Master-class clinician and adjudicator make Dr. Carr a popular workshop presenter.

As developer of the SMTA Outreach program, begun in 1992, Dr. Carr led the successful "Kids for Keys" campaign, which resulted in the music students of the Puget Sound region presenting a new Steinway concert grand piano to the Seattle Symphony. This effort won her a national award as an American Symphony Volunteer.

For more information contact Natalya Syropyatova at 509-487-9252 or syropyatovoleg@hotmail.com.

**Kitsap Chapter Hosts Jody Graves in Concert,
Ensemble Workshop &
Master Class
October 16 & 17 in Poulsbo**

Dr. Graves will kick off Kitsap Chapter's fledgling ensemble program with a concert on Friday, Oct. 16, followed by an Ensemble Workshop and Master Class on Saturday, Oct. 17. The location is Christ Memorial Church in Poulsbo, at the corner of Hostmark and 8th Street (8th St. is the first right turn after turning left onto Hostmark at the first signal entering Poulsbo on Highway 305 from Bainbridge Island). The Friday evening concert will begin at 7:00 PM. Concert tickets will be available at the door. On Saturday, the Workshop will begin at 10:00 AM and the Master Class at 12 Noon. More information about the Workshop and Master Class may be obtained by email from KMTA President, Patti Ray at onahappynote@comcast.net.



*Dr. Jody Graves, NCTM,
WSMTA Chamber Music Chair*

Workshop Description

**PRE-COLLEGE CHAMBER MUSIC
AND ACCOMPANYING
MUSIC FOR LIFE! ©**

In her own words: "Each year I interview prospective piano majors at the university, most of whom have had an average of 8-10 years of lessons, and only about one in ten applicants have any pre-college experience as accompanists! We need to ask "why is this rich aspect of piano training excluded from pre-college study?"

"As teachers of piano in particular, we are in a position to lift up the art of chamber music and accompanying as a prestigious, and yet accessible form of performance art for our students. When students are involved as accompanists from an earlier age, they develop a sense of responsibility to other musicians and to the music. In turn, this brings another dimension to their own solo work in terms of having more skill at listening and making the inner lines speak. By including chamber music during the pre-college years there is more likelihood that the student will continue to play into their adult life!

"Accompanying and chamber music is probably the best practical experience to develop aural acuity. The benefits of early collaborative experience for our young musicians also provides lessons for life...listening, communicating, responding, responsibility, and the list goes on. Such a profound and transforming gift we can bestow as teachers, and what better way to ensure the future of music in our culture! This session will detail the ways in which we can incorporate this aspect into the private studio, resources, coaching techniques and repertoire."

About the Artist

Jody Graves maintains an exciting, diverse and active performing career, and is recognized nationally as a distinguished artist and teacher of piano. Her recital engagements as a soloist and collaborative pianist take her across the United States and abroad. She has performed concerts in Austria, Norway, France, Scotland, Germany, Japan, and in May 2006 toured in the Persian Gulf serving as a Cultural Ambassador for the U.S. State Department. The Middle East Tour, with the Sapphire Trio, included concerts in Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi

Arabia and Kuwait. The press reviews have called their performances "exciting...imaginative and compelling."

She is in great demand as an adjudicator for piano competitions and festivals. Each season takes her across the country as an MTA clinician, and she has an active schedule each year as a workshop presenter for teachers. Ms. Graves was a presenter at the *National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy 2009*, and has been a presenter and performer at num-

erous State and National MTNA conferences. She has also served as a judge for the *International Piano Competition* at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. Dr. Graves also served as a faculty member for the *International Workshops* summer festivals from 1998-2004. Recently she was invited to develop a program for the Eastman School of Music Summer Session titled '*Plays Well With Others*', featuring sessions on collaborative arts performance.

She has also authored articles for *American Music Teacher* and *Clavier* magazine.

Ms. Graves completed her third recording project '*Whispers of Light*' in 2007, featuring the music of Edward MacDowell, Rachmaninoff and others. She has performed solo and chamber recitals across the country at university guest artist series and community concert events, and has been a featured performing artist several times on public radio. (more)

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CALL ME OLD-FASHIONED, BUT MUSIC SHOULD BE **INSPIRING** AS WELL AS EDUCATIONAL!

Ms. Graves is the pianist with the nationally acclaimed *Sapphire Trio*. They were featured guest artists at the *National MTNA* conference in Seattle 2005, and the *International Clarinet Festival* in Tokyo, 2005.

Dr. Graves is especially interested in promoting concert art music, creating unique and contemporary ways to foster a collaborative experience between artist and listener, and is dedicated to maintaining the life of music in our schools and culture. Ms. Graves is recognized for her creative ability to engage the audience during her concerts with anecdotes, historical perspectives, and humor.

Jody Graves holds a Doctorate Degree in Piano Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, and her Masters degree from Catholic University in Washington D.C. Her major performance teachers include, Fernando Laires, Jeffrey Kahane, Bela Nagy, Margaret Saunders Ott, and Marilyn Neeley. Dr. Graves is an Associate Professor of Piano at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington and Director of Key-board Studies.

You can find additional information about the artist at:

www.sapphiretrio.com



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Dates & Deadlines

Sept. 15: Deadline for MTNA Performance Competition online applications.

Sept. 15: Postmark deadline for MTNA Composition Competition applications.

Sept. 15: Postmark deadline for WSM TA Outstanding Artist Competition applications.

Sept. 17: Postmark deadline for teacher entry fee for MTNA Competitions.

Sept. 26-27: Fall Leadership Seminar, Yakima.

Oct. 9: District I & II Conference, Marysville.

Oct. 15: Deadline for dues for renewing members for Adjudications participation.

Nov. 1: Chapter Adjudication Preliminary Report due..

Nov. 6, 7, & 8: MTNA Performance Competitions, Whitworth University.

Nov. 6, 7, & 8: WSM TA Outstanding Artist Competition, Eastern WA University.

In This Issue

✻ **Conference 2009 Hall of Fame Awards**
(page 1)

✻ **Leadership Seminar** (page 1)

✻ **WSMTA 2010 Conference in Olympia**
(page 4)

✻ **New Chair for Musicianship Exams Program** (page 6)

✻ **Conference 2009 Young Composers & Honors Recital Photos** (pages 7 & 8)

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