

THE CLARION

Volume LXIX, No. 11 · October 2017

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President's Corner



I recently participated in an MTNA-sponsored webinar for the first time. Perhaps you recall receiving emails inviting you to webinars on various topics. Maybe you've thought about trying out this new offering, too. This month, I will share a bit about my experience with you:

The title of the webinar I 'attended' was, "The Road Less Traveled: A Mindful Approach to Toxic Busyness." During the session, I was reminded of the value of creating space for reflection, focused attention and curiosity—important qualities for effective teaching and practice. The webinar instructor introduced brief exercises designed to heighten focus and calm the mind. I've been using a few of them.

"In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities. In the expert's mind there are few."
Shunryu Suzuki



The host for this session was excellent. She carefully addressed her viewers' questions and wrapped up right on time. Based on my initial experience, I plan to participate in future webinars. The only hitch was the need to shuffle my schedule to recalibrate for EASTERN time.

Live webinar participants have the option to "check in" using a sidebar for messages or questions during the session. It was fun to observe that about 275 people took time to join in. Fellow participants offered greetings from Fairbanks, Alaska to Trinidad and Tobago! I was not the only Washingtonian. I saw that **Mary Munson** from Camano Island and **Pat Kilmer** from Olympia were online, too.

Finding time to participate in webinars can be a challenge, but it is not necessary to tune in "live" unless you want the option of asking questions during the session. It is also possible to view past presentations via the MTNA webinar archives. Here's a link to a list of topics: https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Learn/Webinars/Webinar_Topics.aspx.

This issue of the *Clarion* is packed with myriad ways for you and your students to hone your teaching and music-making skills. Read Rose Marie Tamburri's IMTF column to learn how the solar eclipse can help you teach phrasing (*page 14*). Back on planet earth, Michelle Mielke offers a list of "hot links" for teachers in her Studio Technology article (*page 17*). If you're an organist, check out Joann Richardson's advice for new fingering strategies (*page 15*). Thanks to our District and local leaders, there is a wealth of workshop offerings this fall (*pages 7-10*). Sign up now and invite a friend!

Krista Seely —Krista Seely, WSMTA President

CLARION INFORMATION

The *Clarion* is the official bulletin of the Washington State Music Teachers Association and is published nine times during the school year: September–December, February–June. The *Clarion* includes membership news announcements as well as pertinent news of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA).

WSMTA EXECUTIVE MANAGER

Kirsten Carlson
732 N 74th St, Seattle, WA 98103
206-783-1975
wsmtaoffice@gmail.com

CLARION EDITOR

Samantha Yeung
c.samantha.yeung@gmail.com

CLARION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Please send submissions to Samantha Yeung at c.samantha.yeung@gmail.com no later than the first day of the month preceding the publication date. You will receive a confirmation message.
- Please send your submission and all relevant attachments (photos, documents) in one email message.
- Submissions must be formatted in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) or Google Docs. **Hard copy submissions are not accepted.**
- When possible, please include a headshot of yourself with your submission. Your photo must be a head and shoulder shot.

WSMTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Krista Seely
ks88keys@gmail.com

PRESIDENT ELECT

Karen Hollenback, NCTM
karen.hollenback@gmail.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Janice Smith, NCTM
jsmithpiano@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Kathy Mortensen
kmortensenpiano@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE MANAGER

Kirsten Carlson
wsmtaoffice@gmail.com

TREASURER

Patti Robertson, NCTM
parpiano2@gmail.com

DISTRICT I VICE PRESIDENT

Jensina Oliver, NCTM
jbyingto@shoreline.edu

DISTRICT II VICE PRESIDENT

Nicole Kim, NCTM
nicolekim@aol.com

DISTRICT III VICE PRESIDENT

Mary Grant, NCTM
mary@marygrantpiano.com

DISTRICT IV VICE PRESIDENT

Kira Theine
kiratheine@hotmail.com

DISTRICT V VICE PRESIDENT

Lisa Sauer
sauerstudio2@gmail.com

DISTRICT VI VICE PRESIDENT

Carissa Jones
cpitkin@gmail.com

DISTRICT VII VICE PRESIDENT

Lori Germer, NCTM
lorigermer@gmail.com

MUSIC ARTISTRY CHAIR

Stephanie White, NCTM
swhitepiano@gmail.com

CLARION EDITOR

Samantha Yeung
c.samantha.yeung@gmail.com

EDUCATION BOARD CHAIR

Laurie Eash, NCTM (*see Education Board*)

WSMTA EDUCATION BOARD

EDUCATION BOARD CHAIR

Laurie Eash, NCTM
laurie52@aol.com

EDUCATION BOARD MEMBERS

Dianne Johnston, WSCTM
diannej23@comcast.net

Janice Smith, NCTM
jsmithpiano@gmail.com

Greg Presley, NCTM
gregpresley@netzero.com

Peter Mack, NCTM
mackpeter@earthlink.net

ED. BOARD MEMBERS, EX-OFFICIO

Krista Seely (*see President*)
Stephanie White, NCTM (*see Music Artistry Program Chair*)
Kirsten Carlson (*see Executive Manager*)

DATES AND DEADLINES

October 1: Deadline for submitting articles for the November *Clarion*

October 15: Dues Deadline for renewing members for participation in the Music Artistry Program (MAP, formerly Adjudications)

November 1: Deadline for submitting articles for the December *Clarion*

November 1: Chapter Music Artistry Program Preliminary Report due to Stephanie White, MAP Chair

November 10-12: MTNA Performance Competitions and WSMTA Outstanding Artist Competition at Central Washington University

WELCOME NEW, REINSTATING, TRANSFER, AND UPGRADING COLLEGIATE MEMBERS

Collegiate

Roxanne Armstrong (Lewis County),
Sadie Brown (Lewis County)

Bellingham

William Brooke, Nathan Campbell,
Christopher Kelley, Tara Weaver

Eastside

Rie Joldersma, Sonoko Kambara,
Leslie Marckx

Olympia

Maria Booy

Seattle

Timothy Beggs, Monica Harle
Colin Wood

South King County

Aubrey Ross

Spokane

Mikalsh Barem

Tri-City

Tiffani Johnson, Joshua Lindberg

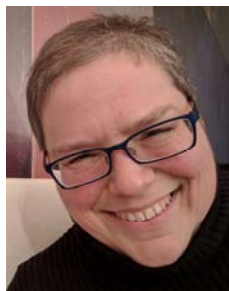
Wenatchee

Sarah Black-Marion, Amy O'Grady

Yakima

John Pickett

From the Executive Manager: *Workshop List, Student Teacher Applications, Membership List Update*



Just a note about some helpful WSMTA resources and a reminder to renew your membership:

WORKSHOP LIST

Please contact me at wsmtaoffice@gmail.com or visit the Membership Dashboard on www.wsmta.org to get your name and workshops on the Workshop List. The list will be updated by November and then once a month after that.

STUDENT TEACHER APPLICATIONS

WSMTA's Student Teacher Training Program is valuable and rewarding. Through this program, high school and college students gain experience working with young pupils, learning repertoire and teaching techniques under the guidance of supervising teachers. For general questions, please contact Caroline Berry, Student Teacher Chair. Applications for student teachers are available online at <https://wsmta.org/programs-for-students/student-teacher-program>.

MEMBERSHIP LIST UPDATE

If you haven't already renewed your MTNA membership fee dues, they are due ASAP. The official due date was June 30, but you can still renew to maintain your 2017-18 membership. Some programs require your membership to be paid by a certain date in order to participate (you can sometimes still participate, but you will be charged non-member fees). As well, if you have not paid your 2017-18 dues, your name does appear on the Membership Directory and you will not be able to log-in to the WSMTA website. Some programs require members to be logged in to register. So don't delay, renew today on www.mtna.org.

—Kirsten Carlson, WSMTA Executive Manager
wsmtaoffice@gmail.com

Fèlicitations

A fall tradition for WSMTA volunteers is our annual Leadership Seminar. This 24-hour event features important information sharing, training for new and more experienced leaders, and opportunities for participants to swap ideas, stories, and inspiration. This year, President-elect **Karen Hollenback, NCTM** (South King County Chapter), organized an outstanding program. Karen has played a key role in encouraging WSMTA to develop a long-range plan to guide our future endeavors. Thank you, Karen, for your visionary leadership.

The work of the **Nominating Committee** is one of the most important jobs in our association. This team of experienced members has the responsibility of finding our next leaders. We are very fortunate that **Jody Graves** (Spokane Chapter), **Peter Mack** (Seattle Chapter), **Harriet West** (Moses Lake-Central Basin Chapter), and **Dianne Johnston, Chair** (Kitsap County Chapter), have taken up the task of finding nominees for our next Vice Presidents in Districts I, III, V and VII. In addition, rumor has it that our beloved **Patti Robertson** (Tri-City Chapter) is planning to retire in 2018, so our esteemed nominating committee will also be working hard to



find another outstanding Treasurer.

One of WSMTA's biggest cheerleaders is our **Membership Chair, Yelena Balabanova** (Edmonds, Seattle, Snohomish Chapters). Her love for our association is infectious. She speaks and writes about the value of MTNA membership with such enthusiasm that renewing or joining for the first time becomes simply irresistible. If you are a membership chair for a local chapter, watch for Yelena's emails and Clarion contributions. She is your guiding light!

Finally, a big shout-out to all **Chapter Presidents!** Bravo and thank you for sharing your time and talent to assure that music teaching and learning remains vibrant in local communities throughout Washington State.

—Krista Seely, WSMTA President

WSMTA Leadership Directory 2017-2018

WSMTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Krista Seely
4590 Island Ave NE
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
206-335-3384
ks88keys@gmail.com

PRESIDENT ELECT

Karen Hollenback, NCTM
15009 SE 171 St
Renton, WA 98058
425-228-1110
karen.hollenback@gmail.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Janice Smith, NCTM
15604 N Sycamore St
Mead, WA 99021
509-467-8147
jsmithpiano@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Kathy Mortensen
1515 NE 96th St
Seattle, WA 98115
206-525-2113
kmortensenpiano@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE MANAGER

Kirsten Carlson
732 N 74 St
Seattle, WA 98103
206-783-1975
wsmtaoffice@gmail.com

TREASURER

Patti Robertson, NCTM
209 E Canyon Dr
Kennewick, WA 99337
509-539-6223
parpiano2@gmail.com

DISTRICT I VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Jensina Oliver, NCTM
14801 Densmore Ave N
Shoreline, WA 98133
206-321-8550
jbyingto@shoreline.edu

DISTRICT II VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Nicole Kim, NCTM
15805 NE 27th Pl
Bellevue, WA 98008
425-558-3918
nicoleykim@aol.com

DISTRICT III VICE PRESIDENT

Mary Grant, NCTM
12525 Madison Ave NE
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
206-734-8985
mary@marygrantpiano.com

DISTRICT IV VICE PRESIDENT

Kira Theine
1105 39th Ct SE
Tumwater, WA 98501
360-870-0966
kiratheine@hotmail.com

DISTRICT V VICE PRESIDENT

Lisa Sauer
2021 Broadhurst Pl
Wenatchee, WA 98801
509-670-3733
sauerstudio2@gmail.com

DISTRICT VI VICE PRESIDENT

Carissa Jones
1906 S Edison St
Kennewick, WA 99338
509-528-0717
cpitkin@gmail.com

DISTRICT VII VICE PRESIDENT

Lori Germer, NCTM
1005 Zeitler Road
Moscow, ID 83843
509-552-1248
lori.germer@gmail.com

MUSIC ARTISTRY PROGRAM CHAIR

Stephanie White, NCTM
14218 SE 162nd PL
Renton, WA 98058
206-498-5286
swhitepiano@gmail.com

CLARION EDITOR

Samantha Yeung
20546 122nd PL SE
Kent, WA 98031
206-913-7401
c.samantha.yeung@gmail.com

EDUCATION BOARD CHAIR

Laurie Eash, NCTM (*see Education Board Chair, p. 4 col. 2*)

WSMTA EDUCATION BOARD

EDUCATION BOARD CHAIR

Laurie Eash, NCTM
1924 S Post St
Spokane, WA 99203
509-747-6964
laurie52@aol.com

EDUCATION BOARD MEMBER

Janice Smith, NCTM (*see Immediate Past President, p. 4 col. 1*)

EDUCATION BOARD MEMBER

Greg Presley, NCTM
606 W 15th Ave
Spokane, WA 99203
509-624-4224
gregpresley@netzero.com

EDUCATION BOARD MEMBER

Dianne Johnston, WSCTM
PO Box 655
Kingston, WA 98346
360-930-0168
diannej23@comcast.net

EDUCATION BOARD MEMBER

Dr. Peter Mack, NCTM
1906 26th Ave E
Seattle, WA 98112
206-328-7294
mackpeter@earthlink.net

ED. BOARD MEMBERS, EX-OFFICIO

Krista Seely (*see President, p. 4 col. 1*)
Stephanie White, NCTM (*see Music Artistry Program Chair, p. 4 col. 2*)
Kirsten Carlson (*see Executive Manager, p. 4 col. 1*)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

ARTS ADVOCACY

Debra Florian, NCTM
16725 Seminole Rd NE
Poulsbo, WA 98370
360-697-1965
flostudio@comcast.net

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

Harriet West
2213 S Beaumont Dr
Moses Lake, WA 98837
509-765-6585
dhwest6@gcpower.net

COMMISSIONED COMPOSER PROGRAM

Dr. Steve Nehrenberg
19503 122nd Pl SE
Kent, WA 98031
253-852-4253
vielmusik@comcast.net

DEVELOPMENT

Janice Smith, NCTM
15604 N Sycamore St
Mead, WA 99021
509-467-8147
jsmithpiano@gmail.com

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Connie Hungate, WSCTM
8358 Van Decar Rd SE
Port Orchard, WA 98367
360-286-3680
cchungate@comcast.net

HALL OF FAME

Mary Ellen Cavelti, NCTM
11122 State Route 162 E
Puyallup, WA 98374
253-845-2358
molly60music@comcast.net

HISTORIAN

Marilyn Linde, WSCTM
PO Box 430
Granger, WA 98932
509-854-2630
jmlinde@embarqmail.com

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Roz Nau, NCTM
PO Box 728
Tonasket, WA 98855
509-486-4673
roznau@hotmail.com

INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHERS FORUM

RoseMarie Tamburri
138 NE 51st St
Seattle, WA 98105
206-402-3511
ronyc714@aol.com

LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Karen Hollenback, NCTM (*see President Elect, p. 4 col. 1*)

MEMBERSHIP

Dr. Yelena Balabanova, NCTM
4684 Arbors Cir
Mukilteo, WA 98275
719-649-4292
yelenabalabanova@gmail.com

MTNA FOUNDATION FUND

Dr. Peter Mack, NCTM (*see Education Board Member, p. 4 col. 3*)

NOMINATING

Dianne Johnston, WSCTM (*see Education Board Member, p. 4 col. 3*)

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Cinda Redman, NCTM
15716 SE 34th Circle
Vancouver, WA 98683
360-256-8888
cindapiano@comcast.net

WAIVERS

Kirsten Carlson (*see Executive Manager, p. 4 col. 1*)

**EDUCATION BOARD
COMMITTEE CHAIRS****MUSIC ARTISTRY PROGRAM**

Stephanie White, NCTM (*see Music Artistry Program Chair, p. 4 col. 2*)

ADJUDICATORS

Greg Presley, NCTM (*see Education Board Member, p. 4 col. 2*)

CERTIFICATION

Rose Freeman, NCTM
18412 22nd Dr SE
Bothell, WA 98012
425-428-9288
pianoteacherrose@gmail.com

CHAMBER MUSIC

Dr. Jody Graves, NCTM
Music Dept - 119 EWU
Cheney, WA 99004
509-359-6119
jgraves@ewu.edu

COLLEGIATE STUDENT CHAPTER

Dr. Jensina Oliver, NCTM (*see District I Vice President, p. 4 col. 1*)

MUSICLINK

Karen Monroe, NCTM
630 NW Ohio Ave
Chehalis, WA 98532
360-740-8022
karen@musicalnotestudio.com

MTNA COMPETITIONS

Kathy Mortensen (*see Vice President, p. 4 col. 1*)

MTNA COMPOSITION COMPETITION

Dr. Martin Kennedy
206 East 7th Ave #6
Ellensburg, WA 98926
917-312-0949
mpk324@gmail.com

**MTNA JUNIOR PERFORMANCE COMPETITION
COORDINATOR**

Karen Scholten
8508 Van Buren Rd
Everson, WA 99247
360-966-4895
karen_scholten@msn.com

**MTNA SENIOR PERFORMANCE COMPETITION
COORDINATOR**

Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM
11445 SE 185th Pl
Renton, WA 98055
425-228-8721
mary.k.owen@att.net

**MTNA YOUNG ARTIST & CHAMBER MUSIC
COMPETITION COORDINATOR**

Laura Curtis
155 Thorne St
Walla Walla, WA 99362
509-529-9563
curtislj@whitman.edu

MUSIC LITERACY PROGRAM

Karen Scholten (*see MTNA Junior Performance Competition Coordinator, p. 5 col. 2*)

ORGAN

Joann Richardson, NCTM
4166 NW Hosman Circle
Silverdale, WA 98383
360-692-7628
organistjoann@gmail.com

OUTSTANDING ARTIST COMPETITION

Cherie Felts
936 Gregory Way SE
Olympia, WA 98513
360-451-5452
jscffelts@comcast.net

STRINGS

Dr. Ruth Boden
155 SW Skyline Dr
Mount Vernon, WA 99163
509-335-8702
rboden@wsu.edu

STUDENT TEACHERS

Caroline Berry
1915 NE Terre View Dr #63C
Pullman, WA 99163
509-572-9202
caroline.berry@wsu.edu

STUDIO TECHNOLOGY

Michelle Mielke, NCTM
505 NW Sunset Dr
Pullman, WA 99163
509-432-3005
mielke@wsu.edu

VOICE

Dr. Gayla Blaisdell
811 S Magnolia St
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509-962-1363
gayla.blaisdell@cwu.edu

YOUNG COMPOSERS PROJECT

Dr. Martin Kennedy (*see MTNA Composition Competition, p. 5 col. 2*)

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS**BELLINGHAM**

Nancy Heyer, NCTM
2517 Cornwall Ave
Bellingham, WA 98225
360-671-7497
theheyers@msn.com

CLARK COUNTY

Judy Ebel
10400 SE 11th St.
Vancouver, WA 98664
360-260-1702
jebeljudy@msn.com

CLARKSTON—LEWISTON

Lorinda Bisso
lindismusicnotes@gmail.com

COWLITZ COUNTY

Karla Dudley
2315 Jennifer Pl
Longview, WA 98632-4373
360-577-1366
kcpiano@comcast.net

EASTSIDE

Amanda Harris (Co-President)
16611 NE 20th St.
Bellevue, WA 98008
akharris6@gmail.com

Cindy Horng (Co-President)
6401 164th Pl SE
Bellevue, WA 98006
shenglic63@gmail.com

EDMONDS

Brandi Bassett
17307 18th Avenue SE
Bothell, WA 98012
425-492-5310
bassettpiano@gmail.com

GIG HARBOR

Bonnie Hampton
197 Raft Island Dr NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98335
253-255-6258
olallapiano@gmail.com

GRAYS HARBOR

Erica Hollen
505 K St
Hoquiam, WA 98550
360-538-0669
2hisglory@reachone.com

KITSAP COUNTY

Diane Layton, NCTM
8295 NW Saddle Trail
Bremerton, WA 98311
360-613-2917
mrsboxL1@yahoo.com

LAKE WASHINGTON

Nobuko Hasegawa
15801 NE 90th Way
Redmond, WA 98052
425-818-4794
nwhasegawa@yahoo.com

LEWIS COUNTY

Karen Monroe, NCTM
630 NW Ohio Ave
Chehalis, WA 98532
360-740-8022
karen@musicalnotestudio.com

LYNDEN

Karen Scholten
8508 Van Buren Rd
Everson, WA 99247
360-966-4895
karen_scholten@msn.com

MASON COUNTY

Kira Theine
1105 39th Ct SE
Tumwater, WA 98501
360-870-0966
kiratheine@hotmail.com

MOSES LAKE—CENTRAL BASIN

Harriet West
2213 S Beaumont Dr
Moses Lake, WA 98837
509-765-6585
dhwest6@gcpower.net

MOUNT RAINIER

Sharon Beattie-White
PO Box 1115
Milton, WA 98354
253-863-0559
sharonarlene50@msn.com

OKANOGAN COUNTY

Kathleen Christiansen
312 Canyon Ct
Omak, WA 98841
509-422-4660
mnkchris@ncidata.com

OLYMPIA

Ignacio Diaz Jr.
508 Union Ave SE
Olympia, WA 98501
360-280-1363
idjr@me.com

PULLMAN

Michelle Mielke, NCTM
505 NW Sunset Dr
Pullman, WA 99163
509-432-3005
mielke@wsu.edu

PUYALLUP VALLEY

Diane Zimmermann
13905 112th Ave Ct E
Puyallup, WA 98374
253-845-7071
ddzmann@comcast.net

SEATTLE

Evelyn Hartwell
3104 W Jameson St
Seattle, WA 98199
503-866-5789
evyandart@gmail.com

SKAGIT VALLEY

Kristina Jones
1723 Douglas St.
Mt Vernon, WA 98273
360-420-1687
turkeytina7@gmail.com

SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Rachel Dickinson
1411 Sunnyside Blvd
Lake Stevens, WA 98258
425-583-7425
ellies88keys@gmail.com

SOUTH KING COUNTY

Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM
11445 SE 185th Pl
Renton, WA 98055
425-228-8721
mary.k.owen@att.net

SPOKANE

Greg Presley, NCTM
606 W 15th Ave
Spokane, WA 99203
509-624-4224
gregpresley@netzero.com

SUNN VALLEY

Carmen Smith
2620 Blaine Rd.
Zillah, WA 98953
betterday.james@gmail.com

TACOMA

Tim Strong
2840 SW 342nd St
Federal Way, WA 99023
253-952-8746
timstrmus@nventure.com

TRI-CITY

Holly Harty
806 Winslow Ave
Richland, WA 99352
509-943-5436
hhpt123@msn.com

WALLA WALLA

Wafia Kinne
602 Summers Circle
Walla Walla, WA 99362
509-599-2572
wkinne@gmail.com

WENATCHEE VALLEY

Kristin Neuenschwander
714 Kenaston Dr
Wenatchee, WA 98801
509-699-1707
kjneuey@yahoo.com

WHATCOM COUNTY

Patricia A. Lundquist
2707 Jefferson St
Bellingham, WA 98225
360-733-5261
lundquiststudio@comcast.net

WHIDBEY ISLAND

Verna Morgan
316 Gramayre Rd
Coupeville, WA 98239
360-678-2093
themorgans@cablespeed.com

YAKIMA/ELLENSBURG

Carol Cross
103 West 9th Ave
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509-925-5104
caroldavidcross@gmail.com

HAS YOUR NAME OR ADDRESS CHANGED?

Be sure to let MTNA, WSMTA, and your local chapter know about any changes to your contact information. You should contact each one separately in order to make sure all three know about any changes. Contact the WSMTA office if you have any changes to your contact information.

District Conferences & Workshops All Around Washington State

Enjoy a wide variety of music pedagogy topics, issues, and themes offered at one-day conferences this fall. From Tacoma to Spokane, inspire and recharge your teaching all across the state!

- District I & II Conference in **Marysville** · October 14, 2017 (*see page 8*)
- District IV Conference in **Centralia** · October 14, 2017 (*see below*)
- District VII Conference in **Spokane** · November 4, 2017 (*see below*)
- District V Conference in **Wenatchee** · November 4, 2017 (*see page 9*)
- Musician's Workshop in **Tacoma** · November 4, 2017 (*see page 10*)



Jeanine Jacobson

District IV Conference

Jeanine Jacobson: Intrinsic Motivation, "I Just Love This Piece," and Lesson Strategies with a master class on how to present a new piece

Saturday, October 14, 2017 · 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Centralia Church of the Nazarene · 1119 W 1st St, Centralia, WA

Registration Fee: \$50 · <https://sites.google.com/view/districtivconference/home>

Contact: Kira Theine, District IV Vice President, kiratheine@hotmail.com



Christopher Norton

District VII Conference

Christopher Norton: Teaching Improvisation to Beginners, First Steps in Improvisation for Teachers & Students, Getting to Grips with Popular Styles

Saturday, November 4, 2017 · 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Whitworth College · Spokane, WA

Registration Fee: MTNA Member \$25 · Non-Member \$30 · Whitworth Students No Charge

Download a Registration Form at www.wsmta.org/district-conferences

Contact: Lori Germer, District VII Vice President, lori.germer@gmail.com



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henry@hkbviolins.com

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HAVING TROUBLE LOGGING INTO WSMTA.ORG?

If you have any problems logging in please contact Executive Manager Kirsten Carlson. Keep in mind, if you have not paid your membership dues to MTNA, you won't be able to login to the WSMTA website.

District I & II Conference

Autumn Inspirations: Presentations and Discussions on Technique, Repertoire, and Performance for Students of All Levels

Saturday, October 14, 2017 • 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Marysville United Methodist Church • 5600 64th St NE, Marysville, WA 98270

The District I & II Conference will feature six sessions from dynamic guests drawn from our own remarkable membership. Learn about the "Russian Technique" from **Nino Merabishvili** and **Michi North**, enjoy an intermediate master class with **William Chapman Nyaho** and an advanced master class with **Dainius Vaicekonis**, listen to a panel of experienced teachers give techniques on how to get your elementary students out of the "Method book RUT," and discover techniques on "tone and texture" in Chopin from **Allan Park**.



*"Russian Technique" with
Nino Merabishvili and
Michi North*

*Chopin "Tone and
Texture" with Allan Park*

*Piano Master Classes with
William Chapman Nyaho and
Dainius Vaicekonis*



REGISTRATION FORM

Register by October 10 to guarantee lunch.

Name _____ Chapter _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Registration Fees

WSMTA Member \$45 • Non-Member \$50 • Student \$20 • After October 10, 2017 or Day-of-Event \$55

Mail this form with your check payable to **WSMTA District I** to:
Jensina Oliver, District I VP, 14801 Densmore Ave N, Shoreline, WA 98133

Questions? Contact Jensina Oliver at jensina_b@yahoo.com

District V Conference

The Heart of Performance — *“The Journey Continues!”*



Dr. Jody Graves, NCTM

Saturday, November 4, 2017 • 10:00 am to 2:45 pm (check-in 10-10:30 am)

Grace Lutheran Church • 1408 Washington St., Wenatchee, WA 98801

10:00 am—10:30 am	Check-in
10:30 am—12:15 pm	Dr. Graves Workshop
12:15 pm—1:15 pm	Lunch
1:15 pm—2:45 pm	Master Class

Do you ever hear a student or colleague say “I can’t wait until my recital is over!” Have you or your students ever approached a performance without any idea how to truly prepare for a joyful and successful experience? This workshop includes deep discussion on the pathway to successful performance, and how to foster that within ourselves as performers, and for our students. It is beyond “performance anxiety” and illuminates the various aspects of our human experience that integrate the heart and intention with practical application in performance. As teachers we have to know our own approach to performance and to how we offer our musical gifts intimately in order to better serve and guide our students.

This workshop includes interactive discussion, visual and audio illustrations, and hand-out. Participants are invited to bring their questions and stories about performance as we explore the topic that seems to be the most elusive, and at times, the most mysterious. Performance is the result of our process, and clarity of intention within the process can effect powerful changes in how we and our students approach and navigate through every performance. Humor and perspective are included in this seminar, along with specific tools to employ that can give the energy and confidence required for a beautiful outcome. This is designed to “set the stage” as it were, as we enter another year of exciting adventures as teachers of music!

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Chapter _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Registration Fees

WSMTA Member \$48 (Conference & Lunch) • \$40 (Conference Only)

Non-Member \$50 • Student \$20 • After November 1, 2017 or Day-of-Event \$55

Mail this form with your check payable to **WSMTA District V** to:
Lisa Sauer, District V VP, 2021 Broadhurst Pl., Wenatchee, WA 98801

Questions? Contact Lisa Sauer at sauerstudio2@gmail.com.



"Heart and Soul"

A Benefit Concert with

Jody Graves, pianist

Stories, humor, and music from the bench!

Sunday, November 5, 2017 - 2:00pm
Grace Lutheran Church - 1408 Washington St.



***Sponsored by the Wenatchee Valley Music Teachers
Association - Proceeds from this concert go to
the WVMTA Scholarship Fund***



Suggested donation at the door :
Adults, \$15; Students, \$8.00; Family, \$25.
For questions please visit:
<https://www.facebook.com/WVMTA/>

Puyallup Valley & Mt. Rainier Chapters

presents a ... Musician's Workshop with ...



Michael Stegner

Music Maker, Writer & Teacher



Saturday, November 4th, 2017

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

at Prosser Piano & Organ, 5849 Tacoma Mall Blvd, Tacoma, WA. 98409



Come, attend ALL DAY, HALF DAY or just the CONCERT

Registration ~ 9:30 - 10:00 am ~ "Coffee Social"
Morning Session ~ 10:00 - 11:45 am ~ "Teachers Only Workshop"
Lunch ~ 11:45 - 1:00 pm ~ "Lunch & Shop"
Afternoon Session ~ 1:00 - 3:00 pm ~ "Students Master Class"
Concert ~ 4:00 - 5:00 pm ~ "Michael in Concert"

(tear along dotted line and mail in registration along with full payment!)

~ Michael Stegner Workshop Registration ~

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

✓ All boxes that apply:

ALL DAY ~ (Morning, Afternoon & Concert) ~\$ 25.00 ☐

**After October 25th, \$ 35.00*

Box Lunch ~ (Panera Bread) ~ \$ 10.00 ☐

(available with "Pre-paid Registration" Only)

Afternoon Only ~ (Master Class & Concert) ~ \$ 15.00 ☐

**After October 25th, \$ 25.00*

Concert Only ~ Adults - \$ 10.00 ☐

**After October 25th, \$ 20.00*

Students - \$ 5.00 ☐

Pre-paid Lunch Only
✓ Pre-order your lunch here:

Choose (1) of the six options!

Sandwiches w/chips, pickle, cookie

Mediterranean Veggie ☐

Ham & Swiss ☐

Turkey ☐

Salads w/baguette, cookie

Fuji Apple Chicken ☐

Caesar Chicken ☐

Caesar ☐

☐ Registration

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

Make check payable to: Puyallup Valley Chapter WSMTA

Postmarked no later than October 25th to: Mary Ellen Cavelti, 11122 State Route 162 E., Puyallup, WA. 98374

For more information contact: Mary Ellen Cavelti @ <mdly60music@comcast.net>

Marilyn Jacobson @ <drj646@comcast.net>



2017 MTNA Performance Competition and Outstanding Artist Competition

The MTNA Performance Competition and Outstanding Artist Competition will run concurrently November 10-12, 2017 at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, WA.

STATE LEVEL MTNA PERFORMANCE COMPETITION

The MTNA Performance Competitions are just over a month away! Final preparations are underway.

Teacher Fee & Competition Schedule

A reminder to teachers with students registered: If you haven't already, please pay your WSMTA teacher fee here: <https://wsmta.org/wsmta-teacher-registration-fee-for-2017-18-mtna-performance-competition/>

We will be working hard to get all the specific scheduling information out to teachers, students and adjudicators as soon as possible. Check www.wsmta.org for general event information. We will post information as it becomes finalized.

Call for Volunteers

As always, many helpers are needed to be sure everything goes smoothly. Can YOU volunteer a few hours to help with one of the many tasks (time-keeping, monitoring performance venues, staffing the registration desk, hospitality for our judges) that will need to be done competition weekend? Please contact Onnie Adams (onniesadams496@gmail.com) if you can help for a few hours. Thank you to those of you who have already volunteered and those of you who are already working on all the many details of the competition.

These competitions are open to the public, so consider attending, and/or bringing or sending some students to listen to some really inspiring performances!

While this is a competition, please be aware that the primary goal of this event is to offer an educational opportunity to the students and their teachers. This competition is a celebration of music and the students' effort and energy. All participants, families, and teachers are encouraged to act appropriately, supportively, and professionally before, during, and after the competition.

Competition Advancement

- Northwest Division Competition: January 13-15, 2018 at Portland Piano Company and Holiday Inn Portland Airport in Portland, Oregon
- National Finals Competition: March 17-21, 2018 at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida

—Kathy Mortensen, MTNA Competition Chair for WSMTA
kmortensenpiano@gmail.com

OUTSTANDING ARTIST COMPETITION

I am writing this article and thinking ahead to studio teaching and the general fall season. I was reminded a few days ago about the September 1st deadline to submit this so you can read it in October! I have seen a few registrations already and know that some great performances are in store for their audience and the judges' ears. Composers I remember seeing so far are Bach, Beethoven, Prokofiev, Liszt, Haydn, and Chopin. It's always fun to see the student and teacher names and to look forward to meeting somebody new and to say hello to familiar colleagues and their excellent students who are returning to perform.

Registration for OAC 2017 closed on September 13th. If you are interested in listening to great music and perhaps desiring to check out what this competition is all about, I invite you to come to CWU for part of a day or longer and enjoy watching stellar young performers. Please visit www.wsmta.org to read and see the bios, faces and names of our esteemed 2017 OAC Judges! I am looking forward to working with them in November!

—Cherie Felts, OAC Competition Chair
jscffelts@comcast.net



Recital Hall at Central Washington University's Jerilyn S. McIntyre Music Building

ARE YOU AN ADJUDICATOR?

Not anymore! The title *Adjudicator* is being replaced with *Visiting Artist*. Sign into www.wsmta.org to make sure that your name is on the list of Visiting Artists. If you should be on the list but cannot find your name it, please complete the very short "Visiting Artist Contact Information Form" on the website at <https://wsmta.org/visiting-artist-contact-info-update/>.

Introducing the Music Literacy Program (MLP), formerly Musicianship Examinations

We are proud to announce a new name for the WSMTA Musicianship Examinations Program. It will now be called **Music Literacy Program (MLP)** with the testing material staying the same. A big thank you goes to Jeff Savage from WSU, who formerly chaired the WSMTA Education Board, for helping me go through all the materials, putting new names on each test and adding in new updates. I have made new CDs and distributed them at the Leadership Conference to each chapter who uses this program. I have copied Set 1 and Set 2 for each chapter. This year we will be using **Set 2** (even year 2018). If you are a new chapter and want the new material, please contact me and I will send it to you. For those who have been using the state exam, please discard any testing materials or CDs that do not have the new title and say (revised 2017) on them.

For those of you who have received the new CDs, the new procedure is to fill out the “Participation Profile” found on the Misc. CD and send that to me with your testing date. You do not have to send me your registrations but as a chair you will want to collect them and use them for scheduling your testing event. We now require you to just record the Written Theory

Scores after testing and send them to me. This form is on the Misc. CD. Also, when your testing is done, please remember to use the “High Honors Report” also on the Misc. CD for reporting to the Clarion. Send to Samantha Yeung, Clarion Editor (c.samantha.yeung@gmail.com), and to me for state record keeping (karen_scholten@msn.com).

The fee for the state will now be **\$3.50 per student** per exam (up to 5 testing areas). This will still be collected by your MLP Chair and sent as one check from your chapter to Patti Robertson, our state treasurer. At the end of the year, I send a copy of chapter numbers to Patti so there always will be a check and balance to make sure the numbers are correct.

Please be diligent in sending me your chapter information. If you are handing off this job to a new chair this year, please mentor the new chair regarding this information. This will help me so much and provide a smooth transition for the new person taking over this exciting new job.

May your testing year be successful!

—Karen Scholten, Music Literacy Program (MLP) Chair
karen_scholten@msn.com · 360-410-0831

Music Literacy Program (MLP) is the new name for Musicianship Examinations.

Does Your Chapter Have a Historian?

It was ancient history. It had been all rolled into a scroll and here it was—unrolled in a museum that we visited in England. It had been recorded over several hundred years and was in the form of a two-foot wide tapestry that stretched about 300 feet (picture the length of a football field). Each side of the width was decorated with an elaborate design that added elegance to the other contents of the tapestry. Kings, queens, members of the court, valiant soldiers, and even musicians were all stitched into the continuous history. Coronations, battles fought, and “life” were stories that were depicted.

Does your chapter have a historian? No, this person does not need to produce a beautiful tapestry of your chapter’s activities! Thankfully, today we have technology that aids in our efforts to preserve history.

I have way too many things stored in my filing cabinets! However, some historical files are really fun to review

occasionally. I have one each for various types of recital programs that have been collected for forty years (I tossed earlier ones when moving from one home to another). It is enjoyable to recall students that performed; it is helpful to recall old favorite pieces that these students studied and wonder why I have not continued to use these successful pieces.

Presently, our chapter has no official historian. However, a past member has passed on her scrapbooks to me and I attempt to keep pictures, programs, and articles of significant chapter events.

Does your chapter have someone who serves in this capacity? What do you preserve from your chapter programs? Please share your ideas with me and I will pass this information on to other chapters in our state.

—Marilyn Linde, WSMTA Historian
jmlinde@embarqmail.com

Arts Advocacy: WSM TA / MTNA Front and Center!



Dear WSM TA Colleagues:

An exciting new teaching year has launched, and we're off and running! Individually and collectively, as fortunate members of WSM TA/MTNA, we are planning

to engage in many outstanding professional growth opportunities throughout the year. Likewise, we are beginning the process of preparing our students to participate in an abundant variety of educational activities. We have such a wealth of great programs on the docket!

As we contemplate our *treasure*, allow me to pose a question for your consideration: **How aware is YOUR community of all that you as an individual member, your chapter, WSM TA and MTNA are doing to advance music education and the arts?**

One of our big goals for our local, state and national associations is to raise our visibility within our communities—to *communicate* and *promote* public awareness of what we are already doing. In the interest of this shared goal, let me share

just a few ideas that are easily incorporated:

1. Include "member of ... Chapter, WSM TA and MTNA" on studio and association documents, newsletters, recital programs, social media posts, etc.
2. Provide a digital and/or hard copy invitation for students to send to friends and family for recitals, festivals, etc.
3. Be intentional and creative about publicizing your events throughout the year, as individual studios, chapters and state.
4. Invite participation from non-member teachers, school music teachers, community music schools, etc.

Best wishes to each of you and your students for an outstanding year! And wishing all of us great success in the pursuit of our GOALS!

—Debra Florian, NCTM, WSM TA Arts Advocacy Chair
flostudio@comcast.net

Call for Nominations for WSM TA Hall of Fame 2018

Inspiration! It is one of the most important gifts we can both receive and give in our profession. It is the vehicle that drives us to attend workshops, conferences, concerts, continued music study throughout the year and gives fresh, innovative perspectives in the musical life of our studios, local chapters, and communities. Inspiration is contagious by the dedicated leadership and generous hearts of great music educators all around us!

Three remarkable teachers were inducted into the Hall of Fame at the WSM TA Conference in June: **Mary Jane Clarke**, NCTM, of Olympia Chapter, **Patricia Jorgensen** of Bellingham Chapter, and **Diane M. Stober**, NCTM, of Wenatchee Valley Chapter. Here are some of the comments inspired by colleagues, parents, and students, in the nomination process leading to Hall of Fame 2017 honors:

A colleague wrote *"I truly believe she has poured her heart and soul into her teaching career, music community, and further music education/enrichment and has impacted many lives by her hard work."*

A former student shared *"My experience with her has been life-changing. She connected with me, and became a true part of my life."*

One of the Hall of Fame inductees reflected *"I am so grateful for all the experiences with WSM TA over the years and the wonderful colleagues who are MY inspiration!"*

Thank you, Diane, Patricia, and Mary Jane for your inspirational contributions to music education over your lifetime, and congratulations from a grateful WSM TA membership for your Hall of Fame honors!

In January 2018, the Hall of Fame committee will meet to choose three new inductees from the letters and testimonials sent by YOU, the teachers who are inspired by innovative, dedicated leaders in your chapters who deserve this honor. The deadline is **January 3, 2018**, and you can find the nomination form with guidelines and criteria online at the WSM TA website and in the Clarion. It is very helpful to have letters of recommendation from your chapter president, colleagues, parents and students. Start the process ASAP as it does take time to contact people, collect their letters, and send them to me by January 3rd. Please contact me if I can assist you in any way!

—Mary Ellen Cavelti, NCTM, Hall of Fame Chair
molly60music@comcast.net · 253-845-2358

IMTF: *The “Path of Tonality”—Or a Different Path?*



W

hat do the recent solar eclipse, the poet Robert Frost and the June WSM TA Conference have in common? All three have inspired me as an Independent Music Teacher.

Let's start with the eclipse. The sheer astrophysics involved are mind-blowing—that an object in space can dominate (or totally ‘eclipse’) a star

more than 1,000 times its size! I didn't observe it directly (didn't get the special glasses in time) but I experienced its effects. The morning light dimmed in an almost eerie way until it was noticeably darker and cooler; and then gradually returned to full brightness. I used the eclipse as a metaphor with students, especially those who had seen it, to describe the arc of a phrase's *crescendo* and *diminuendo* or the beauty of a gradual mood change from major to minor and a return to the brightness of the major. An “ah-hah” moment occurred when a student noticed that a *mezzo piano* inner voice melody could “outsize” the bigger arpeggios that frame it. Yes! Music—Astrophysics—two wonders of the universe converge in a piano lesson!

Robert Frost's poem *The Road Not Taken* has long been one of my favorites. The famous last lines offer a philosophic blueprint for choice:

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

Those words have guided my choices, both in life and in my work as a musician and teacher. What if I take the more

“traveled” path of using traditional methodology or use a different approach? How about scheduling a “talking” lesson with an advanced student every six weeks to discuss interpretation of a piece? One of the best piano lessons of my life was with my college professor Bern Herbolzheimer away from his studio. We had drinks at The DeLuxe Tavern on Capitol Hill and simply talked about Scriabin and the *Opus 74 Preludes* I was preparing for my senior recital. That exchange was a valuable and enlightening experience that changed the way I approached contemporary music. I do this on a regular basis with my advanced students (no drinks, of course, if they're under 21).

Sometimes, students simply need to take a less traveled path by exploring different genres, new composers, even encouragement to study another instrument. It doesn't mean they won't keep “the first for another day!” as Frost writes with a bittersweet voice.

A valuable source of inspiration was the WSM TA “Serenade of the Sound” Conference in June. I enjoyed meeting many of you and learning from you at the Independent Music Teacher Forum discussions. We covered a wide range of topics from dealing with parents' expectations, competition in the studio, teaching students with learning challenges, to how to motivate and inspire students at every level. I plan to share many of these amazing ideas, resources and strategies in future Clarion articles.

Revel in the “awesomeness” of the work you do. Consider taking an unfamiliar path and the risk that accompanies it. Continue to inspire and be inspired.

RoseMarie Tamburri
Independent Music Teachers Forum Chair

Musicianship Examinations High Honors

Students scoring 98% or higher on the Musicianship Examinations receive High Honors.

SEATTLE CHAPTER

TEACHER: STUDENT (LEVEL)

Margaret Brink: Julia Zhang (1)

Judy Chuvan: Ben Williams (2), Uzair Alam (2), Jack Carpenter (3), Ally Merritt (3), Jiali Goodwin (3), Irene Malaguzzi (4), Lucas Leung (4), Lily Ricci (4), Michelle Yang (4), Nicholas Leung (5), Lis Grove (3), Clara Moore (2), Luke Carpenter (2)

Evelyn Hartwell: Brendan Doyle (3), Ruth Tinker (2)

Rachel Matthews: Anna Lai (3), Henry Dejanikus (4)

Karin McCullough: Elijah Kaufman (5)

Oscar Spidahl: Andrea Schefer (2)

Thom Stuart: Rian Pai (4), Ilana Poznanski (6), Dylan Cajigas (5), Oliver Kher (4), Josh Poznanski (5), Aditya Manivel (2), Emily Stuart (7)

RoseMarie Tamburri: Quin Bender-Kokx (7), Gabe Raskind (6), Elena Tseng (2), Hannah Miller (3)

Pedal Points: *Those Pesky Fingerings!*



Upon learning that I am an organist as well as a pianist, a well-known concert pianist exclaimed “You are an organist — what a pain it must be to have to use those pesky early fingerings!” Hmm...

Before you immediately stop reading this article because you “only have to play hymns,” here are some of the benefits of adding historic or “early” fingering patterns to your toolbox of organ technique.

1. It is much easier to play Baroque and earlier music using the fingerings and touch that were actually used at the time the music was composed than trying to force modern technique onto early music.
2. The music will sound right. Early music has a strong emphasis on meter, pulse, and articulation. By using the fingering patterns that were in use when the music was composed, the meter, pulse, and articulations are naturally produced as a byproduct of the fingering patterns.
3. You will become a better organist because you will gain technical skills idiomatic to the organ. Hand in hand with learning early fingering is learning how to play with a more articulated touch, learning how to shift laterally when moving across the keys (as opposed to crossing fingers over or under), learning to control the releases as well as the attacks of notes, and listening for the amount of silence between the notes.
4. Your hymn playing will benefit. Many of the great hymns still in use today were written during the Renaissance and Baroque periods. The technical skills that you gain when you learn early fingerings will allow you to play hymns with greater rhythmic and articulate clarity.

Here are exercises that illustrate some the possible ways to finger a scale. I’ve given the fingering for RH. When using “early” fingering patterns, do not cross fingers over or under. Instead, gently release the previous note and move laterally, always staying close to the keys. Listen to how the fingering affects the grouping of the notes and the articulation.

Using the C major scale, play ascending and descending CDEFGABC — CBAGFEDC:

1. Legato touch using modern fingering: 12312345 — 54321321
2. Articulated touch using early fingering: 12341234 — 43214321
3. Articulated touch using early fingering: 23232323 — 32323232
4. Articulated touch using early fingering: 12343434 — 43213232

Want to learn more? Let me know and I can help you find an organ teacher in your area. Here are some books that are good resources.

- Brock, John. *Introduction to Organ Playing in 17th and 18th Century Style*. Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc.
- Ritchie, George and Stauffer, George. *Organ Technique: Modern and Early*. Oxford University Press.
- Soderlund, Sandra. *Organ Technique: An Historical Approach*. Hinshaw Music.

Joann Richardson, NCTM
Organ Chair
organistjoann@gmail.com

MTNA DUES REMINDER

If you are a renewing member but have not paid your MTNA dues before **October 15, 2017**, you will have to pay non-member fees in order to participate in the Music Artistry Program (the program formerly called Adjudications). Renew today at www.mtna.org.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS WSMTA & OMTA JOINT CONFERENCE

The Heathman Lodge
Vancouver, WA
June 20-23, 2018

See page 16 for more information.

2018 WSM TA & OMTA Joint Conference

June 20-23, 2018 · Heathman Lodge, Vancouver, WA

Mark your calendars for the 2018 Joint Conference with Oregon! Conferences are an opportunity for professional and personal growth, a time for exchanging ideas and learning from each other, and a chance to get to know your colleagues better from both Washington and Oregon.

For this issue, we are highlighting our Conference Guest Artist, Hans Boepple. In future issues you will be introduced to more of our special guests. There will be timeslots available for other presentations offered by members of WSM TA and OMTA, so if you have a topic near and dear to your heart please consider submitting a proposal. You can find the application online at www.wsmta.org/call-for-proposals-for-the-2018-wsmta-conference.



Heathman Lodge, Vancouver, WA

—Jani Peterson, NCTM (WA), Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM (OR), Selina Manson (OR), 2018 Conference Chairs

Conference Guest Artist: Hans Boepple



Hans Boepple
*Professor and Department Chair,
Piano Faculty, Music History, Santa
Clara University (CA)*

“Music is such a magnificent thing,” he says with a quiet passion. “It is such an extraordinary secret to hear what these tones have to say... to sense what they are saying is just one of the great joys of life.”

—Interview with Hans Boepple by Elizabeth Kelley Gillogly, *Santa Clara Magazine*

We are very excited and honored to welcome Hans Boepple as our 2018 Conference Guest Artist! He is a Santa Clara University (CA) Professor of Music, a gifted pianist and dedicated teacher. Boepple's debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra at age 10 set in motion collaborations with orchestras and conductors of international reputation.

Hans Boepple has received numerous performance prizes, most notably First Prize in the International J.S. Bach Competition (Washington D.C.) He is a prizewinner in the Kosciuszko Chopin (NY), the MTNA National competitions and a six-time winner of the Coleman Chamber Music Award (Los Angeles).

He is a Steinway International Artist and is in demand as a judge, lecturer and master teacher. Mr. Boepple balances his own performance activities with those of a dedicated and successful teacher. To read his full bio, visit www.wsmta.org.

Call for Proposals for 2018 WSM TA & OMTA Joint Conference

PROPOSALS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

- Conference sessions will be one hour in length inclusive of introductory and closing remarks and Q&A.
- Membership in WSM TA/OMTA is not a requirement to submit a proposal or present a session
- Presenters are required to register for at least one day of the conference. Presenters receive a discounted registration fee.
- Sessions should not be commercial in nature. No materials will be sold at any session.

Deadline is **November 10, 2017**. Submit a proposal online at www.wsmta.org/call-for-proposals-for-the-2018-wsmta-conference.

Studio Technology News “With a Little Help from My Friends”



ne of our favorite dinner conversations in my house is describing the Old Days: I love seeing my tween kids wide-eyed and mouths agape as we chronicle life before cell phones (we had to be back by dark), tablets (we read books with a flashlight under the covers), texting (we passed notes in class), and the internet (we owned encyclopedias).

My children think we lived like savages, and I'm happy to emphasize to them how wonderful the modern conveniences they take for granted truly are. Since my family owned a very old and incomplete set of encyclopedias, I am especially appreciative of the vast informational resource of the World Wide Web.

Although not all the content is verified by a reliable editor, still the ready exchange of information has massive advantages for independent teachers in particular: In a profession that naturally tends towards isolation, we can share a wealth of ideas and resources with our colleagues with our morning coffee and slippers still on. I have occasional blocks to my creativity and no graphic arts ability, so I am grateful to peruse the blogs of many industrious and eloquent teachers out there who have generously opted to share their inspiration and talents on the web.

Here are just a VERY few I enjoy, and perhaps you'll find some inspiration too (check out WSM TA on Facebook www.facebook.com/wsmtahome, for more blog links):

⇒ First, our own **MTNA website** has a wealth of resources. Teaching inspiration and tips can be found under the “Learn” tab at www.mtna.org.

⇒ **Diane Hidy** www.dianehidy.com: Teaching inspiration from a great pedagogue.



Diane Hidy

⇒ **Music Teachers Helper** www.blog.musicteachershelper.com: You don't have to subscribe to this software management system to access their extensive blog.

COLOR IN MY PIANO

A blog dedicated to excellence in piano teaching.

⇒ **Color In My Piano** www.colorinmypiano.com: Industrious young teacher Joy Morin shares everything from book reviews to summer camp ideas.

Music Matters Blog:

inspiring creativity in music education

⇒ **Music Matters** www.musicmattersblog.com: Kansas teacher Natalie Weber writes prolifically (for over 10 years!) on topics from student motivation to technology reviews.

⇒ **88 Piano Keys** www.88pianokeys.me: iPad guru Leila Viss enthusiastically blogs and offers video reviews of all things she finds inspirational, from apps to flipped classroom techniques to improvisation.

⇒ **Teach Piano Today** www.teachpianotoday.com and **Compose Create** www.composecreate.com: Both these blogs (by Andrea & Trevor Dow and Wendy Stevens, respectively) offer general teaching tips and also insights for using their original materials.



Trevor and Andrea Dow of Teach Piano Today

Rachel Rambach

LISTEN & LEARN MUSIC

⇒ **Listen Learn Music** www.listenlearnmusic.com: Rachel Rambach shares tips and stories from a music therapist's point of view.

⇒ **The Musicians Brain** www.themusiciansbrain.com: Dr. Lois Svard writes fascinating posts on neuroscience and music.

If you have a favorite blog you subscribe to, by all means please share it with me or post it directly on the Facebook page!

*Michelle Mielke, NCTM
Studio Technology Chair*