

THE CLARION

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President's Corner



I've been on the road a bit more this fall since taking up the torch as your WSM TA President. One of my favorite parts of this adventure has been getting better-acquainted with colleagues over meals.



While representing you at the MTNA Leadership Summit in Cincinnati in September, I had lunch with Kansas President Kristi Baker and New Mexico President Jan King. Over a meal, there is time for deeper conversation, to share common goals and challenges. It was during our lunch conversation that I was struck by how much the geography of our states impact how we function. Even as we share a goal of offering an array of opportunities and support to all our members, "little" things like mountain ranges or thousands of acres of corn fields can be obstacles in our way!

I made a few other trips in September—first to visit the Moses Lake Chapter at their September kick-off meeting, and the following week to Yakima for our annual WSM TA Leadership Seminar. In Moses Lake, we shared an old-fashioned picnic in Harriet West's back yard, with fried chicken, an array of delicious salads, and banana splits for dessert! It was a great time of catching up on summer travels, studio goals and family activities.



Moses Lake Chapter

At the Leadership Seminar, the Saturday evening dinner is always a highlight. Once again, this is a time for great socializing and idea-sharing. Old friends catch up and new acquaintances are made. I always try to sit near someone I don't know and inevitably come away with a deeper appreciation for all that's going on in other studios and communities.

In a few weeks it will be Thanksgiving—my favorite holiday. Over the decades, our Thanksgiving traditions have changed, but there is always the certainty of good food and good conversation.

Wherever your Thanksgiving travels take you, I hope you find good food and good company, with time to savor your connections and share your dreams and goals.

With gratitude,

Krista Seely

—Krista Seely, WSM TA 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).

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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.

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DATES AND DEADLINES

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

There is no January Clarion.

January 1: Deadline for submitting articles for the February *Clarion*

WELCOME NEW, REINSTATING, TRANSFER, AND UPGRADING COLLEGIATE MEMBERS

Bellingham

Leontine Foster (also in Lynden), Diana Gall, Jaemee Kim, Lauren Lamont, David Lyon, Tofer Wade

Gig Harbor

Sarah Hoenig

Kitsap County

Catherine Gabbey

Lake Washington

Gregory Lyons

Pullman

Anthony Achille and Matthew Tatz

Seattle

Sounglim Lee

Snobomish

Carly Bair, Steven Lee, and Anna Prykhodko

South King County

Mona Terry

Spokane

Edward Hurd

Sunn Valley

Shauna Peters

Tri-City

Grant Bierschbach, Athena Fritz, Bonnie Hall, and Sally Singer Tuttle (also in Walla Walla)

Fêlicitations

Our dedicated and energetic District Vice Presidents deserve bundles of gratitude for organizing an array of outstanding workshops across the state this fall. **District I Vice President Jensina Oliver** led a team of teachers in District I & II to create a day of “Autumn Inspirations: Presentations and Conversations on Technique, Repertoire and Performance.”

Further south, **District IV Vice President Kira Theine** arranged for a day of inspiration with guest pedagogue Jeanine Jacobson. The theme was how to build intrinsic motivation when introducing new repertoire.

East of the Cascades in Wenatchee, **District V Vice President Lisa Sauer** has arranged for a day focusing on “The Heart of Performance,” with the inimitable Jody Graves.

On the very same day in Spokane, **District VII Vice President Lori Germer** has planned a day with guest composer and arranger Christopher Norton focusing on teaching improvisation and popular styles.

In Central Washington, a team of teachers in District VI planned two workshops and a brown bag concert featuring pianist and composer Amy Rubin. Many thanks to **District VI Vice President Carissa Jones**, along with **Naomi Johnson** for working on this event.

In addition to the many outstanding district workshops, the Mt. Rainier and Puyallup Valley Chapters have teamed up to



bring Michael Stegner to Tacoma for a November 4 workshop, master class and evening recital. Special thanks to **Merilyn Jacobson** and **Mary Ellen Cavelti** for putting it all together!

Don't you wish you could have taken part in ALL of these fabulous offerings? The average cost of attendance for District Workshops this year was just \$40 for members, including lunch. What a steal! The cost is so reasonable thanks to the countless volunteer hours your colleagues gave to organize these events. Please join me in thanking your District Vice President and/or chapter leaders.

Do you know how old your chapter is? Chances are, it is older than you are! Just as we all mark the passing years with birthday celebrations, it's fun to celebrate the special milestones in our chapters, too. This year, **Lynden Chapter** is celebrating their **50th anniversary**. They have planned some special programs as they celebrate their golden year together. Best wishes and many thanks to the Lynden Chapter for your ongoing commitment to music teaching in your community and throughout WSMTA.

—Krista Seely, WSMTA President

2018 MTNA Foundation Fellow Nominees

WSMTA is happy to support our 2018 MTNA Foundation Fellow Nominees, **Bonnie Blanchard, NCTM** and **Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM**. Please support them and the MTNA Foundation fund by contributing in their names! It's a worthy cause! This month we are going to highlight Bonnie. Look for Mary Kaye's bio and photo in next month's *Clarion*.



Bonnie Blanchard, NCTM

—Peter Mack, NCTM, WSMTA MTNA Foundation Chair

Bonnie Blanchard is an acclaimed music pedagogue whose four decades of creative teaching, inspiring lecturing, and excellent authorship have earned her a stellar reputation throughout the U.S. and Canada. Her motivational skills and unbridled enthusiasm are reflected in a studio full of first-rate prize-winning players who have learned to share her passion for music. Her students have become university professors and major symphony orchestra players.

Bonnie loves to share her ideas and philosophy of through her two books, *Making Music and Enriching Lives: A Guide for All Music Teachers* and *Making Music and Having a Blast! A Guide for All Music Students*, and the new *Musical Games for Life* series of downloadable video with cool and exciting games to teach music basics and strengthen studio relationships.

Bonnie says she is honored to be chosen to be an MTNA fellow, and wonders if it's just because she hosted 10 members of the WSMTA board at her house during the last state convention!

2017 Outstanding Artist Competition

November 10-12, 2017 · Central Washington University · Ellensburg, WA

In just a few days, The Outstanding Artist Competition will begin! The Junior Division will begin Friday morning and continue through Saturday morning. The Senior Division will begin Saturday early afternoon, continue through the evening, and end late Sunday morning. The Junior Division will feature 26 students and the Senior Division will feature 18 students.

Registration came to a total of 44 students with 23 teachers represented. WSMTA is grateful to CWU for their welcoming and cordial hospitality. This annual event is open to the public—we encourage you to stop in to listen to some of the students that showcase WSMTA with such wonderful performances!

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

2017 OAC Judges



Claire Marshall

CLAIRE MARSHALL

Canadian-born Claire Marshall combines a background in psychology and music in her teaching and adjudicating. Educated at McGill University in Montreal, and the Gesell Institute of Child Development in New Haven, Connecticut, she has been fortunate to continue piano studies with several fine teachers in the state of Washington. The two most

potent influences in her professional development have been the thirteen plus years of study with Jeffrey Gilliam at Western Washington University, and her training and experience as a piano examiner for The Royal Conservatory of Music in Canada. Her most interesting tangent was creating "Scale Studies" for the Seattle Aquarium, a summer arts program which combined the study of music and marine biology. Her article describing this project was published in "The American Music Teacher."

ROGER MCVEY

American pianist Roger McVey has performed as a soloist and collaborative pianist throughout the United States, in Europe, Asia, Mexico, and New Zealand. He is currently an Associate Professor of Piano at the Lionel



Roger McVey

Hampton School of Music, of the University of Idaho. He holds degrees from the University of Kansas, Indiana University, and East Carolina University. Additionally, he has studied at the Aspen Music Festival and the Chautauqua Institute. His past teachers include Menahem Pressler, Anton Nel, Jack Winerock, Herbert Stessin, and Henry Doskey.

DEBORAH RAMBO SINN

Deborah Rambo Sinn's diverse career has taken her around the world. She has given concerts and master classes on four continents and has taught students

from more than 14 different countries.

She lived in Hamburg,

Germany for five years where she played concerts and musicals and operated two music studios for coaching and private instruction. She holds a doctorate from Indiana University, where she studied with Menahem Pressler (Beaux Arts Trio). Before moving to Germany, she served on the music faculty of Angelo State University in Texas and taught one semester at Universität Lüneburg (Germany) as an exchange professor.



Deborah Rambo Sinn

2017 MTNA Performance Competition

November 10-12, 2017 · Central Washington University · Ellensburg, WA

The MTNA Performance Competition is fast approaching! It will be held November 10-12 at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, WA.

Piano competitions will be held three days. Woodwinds and Brass will compete on Friday, November 10. Strings will compete on Saturday, November 11.

Our judges this year are:

- **Piano:** David Kim, Michael Seregow, Dr. Milica Jelaca-Jovanovic
- **String:** Joyce Ramee, Dr. Ruth Boden, Jason Bell
- **Woodwind:** Alaina Bercilla
- **Brass:** John Harbaugh

We are thrilled they are available to listen and comment on our students' performances!

If YOU can help out we would love to see you. Please contact Onnie Adams at onniedadams496@gmail.com. Thank you to all who have already volunteered to help. We couldn't do this event without you.

There are 74 entrants representing 45 teachers. It promises to be a fantastic weekend. Hope to see you there!

—Kathy Mortensen, WSM TA Vice-President,
MTNA Performance Competition Chair for WSM TA



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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 WVM TA Scholarship Fund**



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

2018 Young Composers Project

W

SMTA is pleased to announce the 2018 Young Composers Project. This competition gives students of WSMTA members the opportunity to submit their compositions for judging and comments by qualified adjudicators. These adjudicators are college professors and/or private teachers whose area of expertise is composition.

The project provides educational feedback, a goal-setting format, and a focus on music that students love—their own compositions. Adjudicators select a first, second and third place composition for each grade level giving written comments. Certificates are awarded to all participants, and a small monetary prize is awarded to each first place winner (see yearly Rules and Guidelines form for details.) First place winners are invited to perform their compositions at the WSMTA Conference each summer.

The deadline for entries to this year's Young Composers Project is **Tuesday, February 20, 2018**. Guidelines and Entry Form are available on our website: www.wsmta.org. Direct all questions to Martin Kennedy, Young Composers Project Chair at mpk324@gmail.com.

—Martin Kennedy, Young Composers Project Chair



WSMTA District VI Presents

AMY RUBIN Concert & Workshop

November 3, 2017
The Seasons Performance Hall, Yakima

Cost: \$30
Begins at
10:30 AM

districtviworkshop.bpt.me

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WSMTA PHOTO CONTEST

WSMTA is in search of new photos for the website! If you have music-related, teaching-related, or even WA-state-geography-related photos, get them ready! You'll be able to submit a up to ten photos. Check www.wsmta.org for more details.

2017 Leadership Seminar Wrap-Up

Thank you to everyone who attended and presented at the Leadership Seminar in Yakima from September 23-24! It was a jam-packed, information filled weekend. From the trailhead “Getting to Know You” opening event, to the “Leading a Bold Path... Upward” inspirational dinner presentation, ending with “Leading a Bold Path Forward” small group work on Sunday, we stayed busy and worked hard.

It would be difficult to say thank you to all participants individually. Your leadership (fifty participants in all—chapter presidents and other program chairs, District VPs, Education Board, and Board of Directors) dedicated 26+ hours to WSMTA over the course of the weekend. THANK YOU to all of them for their dedication and hard work! Be sure to ask your chapter president what the most inspiring thing was to them or what tidbit of information they can share with you from the

event.

Meetings started at 10:00 am on Saturday morning (even before the Leadership Seminar officially began at 1:00 pm) and the Board of Directors meeting ended at 10:30 pm on Saturday night—that was a long day! WSMTA has an amazing group of colleagues working hard on your behalf! It was my pleasure to spend the weekend with them!

We are also grateful to the staff at the Hilton Garden Inn in Yakima for taking such great care of us.

—Karen Hollenback, NCTM, WSMTA President Elect



Kathy Mortenson, WSMTA Vice President



L-R: Lori Germer, Dist VII VP; Cindy Horng, Eastside Chapter President; Debra Florian, Arts Advocacy Chair and MTNA Secretary/Treasurer; Kira Theine, Dist IV VP; Ignacio Diaz, Olympia Chapter President; Karen Monroe, Lewis County Chapter President; and Laura Curtis, YA/Chamber Competition Coordinator



Kirsten Carlson, WSMTA Executive Manager and Karen Hollenback, WSMTA President Elect



L-R: Diane Layton, Kitsap Chapter President; Michelle Mielke, Pullman Chapter President; Krista Seely, WSMTA President; Selah Newkirk, Lewis County Chapter Vice President; and Tim Strong, Tacoma Chapter President

From Your WSMTA Historian: *The History of the Leadership Seminar*

As I was enjoying conversations with many friends at the most recent WSMTA Leadership Seminar on September 23-24, 2017, I began to reminisce through the many years I have attended this event. We have met in many different venues: Central Washington University, a hotel in Leavenworth, the Summit Inn on Snoqualmie Pass, and now, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Yakima.

This seminar had its beginning during the presidency of Marilyn Clizer (1985-1987). Marilyn and her Board of Directors had the foresight to recognize the need for training of chapter leaders in all aspects of our state programs. I may have attended that early event in the role of Chapter President. A few years later, as State Auditions Chair, I loaded my car (no room to spare) with all the printed forms that were then produced each year and distributed at the Leadership Seminar. Each chapter received a full box, with larger chapters having two to three boxes—multiplied by 33 chapters—it was a lot of boxes!

Along with the business of the seminar, attendees often played some type of game with the purpose of forging acquaintances among the attendees. Sunday mornings began with singing together (we are music teachers, you know). Leaders in their respective areas shared details to help chapter leaders become comfortable with carrying out the planning in their local associations.

Although the format is still similar, over the years the internet has become an increasingly helpful tool for all of us. I'm not one of those who has expertise in this area. However, I am very thankful for those who do. The new MAP (Music Artistry Program, replacing Adjudications) and the new Music Literacy Program (formerly Musicianship Examinations) are very welcome improvements to the WSMTA program. A huge thank you to all who worked to make this update occur. This will be an exciting year as we move forward with these changes!

—Marilyn Linde, WSMTA Historian

“Why Should My Child Participate in the Music Artistry Program (formerly Adjudications)?”



It does not come as a surprise to learn that most teachers have heard this question from parents in their studios over the years. Teachers have expressed to me their struggles in getting students to participate in

events such as the Music Artistry Program (formerly Adjudications) each year. One of the best ways to get students involved is through their parents.

It is helpful to explain the value of the Music Artistry Program (MAP) from the parent's point of view. I emphasize two aspects of MAP to my studio parents: student growth and teacher education. Parents want their students to participate in activities that aide in their children's growth, and it is easy to explain how the Music Artistry Program succeeds in this endeavor. However, parents also want to know that those

instructing their children are also growing, learning, and improving through continuing education and feedback. I explain that the Music Artistry Program as an event that covers both student growth and teacher education. I'm always intrigued when I discuss the program with a new parent; their eyes light up when I explain that I also get an evaluation from the visiting artist on my work in teaching their child. Parents see the added value in receiving immediate instructor feedback after the studio has performed for the visiting artist.

I often find that after explaining this procedure, parents are more than willing to have their children participate in a studio event that offers double benefits to their children by advising the teacher as well as the child. I encourage each of you to think about how you will present the program to your studio families to help them understand the value of MAP and eagerly anticipate it each year!

—Stephanie White, NCTM, WSM TA Music Artistry Program Chair

Certification Corner



It's been an honor to step into the WSM TA Certification Chair position the last two years! I value this position because it gives me many opportunities to meet so many inspiring and dedicated teachers.

This past year, I've been privileged to work with two teachers from my local Snohomish County chapter as well teachers from the Spokane, Edmonds, Lake Washington, Seattle, Tri-City, and South King County Chapters. These teachers are all working on their 5 profile projects to receive MTNA Certification. Since July of last year, 17 WSM TA teachers have applied for Certification and 14 of those teachers have received a WSM TA \$100 grant. Furthermore, 4 of those teachers have completed their projects and received their MTNA Certification! There are currently 4 more WSM TA grants available!

It's my joy to work with teachers on their certification projects. I love reading how each teacher expresses their heart for teaching and goals for their students through their Teaching Philosophy. It's remarkable to see teachers dive deeper into the questions of, “what do I teach, who do I teach, and why do I teach.” The first project alone reminds teachers of their purpose in choosing a vocation in music education. In the remaining

four projects, teachers share how they teach different styles of music, record lessons with a student to show progression of learning a piece, share information about their studio, and respond to prompts regarding ethics in music education. It's an honor to read these projects and see teachers grow!

If you'd like to start your Certification journey for Piano, Voice, Violin, Flute, or Organ, please visit the MTNA Certification website and download the Teacher Profile Projects overview for your instrument. Also, please send me an email if you have any other questions!

—Rose Freeman, NCTM, WSM TA Certification Chair

HAVING TROUBLE LOGGING INTO WSM TA.ORG?

If you have any problems logging in, please contact Executive Manager Kirsten Carlson at wsmtaoffice@gmail.com. Note that if you have not paid your membership dues to MTNA, you won't be able to login to the WSM TA website.

Pedal Points: *Thriving, Not Just Surviving, During the Holiday Season*



Do you ever find yourself with one thing too many on your plate during the holiday season? For church musicians, the time from Thanksgiving through Christmas is one of the busiest times of year. One year, I must not have been handling the busy-ness too well—our children took their copy of “How the Grinch

Stole Christmas” and replaced every occurrence of “Grinch” with “Mom.”

The problem, of course, was not with the season itself. It was that I was trying to do too much. A serious medical diagnosis during the holidays several years ago changed all of that—I was forced to examine my priorities. Although I was determined to play at church that year, cards were not sent, cookies were not baked, and few gifts were given. Christmas came anyway.

Have you ever taken the time to truly examine all that you do during the holiday season and prioritize what is most important? When you write everything down, you might be surprised by how much you do! The reality for church musicians is that we have no choice but to make church music preparation a high priority during the holidays—there is simply more music to prepare. Here are some things I have done to help lighten my holiday load so I can enjoy the season and still be fully prepared for the important work I do as a church musician.



1. Advent and Christmas solo music (preludes, postludes, etc.) is planned and starting to be practiced by the end of October.
2. For the church where I direct the choir, the choir starts practicing for Advent and Christmas in September.
3. As soon as the Advent and Christmas hymns have been chosen, I begin practicing them.
4. When December arrives, any solo music that is not going well is dropped and replaced with something easier to play.
5. In lieu of a studio recital, my piano students perform holiday music at our local mall.
6. Holiday baking is done in small batches ahead of time using recipes that freeze well.
7. I'm on the look-out for small gifts year-round and I set them aside. Usually, though, I give money as a gift (our son refers to money as “the universal gift card”).
8. I don't stress about sending greeting cards. Some years they don't get sent. Other years, they are sent for other holidays (New Year, Easter).
9. I set aside some quiet time every day for myself.

Hopefully some of these ideas will be helpful to you as you prepare for the busy music-making season ahead. Every year at Christmas, churches swell with people, many of whom desperately need the music we make for comfort and edification. I encourage you to give yourself permission to choose only the holiday activities that are most important to you so you will have time to experience joy in your music making this upcoming holiday season.

*Joann Richardson, NCTM
Organ Chair
organistjoann@gmail.com*

ARE YOU AN ADJUDICATOR?

Not anymore! The title *Adjudicator* is being replaced with *Visiting Artist*. Login to www.wsmta.org to check that your name is on the list of Visiting Artists. If you cannot find your name, please complete the very short “Visiting Artist Contact Information Form” on the website at <https://wsmta.org/visiting-artist-contact-info-update/>.

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Music Literacy Program (MLP), formerly Musicianship Examinations

This year we will be using Set 2 (even year 2018). I handed out Set 2 at the Leadership Conference, so if you are a MLP Chair please check with your President or representative from your chapter who went to the conference. If you are a new chapter and want to get started, please email me and I can send you a copy of the Set 2 CD.

- All tests, keys, and help guides should say “Music Literacy Program (revised 2017)” —throw all old testing material away!
- When registrations are collected with your chapter’s testing fees, you no longer have to send a copy of the registrations to me. The \$3.50 state fee per student still gets sent in by your chapter chair to WSM TA Treasurer Patti Robertson 209 E. Canyon Drive, Kennewick, WA 99337 (one check please).
- Fill out the “Participation Profile” found in the Misc. Folder and email that to me. It tells me who the chapter is, chair of the event, date of event, place, how many teachers and students are participating, and the theory number per level.
- New Point Sheets: Rhythm was 10, now 20. Sight-Playing was 20, now 30.
- Technique starting at Level 4: there are now points for students playing both the natural minor scale and the harmonic minor scale.
- Theory tests and keys were reviewed and errors or alignments were corrected.
- All tests and keys along with Misc. Folder will be on 1 CD. This year I will hand out Set 2 (even year 2018) and will hand out Set 1 (odd year 2019) at the Leadership Conference next year.
- Everything on www.wsmta.org will be updated including the handbook, registrations and all help guides.
- When your MLP event is finished, the chair will use the Theory Score Sheet in the Misc. File to record all theory scores and send a copy to me. I will no longer need you to send me all the scores from the different testing areas, just the Written Theory.
- You will still record the High Honor Scores on the form provided on the Misc. File and send it to Samantha Yeung, WSM TA Clarion Editor, c.samantha.yeung@gmail.com and to me, karen_scholten@msn.com.
- You can then contact Kirsten Carlson, WSM TA Executive Manager, wsmtaoffice@gmail.com for the certificates and gold seals.

—Karen Scholten, WSM TA Music Literacy Program Chair

Eastern Washington University

Music Department Scholarship Auditions

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March 2 and 3**
or by appointment

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2018 WSM TA & OMTA Joint Conference

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

- Join your colleagues from Oregon to celebrate music—teaching, listening and sharing!
- Workshops, Master Classes, Honors Recitals, Evening Recitals and more.
- A getaway retreat in a beautifully hand-crafted northwest mountain lodge setting.
- Conference Guest Artist
Hans Boepple,
Professor, Santa Clara University, CA
- Special Northwest Guests
Charlie Albright
Monica Ohuchi
Kenji Bunch
- Interested in presenting? Submit a proposal by November 10.

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



Call for Proposals for 2018 WSM TA & OMTA Joint Conference

**TIME IS RUNNING OUT. SUBMIT YOUR
PROPOSAL TODAY.**

- 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.



Hans Boepple (left),
Conference Guest Artist

Charlie Albright, Kenji Bunch, and Monica Ohuchi
(below),
Special Northwest Guests



2018 WSM TA & OMTA Joint Conference

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

Special Conference Guests: Stars of the Pacific Northwest



Charlie Albright

Charlie Albright

Hailed by *The Washington Post* as “among the most gifted musicians of his generation” with a “dazzling natural keyboard affinity,” American pianist/composers/improviser Charlie Albright has “made quite an impression.” Albright has been praised by *The New York Times* for his “jaw-dropping technique and virtuosity meshed with a distinctive musicality.” In addition to performing, Albright is sought after as a speaker, master class instructor, teacher, and competition judge.

Albright regularly works with artists from all genres, including vocalist/conductor Bobby McFerrin and violinist Joshua Bell. He has collaborated five times with revered cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

Born in Centralia, Washington, Albright began piano lessons at the age of 3 and studied with Nancy Adsit. He was the first classical pianist in the Harvard College/New England Conservatory 5-Year AB/MM Joint Program. He completed a Bachelor’s Degree as an Economics major and Pre-Med student at Harvard and a Master of Music Degree in Piano Performance at NEC. Charlie graduated with the prestigious Artist Diploma (A.D.) from The Juilliard School in 2014.

To read his complete bio, please visit www.wsmta.org/conferences.



Kenji Bunch and Monica Ohuchi

Monica Ohuchi and Kenji Bunch

Composer/Performer **Kenji Bunch** has received acclaim from audiences, performers, and critics alike for his work combining vernacular American influences with techniques from his classical training to create a unique vocabulary of New American music. His compositions have been performed by over fifty American orchestras, and in premiere venues on six continents.

Kenji maintains an active performing career, and is recognized for his own groundbreaking works for viola. Deeply committed to exploring connections with musicians from other backgrounds as well as artists of other disciplines, he has collaborated with choreographers, film directors, actors, and prominent rock, jazz, folk, and experimental musicians.

A graduate of the Juilliard School and a 20-year veteran of the New York City musical world, he returned in 2013 to his native Portland, Oregon. Kenji has served as Artistic Director of Fear No Music since 2014, and teaches viola and composition at Reed College and Portland State University, and is the head music theory teacher for the Portland Youth Philharmonic.

Monica Ohuchi's “commanding pianism” (*The New York Times*, Anthony Tommasini) allows her an active career as a piano soloist, chamber musician, and pedagogue. She is the pianist and Executive Director of Fear No Music, a founding member of the piano quartet *Thunder Egg*

Consort, and performs locally with 45th Parallel, Chintimini Chamber Music Festival, and is a frequent guest on Portland’s All-Classical radio station. Her solo album released on Helicon records label, “Monica’s Notebook,” is a series of piano etudes written expressly for her by Kenji Bunch.

Monica, a native of Seattle, Washington, began her piano studies at the age of two with her mother, Sumiyo Ohuchi. She holds advanced degrees from the Juilliard School. After fifteen years in New York City, Ms. Ohuchi recently relocated to Portland, Oregon where she now lives with her husband Kenji, their two young children and Pitbull-mix rescue dog.

To read their complete bio, please visit www.wsmta.org/conferences.

Studio Technology News: *Welcome to Organized Chaos*



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e all have a personal level of allowable chaos in our lives: some folks operate best with a freshly cleaned work surface each day and a calendar updated with every appointment and reminder that is continuously synced with all their devices, while others are very

comfortable with a schedule that's continuously flexible and rely on their (usually excellent) memory to navigate daily tasks and have "organized piles" that are completely logical and reliable... only to them. We only experience stress when our reality and comfort level become disparate, and for me this happens just about every fall once I'm a few months into the academic year.

My list of to-dos and increasingly full calendar combine with my family's busier schedules to slowly erode my natural organizational threshold, and the evidence that I'm losing the battle appears in the proliferation of neon post-its stuck to many surfaces and the regular chiming of alerts on my phone. Fortunately, there are a LOT of tools out there to help me save time, and if you find yourself similarly engulfed by ever-increasing demands on your productivity, you might appreciate these tips:

CALENDAR & SCHEDULING

Google Calendar (www.google.com/calendar) is a terrific way to keep your schedule straight, and because it's housed "in the cloud" you can access it anytime, from any device with internet. Google Calendar is easy to use, and you can create separate calendars for your professional schedule and personal life. Other great options like color-coded entries, sharing calendars with friends or family, and viewing by day, week or month make it a very attractive option to use as a scheduling hub. It can be an especially helpful way to manage your teaching schedule, since you can choose options like repeatable entries, notifications, and privacy/editing capabilities for other viewers.

It doesn't have as many fancy features as some online appointment calendars like PickaTime.com or full studio management systems like MyMusicStaff.com, but it's a great (free) option to keep your schedule sorted and organized. For a really helpful tutorial on using Google Calendar for lesson

scheduling, see Daniel Paterson's blog article at www.growyourmusicstudio.com/blog/piano-makeup-lesson.

LIST MAKING

My two favorite tools for maintaining all the paper lists and notes I used to collect are Evernote (www.evernote.com) and Notability (www.gingerlabs.com). While they are both organizational tools and have many similarities, there are a few key differences and I use them both for different purposes. Both Evernote and Notability are essentially electronic filing cabinets, and you can structure them to house your to-do lists, meeting notes, and even student lesson assignments with very little preparation setup time. Evernote houses individual Notes into "Notebooks", whereas Notability calls them "Subjects". There is an array of viewing and searching features by note, notebook, date, etc., and you can search for a word or word string across the entire platform.

Additionally, both tools allow you to import images, web clippings, type or write with your finger or stylus on the screen, and save emails into your notebooks. Notability is only available for iOS, however, and as apps go, it's a little bit more spendy (\$9.99), whereas the basic version of Evernote is free and is fully housed in the cloud, so you can access notes from any device; with Notability you have to open the device you used to read notes saved there.



Use Notability to take a picture of your student's score, type up instructions, and mark it up with editing tools.

Both tools also have recording features, but Notability is easier to use and pretty nifty: just hit the microphone icon and you'll record the meeting or musical excerpt, and it is automatically attached to the note you're using. This is a great feature to use with students: take a picture of their score, type your instructions or mark it up like crazy with the editing tools (highlighters, colored pens, etc.), record the excerpt in question and then email it to the student—fantastic! I'll admit that I downloaded the Evernote app and hardly used it for

a full year before I began to understand the capabilities of the program and the ramifications for my organizational sanity, but now I use Evernote every day (Notability less frequently, but still every week).

For more tips on using Evernote and Notability, and general organization help, be sure to check out our WSMTA Facebook page!

—Michelle Mielke, NCTM, Studio Technology Chair