

# THE CLARION

Volume LXIX, No. 13 · December 2017

## IN THIS ISSUE

### State News

President's Corner	1
MTNA Performance Competition Results	3
Outstanding Artist Competition Results	4
MTNA Composition Competition Results	4
MTNA Performance Competition & Outstanding Artist Competition In Review	5
2018 MTNA Foundation Fellow Nominees	6
2018 Young Composers Project	7
Save Me a Seat at the MTNA Gala	11
2018 WSM TA & OMTA Joint Conference	12
Call for 2018 WSM TA Hall of Fame Nominations	13

### District & Chapter News

South King County Chapter Scholarship Fundraiser	11
--	----

### Enrichment

Pipe Organ Encounters: <i>Organ Camps for Youth &amp; Adults</i>	7
The Spirit of an Independent Music Teacher: Past, Present, and Future	9
Where's the Music Coming From?	10
Certification Corner	11
Studio Technology News "Time to Take Five"	14

### Advertisers

EWU Master of Music Programs	8
Yelena Balabanova in Concert	8
Henry Bischofberger Violins	11
EWU Music Department	13

## President's Corner



Dear Colleagues and Friends,



As I write this, I'm grateful to have my power back on—heat, lights and internet. Yesterday's storm toppled trees, closed roads, and cancelled lessons. The weather does not care that my studio recital is coming up in less than a week. Ah, the trials of living on an island!

Fortunately, the storm held off on the weekend of our MTNA/OAC Competitions, allowing students, teachers, judges and volunteers to make it safely to Ellensburg and back. So many people worked in tandem for three days to keep everything running smoothly. The commitment and artistry of the students we heard was truly extraordinary. Bravo to all who performed, and to their dedicated teachers! Special thanks to WSM TA Vice President **Kathy Mortenson** for her calm and capable leadership as MTNA Competitions Chair, and to **Cherie Felts**, our ever-cheerful and uber-organized OAC Chair. It was a joy to work alongside these remarkable leaders. Look for more thank yous and competition results later in this issue.

On my trip home from Ellensburg, I took a stretch break on the ferry ride, and strolled through the passenger seating area. With quick glances, I took a rough



tally of how many people were looking at their phones or other portable electronic devices. It was easily more than 80%—even couples of all ages sitting close to one another, but focused on their phones. Meanwhile outside, the orcas were passing by... well, I'm not sure if they were at THAT moment, but if they had been, nearly everyone would have

missed the show! And why do I mention this? Because it seems focused attention on one another is in short supply these days.

Recognizing this, it warms my heart to know that you are all out there every day, lavishing your complete focus on each student who passes through your door to learn to make music. It is a treasure that will affect them for the rest of their lives. Thank you for your gift of music for the benefit of your students and our world.

Peace, joy and love to all this holiday season,

*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).

### WSMTA EXECUTIVE MANAGER

Kirsten Carlson  
732 N 74th St, Seattle, WA 98103  
206-783-1975  
[wsmtaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:wsmtaoffice@gmail.com)

### CLARION EDITOR

Samantha Yeung  
[c.samantha.yeung@gmail.com](mailto:c.samantha.yeung@gmail.com)

## CLARION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Please send submissions to Samantha Yeung at [c.samantha.yeung@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:ks88keys@gmail.com)



### PRESIDENT ELECT

Karen Hollenback, NCTM  
[karen.hollenback@gmail.com](mailto:karen.hollenback@gmail.com)



### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Janice Smith, NCTM  
[jsmithpiano@gmail.com](mailto:jsmithpiano@gmail.com)



### VICE PRESIDENT

Kathy Mortensen  
[kmortensenpiano@gmail.com](mailto:kmortensenpiano@gmail.com)



### EXECUTIVE MANAGER

Kirsten Carlson  
[wsmtaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:wsmtaoffice@gmail.com)



### TREASURER

Patti Robertson, NCTM  
[parpiano2@gmail.com](mailto:parpiano2@gmail.com)



### DISTRICT I VICE PRESIDENT

Jensina Oliver, NCTM  
[jbyingto@shoreline.edu](mailto:jbyingto@shoreline.edu)



### DISTRICT II VICE PRESIDENT

Nicole Kim, NCTM  
[nicoleykim@aol.com](mailto:nicoleykim@aol.com)



### DISTRICT III VICE PRESIDENT

Mary Grant, NCTM  
[mary@marygrantpiano.com](mailto:mary@marygrantpiano.com)



### DISTRICT IV VICE PRESIDENT

Kira Theine  
[kiratheine@hotmail.com](mailto:kiratheine@hotmail.com)



### DISTRICT V VICE PRESIDENT

Lisa Sauer  
[sauerstudio2@gmail.com](mailto:sauerstudio2@gmail.com)



### DISTRICT VI VICE PRESIDENT

Carissa Jones  
[cpitkin@gmail.com](mailto:cpitkin@gmail.com)



### DISTRICT VII VICE PRESIDENT

Lori Germer, NCTM  
[lorigermer@gmail.com](mailto:lorigermer@gmail.com)



### MUSIC ARTISTRY PROGRAM CHAIR

Stephanie White, NCTM  
[swhitepiano@gmail.com](mailto:swhitepiano@gmail.com)



### CLARION EDITOR

Samantha Yeung  
[c.samantha.yeung@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:laurie52@aol.com)



### EDUCATION BOARD MEMBER

Dianne Johnston, WSCTM  
[diannej23@comcast.net](mailto:diannej23@comcast.net)



### EDUCATION BOARD MEMBER

Janice Smith, NCTM  
[jsmithpiano@gmail.com](mailto:jsmithpiano@gmail.com)



### EDUCATION BOARD MEMBER

Greg Presley, NCTM  
[gregpresley@netzero.com](mailto:gregpresley@netzero.com)



### EDUCATION BOARD MEMBER

Peter Mack, NCTM  
[mackpeter@earthlink.net](mailto: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

*There is no January Clarion.*

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

**January 10:** Membership Dues Deadline for NEW members participating in the Music Artistry Program (formerly Adjudications)

**January 13-15:** MTNA Northwest Division Competition, Portland, OR (Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM, Chair)

**January 27:** Education Board Meeting, SeaTac, WA (Laurie Eash, NCTM, Chair)

**January 28:** Board of Directors Meeting, SeaTac, WA (Krista Seely, WSMTA President)

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

**February 14:** Entry Deadline for the Young Composers Project (Martin Kennedy, Chair)

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### *Bellingham*

Michael Hannon (collegiate)

### *Lake Washington*

Kathryn Nickerson

### *Lewis County*

Rosetta Patterson

### *Tri-City*

Cecelia Parker-Burke

### *Spokane*

Hannah Acheson (collegiate)  
Lydia Edgerton (collegiate)  
Jennifer Goodnight (collegiate)  
Naomi Kuhnly (collegiate)  
Shayara Mathias (collegiate)  
Kendal Parrett (collegiate)  
Christian Skok (collegiate)  
Robert Vierschilling (collegiate)  
Diana Vislova (collegiate)

# State Level MTNA Performance Competition Results

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

### JUNIOR PIANO

#### WINNER

Adrian King, student of Peter Mack

#### ALTERNATE

Edward Zhang, student of Sasha Starceovich

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Grace Wepler, student of Duane Hulbert

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Nicole Wang, student of Nino Merabishvili

### SENIOR PIANO

#### WINNER

Leah Deobald, student of Duane Hulbert

#### ALTERNATE

Robert Yan, student of Ivona Kaminska-Bowlby

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Janet Phang, student of Peter Mack

### YOUNG ARTIST PIANO

#### WINNER

Garrett Snedecker, student of Jeffrey Savage

#### ALTERNATE

Frankie Bones, student of Jeffrey Savage

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Luke Irvine, student of Leonard Richter

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Aubrey Marks-Johnson, student of Jeffrey Gilliam



MTNA Performance Competition Judges, Piano Division: Michael Seregow, Milica Jelača Jovanović, and David Kim

### SENIOR PIANO DUET

#### WINNER

Jeslyn Cai and Justin Cai, students of Peter Mack and Karlyn Brett

#### ALTERNATE

Dajeong Yoon and Hyun Yoon, students of Allan Park

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Grace Winslow and Caleb Winslow, students of Irene Bowling

### JUNIOR STRING

#### WINNER

Marley Erickson, *violin*, student of Simon James

#### ALTERNATE

Carson Lind-Efird, *cello*, student of Kevin Krentz

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Jessica Na, *violin*, student of Leonard Keylin

### SENIOR STRING

#### WINNER

Ryan Char, *violin*, student of Simon James

#### ALTERNATE

Stephen Leou, *cello*, student of Leslie Marckx

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Shintaro Taneda, *violin*, student of Simon James

### YOUNG ARTIST STRING

#### REPRESENTATIVE

James Marshall, *viola*, student of Jody Graves

### CHAMBER MUSIC STRING

#### WINNER

*Trio Glada*: Kassidy Dent, *piano*, Sarah Lee, *violin*, Nolan Welch, *cello*, students of Carrie Michel

#### ALTERNATE

*The Brahamas*: Ethan Seid, *violin*, James Marshall, *viola*, Timothy Gales, *cello*, Cristian Garcia, *piano*, students of Jody Graves

### JUNIOR WOODWIND

#### WINNER

Brooke Lambert, *flute*, student of Bonnie Blanchard

#### ALTERNATE

Jasmine Lin, *flute*, student of Robert Wilson

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Claire Wei, *flute*, student of Robert Wilson





## SENIOR WOODWIND

### WINNER

Minsoo Kwon, *flute*, student of Zart Dombourian-Eby

### ALTERNATE

Anthony Xie, *flute*, student of Bonnie Blanchard

## YOUNG ARTIST WOODWIND

### WINNER

Monica Weber, *saxophone*, student of Fred Winkler



*MTNA Vice President Peter Mack and Immediate Past President Janice Smith*



*Dianne Johnston with Education Board Chair Laurie Eash. Thank you, Dianne, for over 20 years of service volunteering at the MTNA Performance Competition and OAC!*



*Volunteer Coordinator Onnie Adams with Piano Division Judge David Kim. Thank you, Onnie, for your many years of service as volunteer coordinator!*

## WSMTA Outstanding Artist Competition (OAC) Results November 10-12, 2017 · Central Washington University · Ellensburg, WA

### JUNIOR PIANO

#### FIRST PLACE

Jaden Zhang, student of Ni Liu & Peter Mack

#### SECOND PLACE

Hanjia Guo, student of Donna Bender

#### THIRD PLACE

Diana Ouyang, student of Ivona Kaminska Bowlby

#### UNRANKED HONORABLE MENTIONS

Daniella Tsang, student of Ni Liu

Sunny Wang, student of Barbara Roberts & Renato Fabbro

Constantina Tsang, student of Ni Liu

Jesse Morris, student of Willard Schultz

Ricky Qiu, student of Jeffrey Savage

Zhirui Jerry Li, student of Peter Mack

Alan Ying, student of Sasha Starcevish

### SENIOR PIANO

#### FIRST PLACE

David Shichu Liu, student of Ivona Kaminska Bowlby

#### SECOND PLACE

Andrew Flurry, student of Oksana Ezhokina

#### THIRD PLACE

Anna Wang, student of Nicole Kim

#### UNRANKED HONORABLE MENTIONS

Paige Wiesinger, student of Kathy Tung & Oksana Ezhokina

David Lin, student of Sumiyo Ohuchi

Rosario Araceli Tarabi, student of Julie Swienty

Andrea Liao, student of Anaida Nagdyan

SiQi He, student of Barbara Miller

## WSMTA Composition Competition Results

### JUNIOR COMPOSITION

#### WINNER

Iris Hochwalt, student of Paul Swenson

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Simon Kwon, student of Sharon Van Valin

### SENIOR COMPOSITION

#### WINNER

Akira Nair, student of Sharon Van Valin

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Elise Winkler, student of Fred Winkler

# State Level MTNA Performance Competition in Review

This year's Washington State MTNA Performance Competition had 74 entrants representing 45 teachers. Contestants performed in Piano, String, Woodwind, and Brass categories. All of the competitions ran smoothly, everyone played their part to the best of their ability, and we had fun. The winners in each division are now preparing to move on to the Northwest Division Competition in January.

Thank you **Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM, Senior Performance Coordinator**, for wise counsel, creative problem solving, and calm within the storm.

Thank you **Laura Curtis, Young Artist and Chamber Performance Coordinator**, for attention to detail combined with an amiable and relaxed confidence that everything will go well.

Thank you **Karen Scholten, Junior Performance Coordinator**, for your kind emails to me about details of procedure. The young contestants were in good hands with you.

**Linda Stump, NCTM**, the MTNA Director of Competitions at the national level, was always just a quick email or phone call away. I look forward to working with her again at the MTNA Competitions in Florida.

Thank you **Onnie Adams, Volunteer Coordinator** for your cheerful management of all the wonderful volunteers who

supported our students and judges as door monitors, timekeepers, check-in table staff, and food suppliers. This is Onnie's last year as Volunteer Coordinator. We will search the entire WSMTA membership for her replacement.

Thank you to all those who pitched in doing a variety of tasks: **Krista Seely, Karen Hollenback, Laurie Eash, Janice Smith, Jani Peterson, Dianne Johnston, Lisa Sauer, Carissa Jones, and Kirsten Carlson.**

Finally, many thanks to **Central Washington University, Stacey Ferris, Marcie Brown and Allen Larsen** for their support of our event this year. CWU is a lovely venue for the performance competition. The students who opened the doors for us early each morning, and did other tasks, responded to requests immediately and competently.

I hope I haven't missed anyone in the list of names above, but if I have, please know that **I appreciate and thank each of you.** Without your efforts and generous gift of time this event would not happen for our talented students from Washington.

Congratulations again to all students and teachers who participated this year. Good luck in January to all our winners!

—*Kathy Mortensen, MTNA Performance Competition Chair for WSMTA*



# WSMTA Outstanding Artist Competition in Review

Anytime of the year is an appropriate time to show gratitude and express thanks to friends and colleagues in our lives! As I'm writing this article, we are preparing for Thanksgiving and Christmas so I am thinking more about being thankful for my family and friends!

The Outstanding Artist Competition was recently completed at Central Washington University in Ellensburg. It was a wonderful 2½ day event with 44 entrants this year. There were 27 students in the Junior Division and 17 students in the Senior Division, representing 23 teachers.

I thank the CWU Music Department and staff for their help and gracious hospitality. I would like to thank **Laurie Eash, Education Board Chair**, for her encouragement; **Kirsten Carlson, WSMTA Executive Manager**, for her help with spreadsheets and updating the website; **Jani Peterson** for meticulous research of titles, opus numbers, clarifications, and formatting needed to make the printed programs as accurate as possible. THANK YOU, Jani! My thanks also go to **Jay Mauchley** for proof-reading repertoire titles. To **Krista Seely, WSMTA President**, my thanks for all her support and

encouragement and help with Presentation of Participant Certificates and Awards. To **Onnie Adams** and **Dianne Johnston**, thank you for your gift of hospitality towards our judges and volunteers during the weekend of the competitions. I also owe a debt of gratitude to **Kathy Mortensen, WSMTA Vice President**, for all she did with the realm of communication and using her excellent gift of organization for all of us.

A huge thank you to our 2017 OAC Judges: **Dr. Deborah Rambo Sinn, Roger McVey, and Claire Marshall.** It has been a pleasure to work with you and to get to know you better as well. The many WSMTA volunteers were an integral part of the competition and kept us moving ahead and on schedule. I thank them for their gift of time and energy! Special thanks goes to my Olympia Chapter friend and colleague **Mary Jo Wright** who served for the second year as our Inside Timing Monitor for the entire weekend which was an extraordinary gift of time and energy! Thank you for saying YES when I asked you to come alongside and assist us.

—*Cherie Felts, OAC Chair*

# 2018 MTNA Foundation Fellow Nominees

# W

SMTA 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! Last month, in the November 2017 issue of the *Clarion*, we highlighted Bonnie Blanchard. This month we are going to highlight Mary Kaye.

—Peter Mack, NCTM, WSM TA MTNA Foundation Chair



*Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM*  
2018 Foundation Fellow Nominee

**MARY KAYE OWEN** joined MTNA in 1985, first as a member of Georgia Music Teachers Association, then transferring to Washington State Music Teachers Association in 1987. A colleague in Georgia advised her to join so that she could “get more students.” The friend told Mary Kaye that all she needed to do was “pay the annual dues—nothing else is expected.” Mary Kaye glanced at the WSM TA newsletters she received while working in Renton from 9 to 5, six days a week at a heavy construction office in the late 1980s. She taught piano after work at students' homes for several years.

After marrying Dan (a Boeing computer programmer), Mary Kaye got out of the heavy construction industry and continued her education at the University of Washington, where, in 1992, she earned a Master of Arts Degree in Music Education. She already had a Bachelor of Sacred Music Degree from Multnomah University in Portland, Oregon. Her home studio in Renton began to grow, and she decided to visit the South King County Chapter of WSM TA. Other young teachers were in the group, and the long-time members and leaders were welcoming and encouraging. The chapter hired a nursery attendant during the monthly meetings to watch the young teachers' little ones, and in 1994, Mary Kaye began bringing baby Thommy along with her. That's also when she first volunteered to serve as a committee chair (Auditions). Volunteering to serve the chapter has been a commitment to Mary Kaye ever since.

Over the years at the chapter level, Mary Kaye has been Adjudications Chair, Yearbook Editor, Musicianship Examinations Chair, Treasurer, Vice President, and President. At the state level, Mary Kaye has been Secretary, Vice-President, President-Elect, and President. She is currently the WSM TA MTNA Performance Competitions Senior Coordinator, NW Division MTNA Competitions Chair, South King County Chapter Co-President, SKCMTA Yearbook Editor, and Lake Washington Chapter Music Literacy Program Chair. In 2016, Mary Kaye was given the WSM TA Honorary Life Membership Award.

MTNA has provided a “lifestyle” for her and her family. She is a dues-paying member of MTNA, WSM TA, SKCMTA, and LWMTA, and she attests that 95% of her income is a result of that membership. Her Georgia friend was correct about one thing - Mary Kaye “got more students” from chapter referral lists. Two paying positions Mary Kaye currently holds came about because they were announced at a chapter meeting and in a chapter newsletter (teaching piano at the local music store, and being church pianist). Through the years, Mary Kaye, her husband Dan, and sons Thommy and Titus Owen have enjoyed visiting and exploring many of the locations MTNA and WSM TA conferences have been held. Family favorites are Cincinnati, Austin, and Disneyland, as well as Tri-Cities and Walla Walla. None of the Owens can imagine what family life would have been like if Mary Kaye wasn't an active member in the local, state, and national associations listed at the start of this paragraph. She is more than grateful to be nominated as a Music Teachers National Association Foundation Fellow.

## SUPPORT OUR NOMINEES AND THE MTNA FOUNDATION FUND

\$1000 needs to be raised for each nominee.

[www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/contribute-now](http://www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/contribute-now)

When you contribute, select “Foundation Fellow” and enter **Bonnie Blanchard** or **Mary Kaye Owen**.



## 2018 Young Composers Project

**W**SMTA is pleased to announce the 2018 Young Composers Project. This competition gives students 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 the 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 year's Young Composers Project is **Tuesday, February 20, 2018**. Guidelines and Entry Form are available on [www.wsmta.org](http://www.wsmta.org). Direct all questions to Martin Kennedy, Young Composers Project Chair at [mpk324@gmail.com](mailto:mpk324@gmail.com).

—Martin Kennedy, Young Composers Project Chair

A poster for the 2018 Young Composers Project. The background is black. At the top, the title "2018 YOUNG COMPOSERS PROJECT" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below the title, the text "ENTRIES DUE FEBRUARY 20, 2018" is written in smaller white capital letters. Further down, it says "OPEN TO GRADES K-12 AND COLLEGIATE (UP TO AGE 26)" and "MONETARY PRIZES AWARDED TO FIRST PLACE WINNERS". At the bottom, it says "MORE INFO WWW.WSMTA.ORG". The poster is decorated with colorful musical notes (pink, teal, yellow) and a small image of a spiral-bound notebook with musical notation on it.

## Pipe Organ Encounters: *Organ Camps for Youth & Adults*



**T**he dark days of winter are the perfect time to be dreaming of summer music camp. If you have a piano student (youth or adult) who is interested in learning about the organ, I highly recommend a 4-5 day music camp called a pipe organ encounter (POE). Sponsored by the American

Guild of Organists (AGO), a POE is for ages 13-18. A POE+ is for adults. Both the youth and the adult programs offer the opportunity for participants to have private organ lessons, visit and play different organs, learn about the history and construction of the organ, and interact with others who also have an interest in the organ. POEs take place in several locations throughout the country. Popular locations often fill quickly, so it is not too early for your students to look into the



*Enroll in a POE (Pipe Organ Encounter) this summer!*

application process. Information on POE and POE+ can be found on the AGO website: [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org).

—Joann Richardson, NCTM, Organ Chair



*Yelena  
Balabanova*  
In Concert

February 3, 2018 • 2:00 p.m. • Faith Presbyterian Church, Tacoma

 [ACMusicians.org](http://ACMusicians.org)



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
**WSMTA & OMTA JOINT**  
**CONFERENCE**

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

# MASTER OF MUSIC @ EWU

## GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

EWU Master of Music  
with emphasis in:

- Education
- Performance
- Composition
- Jazz Studies
- Conducting
- Liberal Arts

ON-LINE AND SUMMER  
OPTIONS FOR MUSIC ED  
AVAILABLE

Applications received by  
March 9, 2018 will receive priority

See website for details:  
[ewu.edu/grad](http://ewu.edu/grad)

### Contact:

Graduate Director:  
Dr. Jody Graves,  
[jgraves@ewu.edu](mailto:jgraves@ewu.edu)

Chair:  
Dr. Jonathan Middleton,  
[jmiddleton@ewu.edu](mailto:jmiddleton@ewu.edu)



## WSMTA PHOTO CONTEST

WSMTA is looking for new photos for the website! Details for the contest will be in the next issue of the Clarion in the new year. If you have music-related, teaching-related, or even WA-state-geography-related photos, get them ready so they can appear on our website! You'll be able to submit up to ten photos starting in the new year. Check [www.wsmta.org](http://www.wsmta.org) for more details.



# The Spirit of an Independent Music Teacher: Past, Present, and Future



This is the time of year we tend to take stock of our lives. We review the past year, celebrate the present and plan for the future. Like Charles Dickens' Ebenezer Scrooge, we may encounter people and situations that force us to look inward and make changes in our lives and behavior.

What a perfect time to apply the three "spirits" of past, present and future to being an Independent Music Teacher. At the June conference IMT forums, we discussed many aspects of being an IMT. Two topics that came up most frequently were how to market ourselves (at any stage of our careers, not just starting out) and how to foster healthy competition within our studios.

This month, let's focus on **marketing**. Marketing involves projecting a persona or "brand," communicating what value you as a teacher bring to your students' musical development, and of course, demonstrating skills. Marketing tells a story—your story.

Let's compare the marketing tools of the past, present and future.

One of the best "old-fashioned" methods for finding new students was, and still is, "word of mouth." Developing good relationships with students and their parents inevitably led to referrals. Displaying a yard sign (assuming compliance with town/city zoning laws), putting an ad in a local paper or posting a flyer with cut-off contact information sheets on a store bulletin board were also effective ways to build a roster. Networking with colleagues, performing and becoming involved in your local music scene were also good ways to attract students and teaching opportunities.

While the methods may change, many of these marketing tools remain effective ways to recruit students and build your studio.

Telling your story can now be done digitally—with images, words and sounds. Electronic bulletin boards, community blogs, and social media platforms provide connection to the marketplace. Below are several ideas that came out of our IMT Forum discussions in June:

- **Create a website.** Just about everyone in our discussion forum recommends having a website. Your website will tell your story – your teaching philosophy, methods, opportunities you offer students, testimonials from satisfied clients. It can reflect your personality, sense of humor and teaching experience. There are many options to

create a website, from paid developers or do-it-yourself tools to free resources: Weebly, WIX, SquareSpace, to name a few.

- **"Old-fashioned" tools** like posting flyers or advertising can be done both digitally and in print. Neighborhood social media sites like Nextdoor.com can be very effective marketing tools, either alone or combined with print media.



- **Networking.** Getting together with colleagues, attending a workshop or conference, forming a group to discuss the challenges of teaching (including marketing your studio)—these are all opportunities to build your visibility as an Independent Music Teacher. WSMTA and your local chapter offer many opportunities to network and socialize!
- **Make a connection with your local music store.** Often, stores will offer lessons with instrument purchases or rentals—and if you are on their list, the store can be a great source of referrals.
- **Perform!** All agreed that one of the best marketing tools is doing what you love and "showing your stuff!" Many of us gained students because the person heard us play and loved what they heard.

Take this magical time to enjoy the holiday season, celebrate your accomplishments of the past year, and perhaps envision your "Future" as an Independent Music Teacher.

—RoseMarie Tamburri,  
*Independent Music Teachers Forum Chair*

## Where's the Music Coming From?



As I was turning the corner from Bath and Body Works and rushing to the next store, I heard beautiful music coming from the center of the mall. I had to check it out. A cute girl in a puffy dress finished playing piano and a lovely soprano followed with an aria. Mall shoppers gathered around, nodding and smiling. People slowed their hurried steps to listen to the music. I became curious: who organized this moment of musical joy and beauty? Unfortunately, the name of the music organization was nowhere to be seen.

Music brings so much beauty and comfort into our busy, overbearing surroundings. We are constantly bombarded with noise and overloaded with information. Yet, I hear from many students that music brings them a sense of peace. So why do we keep this a secret?



*Music brings beauty and comfort into our busy, overbearing surroundings.*

As December rolls around, many chapters and individual teachers will have recitals and performances in public locations such as churches, retirement homes, malls, and their own studios. This is the best time to showcase our local chapters and our professional organization. The publicity reaches out far beyond our immediate audience. It's how we attract new members and students.

The next time you or your local chapter has a recital, display the large WSMTA logo, your chapter logo, and your chapter name. Let the local newspaper know about the event. Have a reporter interview students, parents, and teachers. Now is the season to start the ripple effect of WSMTA membership and share the gift of joy and beauty!

—Yelena Balabanova, NCTM, Membership Chair,  
[yelenabalabanova@gmail.com](mailto:yelenabalabanova@gmail.com)

**SOUTH KING COUNTY CHAPTER**  
**SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER**

01 20

Pasta Dinner, Silent Auction,  
and Musical Entertainment

January 20, 2018  
6:00 PM

St. John the Baptist Church  
25810 156th Ave SE, Covington, WA

Tickets & More Information  
[www.skcmta.org](http://www.skcmta.org)

**Henry Bischofberger Violins, LLC**  
*Third Generation Violin Maker*

**Voted Evening Magazine's Best  
of Western WA Musical  
Instrument Store**

Follow us on [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)  
and [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)

[henry@hkbviolins.com](mailto:henry@hkbviolins.com)

Sales Appraisals Repairs Rentals **425-822-0717**



## Certification Corner



I'll never forget the day I walked into my first Mountaineers class earlier this year. After a full afternoon of teaching piano lessons, I drove to downtown Everett and found a seat in the crowded classroom in the back of a climbing gym. People with excited

smiles filled the room and anticipated the start of the evening. In the front of the room there was table set with a collection of ice axes, crampons, and other sharp objects I didn't recognize. *What am I doing here? I'll never be able to learn how to use all that gear, let alone be a strong climbing partner. These climbers have so much more experience than me.* These were just a few of thoughts that entered my mind as my heart raced and the leader welcomed us to the first night of class.

Throughout the next six months I would endure and succeed in the rigorous Basic Climbing Class, learn how to use "all that gear," and become a strong climbing partner to those on my rope team. The class taught me how to work through anxiety both on and off the trail. The Everett Mountaineers sets a high standard of skills that are taught to all their climbers. Every single Basic Climbing student had perfect attendance, went on training hikes, practiced crevasse rescue techniques, took written and practical skill tests, studied Navigation, and learned Wilderness First Aid. I strongly valued these standards when climbing with people I had just met! I knew I could trust them.

Similarly, our national professional organization, MTNA, has worked hard to provide us with the best program to become certified. The five project certification process is clear-cut, easy to understand, and possible for every teacher to complete. It provides for us standards to meet, exceed, and to excel. Being certified adds an additional layer that speaks to your credibility

as a teacher. If you've considered certification for awhile but haven't applied, now is the time.

Did you know WSMTA has grants available to cover half of the \$200 MTNA Certification application cost? There are currently four more certification grants of \$100 each available to help you with the application cost. All you need to do to apply for a grant is email me after you send in your application to MTNA. I'm looking forward to hearing from the next few teachers who are starting their certification!

Finally, I'm excited to congratulate two teachers who received their National Certification this fall!

**Lily Burton, NCTM**, from Camas, Washington, received her Certification in Violin. **Ricardo De La Torre, NCTM**, from Pullman, Washington, received his Certification in Piano. Lily and Ricardo, your commitment to establishing professional music studios is inspiring!



*Summiting Sabale Peak in the North Cascades*

—Rose Freeman, NCTM, WSMTA Certification Chair,  
[pianoteacherose@gmail.com](mailto:pianoteacherose@gmail.com)

## SAVE ME A SEAT AT THE MTNA GALA

Are you planning to attend the 2018 MTNA Conference in Florida? If so, please consider attending the MTNA Gala on Monday evening, March 19, at 6:00 pm. Two of our esteemed members, Bonnie Blanchard and Mary Kaye Owen, will be honored as MTNA Foundation Fellows.

WSMTA reserves tables for our members who wish to sit with our member honorees and others from Washington. There is a small charge for a table reservation (separate from the Gala fee) and we will need to know soon if you would like to dine with your WSMTA colleagues that night.

For more details and/or to add your name to the list, feel free to contact me by email, phone, or text.

—Krista Seely, WSMTA President, [ks88keys@gmail.com](mailto:ks88keys@gmail.com) · 206-335-3384



# 2018 WSMTA & OMTA Joint Conference

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

**H**ave you thought about turning your professional growth into a fun and relaxing vacation? Each of our state conferences are unique and special due to the location. Our state is diversified with mountains, rain forest, rivers, dessert, wine country and urban landscapes. By attending the conferences, we have the wonderful opportunity to visit parts of our state that we might not normally take the time to see.

Even if Vancouver is near you, perhaps you haven't seen all there is to offer. Many of us drive to Portland and completely skip the idea of stopping in Vancouver. With historical roots, top notch restaurants, waterfront shopping and walking, a large Farmers Market, and scenic back roads, Vancouver is an exciting place to explore.



*Vancouver, USA is one of the region's best destinations for northwest adventures!*



Conference planning is underway and we'll have more specifics after the first of the year. Consider making the conference a priority by building it into your schedule as well as your financial planning. We look forward to welcoming you to Vancouver, USA!

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



Conference Guest Artist Hans  
Boepple



Northwest Guest Charlie Albright



Northwest Guests Kenji Bunch and  
Monica Obuchi



Heathman Lodge



Downtown Vancouver



# Call for 2018 WSMTA Hall of Fame Nominations

The WSMTA Hall of Fame was established to give recognition for exceptional support, inspiration, and outstanding contribution to the growth and development of music and music education, both public and private, in the state of Washington. Members will be selected by the Hall of Fame committee and will be honored at the WSMTA State Conference in June 2018.

Please take some time to think about outstanding music educators, teachers you have known, and supporters from the music industry who deserve this special recognition. To be selected by one's peers is one of the highest honors a person can receive.

Criteria for nomination into the Hall of Fame must include three or more of the following conditions:

1. Has served as an active member of WSMTA for a period of no less than ten (10) years.
2. Has demonstrated consistent excellence in teaching of music or in music education.
3. Has brought about substantive improvements in the educational process.
4. Has contributed significantly to the betterment of music and/or the music profession through exemplary acts or service.
5. Has demonstrated the highest ideals of professional integrity through their time of service (active members, retired, posthumously).

The committee needs specific, detailed, and complete supportive personal/biographical information about the nominee submitted by three different people who could include a chapter president, a colleague, a former teacher, or a current or former student of the nominee, but not the nominee. Please fill out the **nomination form that can be found at [www.wsmta.org](http://www.wsmta.org) and send with the three letters of recommendation** by the January 10, 2018 deadline to Mary Ellen Cavelti, 11122 State Route 162 E, Puyallup, WA 98374 or [molly60music@comcast.net](mailto:molly60music@comcast.net).

Please let me know if you have questions or if I can assist you in any way!

—Mary Ellen Cavelti, NCTM, Hall of Fame Chair,  
[molly60music@comcast.net](mailto:molly60music@comcast.net)

Eastern Washington University

## Music Department Scholarship Auditions

Jan. 27 and  
March 2 and 3

or by appointment

### Degrees Offered

#### Bachelor of Music

Instrumental, Vocal, Piano Performance  
Composition and Jazz

#### Bachelor of Music Ed.

#### Bachelor of Arts in Music

#### Master of Music

Be a part of EWU's  
highly acclaimed  
Department of Music

For audition appointments and inquiries contact

Colleen Hegney

[chegney@ewu.edu](mailto:chegney@ewu.edu) | 509.359.2241

[www.ewu.edu/music](http://www.ewu.edu/music)



### STAY CONNECTED WITH WSMTA ON FACEBOOK

Are you connected on Facebook? Please locate WSMTA at [www.facebook.com/wsmtahome](https://www.facebook.com/wsmtahome). When you find us, please "LIKE" us! WSMTA will post details about programs, events, conferences, and more!



Like us on  
Facebook

# Studio Technology News: “Time to Take Five”



It's that time of year when everybody starts to get a little squirrely: the days are shorter, cold weather is keeping little ones cooped up indoors, and the holidays are coming (according to Wal Mart, they started coming in late September)! It's the time of year that I begin to use mini-breaks in the

lesson, to inject some energy into the hard work of practicing by taking a few minutes to focus on just a particular skill (like note identification, ear training, etc.) But sometimes, it's worth it just to take a break into musical silliness, where the educational value of the exercise isn't perhaps quite as high, but enjoyment and fun are the main focus. Here are a few of the apps I keep in my “Fun Music” folder on my iPad for just such occasions (check the WSM TA Facebook page for more fun music apps).

Search for any of these games at the iTunes App Store (for users with an Apple/iOS device) or Google Play Store (for users with an Android device):

## SILLY EAR TRAINING

**Blob Chorus Ear Training** (Android/iOS): This \$0.99 ear training app does have some value for ear training, but it's mainly a lot of silly blobs singing (you guessed it) “blob”! See the review here: [www.colorinmypiano.com/music-apps](http://www.colorinmypiano.com/music-apps).



*Blob Chorus*

## RHYTHM & PULSE



*Beat Sneak Bandit*



*The Most Addicting Sheep Game*

**Beat Sneak Bandit** (iOS) and **The Most Addicting Sheep Game** (iOS) are two apps that loosely relate to rhythm and pulse—but are mostly just addictive and fun! Beat Sneak Bandit needs the player to steal back all the clocks by tapping the beat; while TMASG requires students to help the sheep jump over obstacles by tapping to the beat. Find brief reviews on Color in My Piano [www.colorinmypiano.com/music-apps](http://www.colorinmypiano.com/music-apps) and Leila Viss' 88 Piano Keys Blog [www.88pianokeys.me/ipad-apps-for-your-studio/rhythm](http://www.88pianokeys.me/ipad-apps-for-your-studio/rhythm).

## MUSICAL CREATIVITY

**Magic Piano** (Android/iOS) and **Dust Buster** (iOS) are two apps that help students create music by just tapping on the screen, no keyboard or fingerings needed. The students generally need to already know the song in order to tap the falling dots/fingerings in time, but as a way of teaching students music solely by ear, both these apps are highly motivating. Note: There are a few more features in the Dust Buster app that could elevate the value of this one for your students, see a more complete review here: [www.musicianswithapps.com/category/instruments/piano](http://www.musicianswithapps.com/category/instruments/piano).



*Dust Buster*

## EXPLORING SOUNDS

There are a lot of apps out there that forego traditional notation and just let players explore with sound. **Falling Stars** (iOS), **Jelly Band** (Android/iOS) and **Isle of Tune** (iOS) are just a few that I keep on my iPad for students to experiment with. They all loop different motifs according to how the player arranges icons or draws on the screen, so students can learn about patterns while listening for timbre, instruments, etc.



*Isle of Tune*

—Michelle Mielke, NCTM, Studio Technology Chair