

THE CLARION

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President's Corner



Krista Seely
WSMTA President

Can you believe we are already one month into 2018? I hope this year is off to a great start for you and your students.

I enjoyed meeting with many dedicated teachers during January, while on chapter visits, volunteering at our MTNA Division Performance Competitions, and meeting with WSM TA's Education Board and Board of Directors at our semi-annual meetings. Here are a few highlights from my travels:

Grays Harbor County Chapter was preparing for its annual "Musical" performance fundraiser to raise scholarships for area students who go on to study music in college. This chapter with about ten active members has raised more than \$15,000 in the past five years for scholarships. This year, the event was also a memorial for **long-time member Laura Boyer**, who passed away on December 9, 2017 at the age of 89. Grays Harbor County is off the beaten path for most of us, but music-making is alive and well in their communities, thanks to the inspired work of many dedicated teachers.

Olympia was my next stop, where I met with a lively group of teachers who work in tandem to offer a dizzying number of recitals, festivals, and master classes for their students. This group meets at the studio of **Ignacio Diaz, Chapter President**. The walls of his light-filled space on the 2nd floor of a commercial building in downtown Olympia feature the sculptural work of local artist Barbara Young, who is also one of his students. My favorites included "Jazzman" and "Mr. Beethoven." Read more at **Diaz Anderson Music Studios** on Facebook!

It was a joy to be a timer/monitor for the **MTNA NW Division Performance Competitions** in Portland January 13-15. Washington had fifteen state-level winners compete and six advanced to the national finals. I look forward to hearing them in Orlando, Florida in March. You'll find more news about the Division Competitions on page 7-8.

The month wrapped up with a busy and productive weekend of WSM TA Board of Directors and Committee Meetings at the SeaTac Red Lion January 27-28. My sincere thanks to all who attended, to committee chairs who sent reports, and to all who continue to support the myriad programs your state association offers to members and our students.

Finally, a couple of important reminders: it's time to vote! Watch for info in your Feb/March issue of AMT. Our very own **Jody Graves** will be on the ballot for **Northwest Division Director-elect** (see page 6).

This is a GREAT time of year to urge prospective members who have visited your chapter during the past several months to **join MTNA for half-price!** Contact MTNA Membership Manager Melissa Curtice (mcurtice@mtna.org) for details on how to help a prospective member get signed up.

—Krista Seely, WSM TA President

Fêlicitations

If you are enjoying this issue of *The Clarion*, **Samantha Yeung, Lake Washington and South King County Chapters**, is the one to thank. Samantha has been our fabulous editor for the past two years. Despite teaching 40 students per week, Samantha manages to find time to creatively and colorfully collate our contributions each month. Samantha is a super proofreader, making the job of her small editorial committee a breeze. She is also extremely patient, kind-hearted and always ready with a positive or encouraging thought to offer, whether at a Board of Directors meeting or via email. Thank you, Samantha, for sharing your time and talent with WSMTA.

By the time this issue is in your inbox or mailbox, most of us will have registered our students for the **Music Artistry Program**. Several people have been working diligently behind the scenes to make our adjustment to this program, previously known as adjudications. **Janice Smith, Spokane Chapter**, has been invaluable as our liaison with our website developers, talking tech better than any other music teacher I know!



Stephanie White, our Music Artistry Program Chair (Eastside and South King County Chapters), has kept in touch with chapter program chairs and answered questions about the updated process. Finally, we continue to be so well-served by our devoted and savvy **Executive Manager Kirsten Carlson (Seattle Chapter)**, who has answered emails, text messages and calls at all hours of the day, evening and weekend, to help us with M.A.P. registration questions. Thank you, Kirsten. We love you!

—Krista Seely, WSMTA President

SAVE ME A SEAT AT THE MTNA GALA



HURRY! ONLY TWO SEATS LEFT! 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, please contact Krista Seely at ks88keys@gmail.com or 206-335-3384.

Yelena Balabanova
In Concert

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

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

DATES AND DEADLINES

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

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

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

March 17-21: MTNA Conference at Disney Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida

April 1: Deadline for submitting articles for the May *Clarion*

April 20: Competition Recital Results Due

April 20: Last Day for the Music Artistry Program (formerly Adjudications)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Clark County

Christina Hemphill
Rob Melton
Todd Perkins
Young Jun

Olympia

Emily Skeers

Pullman

Jason McDougall

Seattle

Mona Elsing
Joe Walker



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2018 WSMTA & OMTA Joint Conference

Wednesday-Saturday, June 20-23, 2018
The Heathman Lodge · *Vancouver, WA*



Conference Guest Artist
Hans Boepfle



Northwest Guest
Charlie Albright



Northwest Guests Kenji Bunch
and Monica Ohuchi



Relax and Rejuvenate at the
Heathman Lodge



Explore Historic
Downtown Vancouver

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The natural wonder of the Pacific Northwest meets a culture of unique, personalized service at The Heathman Lodge. Relax, revel, and rejuvenate at one of the most scenic hotels in Vancouver. From the moment you are greeted out front by a 24' cedar totem you'll soon realize that The Heathman Lodge is no ordinary inn. With splashes of color from blankets made at Oregon's Pendleton Woolen Mills and massive portraits of Western characters and tribal symbols from Andy Warhol's Cowboys and Indians series, the authenticity of the region extends throughout the lodge.



One of the Best Restaurants in Vancouver

Hudson's Bar & Grill serves up authentic Pacific Northwest cuisine. Utilizing local produce the Hudson's menu appeals to many palates. The décor is nearly as spectacular as the food. The immense Columbia River stone fireplace, native craftsmanship, and an enormous mural of local dining back in the 1800's, creates an atmosphere unique and symbolic of the region's diverse character.



Embrace Casual Luxury and Soothing Rustic Ambiance

Enjoy all the comforts of home and a little more! Indoor pool, Jacuzzi, complimentary parking, easy access off I-5 and I-205, and within walking distance to shopping and restaurants. You will find a refined service culture unlike any other, making The Heathman a standout in Vancouver luxury hotels. Their goal is singular: to deliver the best service you've ever experienced.



WSMTA has contracted guestrooms at \$144 + tax for single or double occupancy. To make your reservations, please call the Lodge directly at 1-888-475-3100. Be sure to mention that you are part of WSMTA/OMTA to receive our group rate. If you would like to extend your stay, The Heathman will honor our rate. Reservations must be made by May 31. If you would like more information, browse their website at www.heathmanlodge.com.

Enjoy the comforts of this luxury lodge while soaking up the musical atmosphere and spending quality time with your friends from Washington and Oregon!

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

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Robin McCabe and Craig Sheppard, Directors

Session I: July 8-18 (\$1,400, for ages 16 and up)

Faculty: Robin McCabe and Craig Sheppard

Guest Faculty: Ory Shihor, Colburn Music Academy and Conservatory

All students will play for Ory Shihor in a public masterclass.

Scholarship assistance available for Session 1

UW dormitories and food plans available for additional cost.

Session II: July 18-21 (\$400, for up to age 15)

Faculty: Robin McCabe, Craig Sheppard, Dainius Vaicekonis, Amy Grinsteiner

Details at: seattlepianoinstitute.org

Priority Application Deadline: April 1, 2018

2018



2018 YOUNG COMPOSERS PROJECT

ENTRIES DUE
FEBRUARY 20, 2018

OPEN TO GRADES
K-12 AND
COLLEGIATE (UP TO
AGE 26)

MORE INFO
WWW.WSMTA.ORG



2018 MTNA Elections: Jody Graves for NW Division Director-elect

MTNA is holding elections for Division Director-elects. The new elects will become Division Directors who will serve on the MTNA Board of Directors during the 2020-2022 biennium. WSMTA's own **Jody Graves** is running for **Northwest Division Director-elect**! WSMTA has a proud legacy of representation at the national level, and we would love to see this continue with Jody.



Please read Jody's bio below and **BE SURE TO VOTE!** Washington state has one of the largest memberships in MTNA, but we don't have a good voting record—so let's get out and vote. Watch for instructions in your February/March AMT or go online to www.mtna.org.



Jody Graves, NCTM, maintains an active performing career in the United States and abroad. She is a frequent public speaker, presenter and Graduate Program Director in the School of Music at Eastern Washington University. "I have appreciated the educational and artistic standards that MTNA embraces since joining in 1982. I believe MTNA must play a more important role than ever as a visible body of dedicated musicians who retain and uphold the vital contributions we offer to ensure that musical arts, of all types, are a necessary component of our culture, and not simply viewed as 'extra-curricular' activities," she says. Through decades as a member of WSMTA, Jody has served as a highly-popular guest artist, master clinician, adjudicator and workshop leader. She currently serves as a member of the WSMTA Nominating Committee and is chair of the Chamber Music Committee.

2018 Young Composers Project: Entry Deadline February 20, 2018

WSMTA 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.

Classifications, Levels, and Entry Fees:

- **Primary:** Grades K-2, one first place award for all three grades, \$25
- **Elementary:** Grades 3-6, each grade is awarded a first place prize, \$25
- **Junior:** Grades 7-9, each grade is awarded a first place prize, \$30
- **Senior:** Grades 10-12, each grade is awarded a first place prize, \$35
- **Collegiate:** students graduated from high school and up to age 26, one first place prize, \$40

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. We look forward to receiving your entry!

—Martin Kennedy, Young Composers Project Chair · mpk324@gmail.com

MTNA Northwest Division Performance Competition Recap



Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM
*MTNA NW Division
Performance Competition
Chair*

The Northwest Division MTNA Competition took place at the Holiday Inn Portland Airport and Portland Piano Company in Portland, Oregon January 13-15, 2018. Fifty-two students performed in twelve competitions over the weekend. The students traveled to Portland from various parts of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming. Division winners will next compete at the national level this March at the MTNA conference in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

The NW Division Competition were chaired by Mary Kaye Owen (WSMTA), with Junior Coordinator Kathy Mortensen (WSMTA), Senior Coordinator Cindy Peterson-Pearl (OMTA), and Young Artist/Chamber Music Coordinator Susan Todd (OMTA) overseeing each entrant's needs. When all state competitions' results were available just before Thanksgiving 2017, these four NW Division Competition administrators began the process of organizing the schedule, communications, and paperwork for the January competitions. (Thus, the holiday season was filled with joy, as well as work on the competitions!)

Many thanks go to Portland Piano Company! In addition to extending their business hours to being open and available to the entrants for practice and competitions from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm each day, Portland Piano Company moved (free of charge)

five pianos from their building over to the Holiday Inn for the students to use in practice rooms. Portland Piano Company also made sure that a grand piano was sent to the Holiday Inn for the Woodwind Competition room. No piano rental fees and no facility rental fees were charged to MTNA by Portland Piano Company. They were gracious and very welcoming to the competition entrants, teachers, families, and the general public that attended the competitions. It is hoped that Clarion readers who may be in Vancouver for the OMTA/WSMTA joint conference in June 2018, will cross the Columbia River and check out Portland Piano Company!

State Presidents from Idaho (Stephen Thomas) and Washington (Krista Seely), as well as OMTA Portland District member Laura Davis, and Mary Kaye's husband Dan Owen, served as timekeepers during the competitions. The time and service these volunteers donated to the weekend was invaluable and so appreciated!

Thanks to all NW Division MTNA Competition administrators, volunteers, judges, entrants (their teachers, accompanists, families, friends), Holiday Inn Portland Airport, and Portland Piano Company, the 2018 competitions flowed smoothly, with exciting results!

Beginning in January 2019, all MTNA Division Performance Competition will be online, rather than live. Details will be published before the September 2018 entry deadline.

—Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM,
MTNA NW Division Performance Competition Chair

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS

WSMTA has a level of membership for businesses, corporations, institutions, organizations, and individuals who have an interest in furthering the mission of WSMTA. Associate Membership entitles one person from the business, corporation, institution, or organization the rights and privileges of active membership with the exception of holding office or of entering students into WSMTA competitions and activities. WSMTA Associate Members receive several membership benefits:

- Monthly copies of our newsletter, *The Clarion*
- A link on our WSMTA website
- Advertising in *The Clarion* at member rates
- A 25% discount on fees for the WSMTA mailing labels
- A 10% discount for advertising and/or exhibiting at the annual WSMTA Conference in June (20% if both an advertiser and an exhibitor)

If you know if a business or organization that would be interested in supporting WSMTA in this way, please direct them to our website: <https://wsmta.org/about-wsmta/associate-members>.

MTNA Northwest Division Performance Competition Results

January 13-15, 2018 · Portland, OR

JUNIOR PERFORMANCE PIANO

WINNER Truman Walker, student of Suzanne Clive (ID)
ALTERNATE Adrian King, student of Peter Mack (WA)
HONORABLE MENTION Michael Gu, student of Rachelle McCabe (OR)

JUNIOR PERFORMANCE STRING

WINNER Marley Erickson, *violin*, student of Simon James (WA)
ALTERNATE Hanami Froom, *violin*, student of Carol Sindell (OR)

JUNIOR PERFORMANCE WOODWIND

WINNER Brooke Lambert, *flute*, student of Bonnie Blanchard (WA)
ALTERNATE Rachel Kidd, *saxophone*, student of Joshua Metz (WY)

SENIOR PERFORMANCE PIANO

WINNER Abriana Church, student of Irene Peery-Fox (ID)
ALTERNATE Leah Deobald, student of Duane Hulber (WA)
HONORABLE MENTIONS Jenna Tu, student of Renato Fabbro (OR);
Tanner Jorden, student of Dorothea Cromley (MT)

SENIOR PERFORMANCE PIANO DUET

WINNER Jeslyn Cai & Justin Cai, students of Peter Mack/Karlyn Brett (WA)
ALTERNATE Avery Hsieh & Adrian Hsieh, students of Rachelle McCabe (OR)

SENIOR PERFORMANCE STRING

WINNER John Fawcett, *violin*, student of Jan Sloman (OR)
ALTERNATE Ryan Char, *violin*, student of Simon James (WA)

SENIOR PERFORMANCE WOODWIND

WINNER Antonio Jarvey, *saxophone*, student of Johan Erksson (MT)
ALTERNATE Taylor King, *saxophone*, student of Rodney Zuroveste (ID)
HONORABLE MENTION Minsoo Kwon, *flute*, student of Zart Dombourian-Eby (WA)

YOUNG ARTIST PERFORMANCE BRASS

WINNER Anthony Achille, *euphonium*, student of Christopher Dickey (WA)
ALTERNATE MariAnn Parkinson, *horn*, student of Jason Johnston (ID)

YOUNG ARTIST PERFORMANCE PIANO

WINNER Lennart Triesschijn, student of Theresa Bogard (WY)
ALTERNATE Douglas Rowan, student of Stephen Thomas (ID)
HONORABLE MENTIONS Jessica Daniel, student of Claire Wachter (OR);
Garrett Snedeker, student of Jeffrey Savage (WA)

YOUNG ARTIST STRING

WINNER Yonsoo Park, *violin*, student of Craig Purdy (ID)
ALTERNATE James Marshall, *viola*, student of Jody Graves (WA)
HONORABLE MENTION Antonion Soria, *cello*, student of Beth Vanderborgh (WY)

YOUNG ARTIST WOODWIND

WINNER Monica Weber, *saxophone*, student of Fred Winkler (WA)
ALTERNATE Hiu Man Yu, *saxophone*, student of Jennifer Turpen (WY)
HONORABLE MENTION Bethany Christensen, *flute*, student of Nicole Molumby (ID)

CHAMBER MUSIC STRING

WINNER Aestus String Quartet: DaNece Lyman, *violin*, Anne Wolfe, *violin*, Emily Jones, *viola*, and Kyle True, *cello*, students of Craig Purdy (ID)
ALTERNATE Trio Giada: Kassidy Dent, *piano*, Sarah Lee, *violin*, Nolan Welch, *cello*, students of Carrie Michel (WA)

CHAMBER MUSIC WIND

REPRESENTATIVE Bridger Brass Quintet: Briana Gillet, *trumpet*, Jimmy Kelsey, *trumpet*, Philip Schuler, *horn*, Hayden Woods, *trombone*, Marques Ceaser-Lopez, *tuba*, students of Sarah Stoneback (MT)

MTNA Northwest Division Composition Competition Results

JUNIOR COMPOSITION

WINNER Iris Hochwalt, student of Paul Swenson (WA)
HONORABLE MENTION Noah Meeks, student of Jessica Olson (MT)

YOUNG ARTIST COMPOSITION

REPRESENTATIVE Alexis Carrier, student of Steven Hesla (MT)

SENIOR COMPOSITION

WINNER Akira Nair, student of Sharon Van Valin (WA)
HONORABLE MENTION Matthew Kaminski, student of Michael Johanson (OR)

Certification Corner: Consistency is the Key to Growth



Rose Freeman, NCTM
Certification Chair

When was the last time you did something for the first time? In 2017, I wanted to rediscover my love of sketching. Intrigued by inspiring blog posts and YouTube videos, I bought a Leuchterm 1917 dot grid journal with the intention of creating beautiful works of art on my piano lesson schedule each week. Guess what? My weekly mountain sketches looked more like kindergarten chalk board drawings at

best. But, as the year progressed, I continued to draw one sketch per week on my lesson planner. To my surprise, the mountains began to take shape and my students began to ask about my weekly drawings. Consistency is key to growth.

Staying consistent with our continuing education as professional music teachers gives life to our studios. One aspect of staying consistent comes through working through the MTNA Certification Teacher Profile Projects and becoming a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music! Ann M. Fernandez, NCTM, Northwest Division Certification Commissioner, wrote these words in her December letter:

“

The beauty of the MTNA National Certification Program is that it offers all teachers the chance to work on meaningful projects that actually apply to our everyday



Leuchterm 1917 Dot Grid Journal for sketching, scheduling, and planning.

professional lives. Back in my day, the program was based more on academic knowledge and performance skills. It was assumed that a person with a degree in the music field, or someone who had passed several MTNA sanctioned exams, would know how to teach. At the time, there was no examination of true teaching ability, communication skills, nor business practices. In short, we were given the professional title of NCTM without necessarily knowing how to communicate what we knew musically to our students, let alone run a studio as a business. The current program, however, is astounding in its breadth and purpose through five Teacher Profile Projects.”

Want to learn about those projects? Send me an email and I'd love to tell you more! Also, start to plan for the WSMTA and OMTA Conference in Vancouver, Washington June 20-23, 2018 to hear my MTNA Certification presentation! I'd love to see you there.

Congratulations to **Angela Michael** from the Edmonds Music Teachers Association who received a \$100 WSMTA grant to cover half of the MTNA Certification application cost! There are currently three more Certification grants of \$100 each available to help you with the application cost. Send me an email if you'd like to apply for a Certification grant!

—Rose Freeman, NCTM,
WSMTA Certification Chair,
pianoteacherose@gmail.com



Eastern Washington University

Music Department Scholarship Auditions

Jan. 27 and
March 2 and 3

or by appointment

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Composition and Jazz

Bachelor of Music Ed.

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Master of Music

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highly acclaimed
Department of Music

For audition appointments and inquiries contact

Colleen Hegney

chegney@ewu.edu | 509.359.2241

www.ewu.edu/music



WSMTA asks: “Will You Be My Valentine (V)olunteer?”

Every year WSMTA presents two big programs on or around the Veteran's Day weekend—the MTNA Performance Competition and the Outstanding Artist Competition.

We need a new Volunteer Coordinator for our annual competitions weekend.

The Volunteer Coordinator organizes WSMTA volunteers to monitor the competitions, time the performances, greet and check in students at the registration desk, etc.

And, possibly more importantly, the Volunteer Coordinator provides lunch, water, coffee, tea, and snacks for judges and competition volunteers who are working.

Onnie Adams, retiring Volunteer Coordinator, has taken great care of us on this busy weekend, bringing in a delicious variety of salads, sandwiches, desserts, and treats.

Onnie has saved templates and copies of her planning and preparation for the next Volunteer Coordinator to use, which will make the job easier for the new person to do. (Thank you, Onnie!)

We hope you will consider signing up to be our Volunteer Coordinator. It is a commitment to one big weekend a year, a lot of fun to work with and help fellow teachers, and you're good for another year.

To learn more, please contact Kathy Mortensen

—Kathy Mortensen, WSMTA Vice President
kmortensenpiano@gmail.com • 206-525-2113



PHOTO COLLECTION FOR WSMTA.ORG

WSMTA is seeking new photos for our website! We'd like to invite member and non-members to share relevant photos. If you have music-related, teaching-related, or WA-state-geography-related photos, please send them in so they can be featured!

You will be required to seek permission for use from anyone in the photos that you send. We will inform you if your photo(s) will be featured on our website.

Pedal Points: Playing the Bass Line of Hymns with the Feet



Joann Richardson, NCTM
Organ Chair

Several months ago, a WSMTA member asked me why organists usually play hymns with the tenor in the manual and the bass in the pedal. Here are the main reasons:

Ease. Intervals between the tenor and bass are often greater than one octave. When the bass is played with the feet, there is no need to re-voice and play the tenor with the right hand. When

training the brain and the limbs to separate the tenor from the bass, a good exercise is to choose a hymn with an easy pedal part and an easy tenor part. When practicing this hymn, set a loud registration on one manual and play only the tenor part on this manual (a loud stop for the tenor will immediately let you hear if you are also doubling the bass with your left hand). Play the bass in the pedals. Play the soprano and alto on a separate manual with quiet stops.

Balance. Doubling the bass can make the bass sound out of proportion with the rest of the voices.

Creative Options. Facility with playing the bass in the feet allows for more options when playing a hymn. Two examples:

- 1) Play the soprano as a solo with the right hand with louder stops on one manual; play the alto and tenor with quieter stops on a second manual; play the bass with the feet. This is a good option for making the melody stand out on unfamiliar hymns.
- 2) If the tenor part is nice, it can act as a descant. To do this, play the soprano and alto with the right hand on one manual; on a different manual, play the tenor one octave higher using stops that will project; play the bass with the feet.

If you have a question you'd like me to address, please don't hesitate to ask. Likely, someone else may be wondering the same thing.

Organ Workshops at the 2018 WSMTA/OMTA Conference:

It is not too early to plan to attend the WSMTA/OMTA Joint Conference in Vancouver, WA. In addition to having one organ session during the conference, there will be a pre-conference half-day of organ workshops on Wednesday, June 20 from 1-5 pm. Organist Martha Natiuk has graciously agreed to be a co-presenter with me at the conference this year. As details are finalized, more information will appear in the Clarion.

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

Apply for the WSMTA Chapter of the Year Award!

Wouldn't your Chapter's name look marvelous on our WSMTA "Chapter of the Year" plaque? Our State has fantastic Chapters and we'd like to hear your story! Make a New Year's Resolution now to apply (by May 1st) so we can honor you. Information, along with the application, can be found at the wsmta.org under the "Information for Teachers" tab.



Past Chapter of the Year Winners:

2007 Moses Lake Chapter
2009 Okanogan Chapter
2010 Lynden Chapter
2011 South King County Chapter
2012 Grays Harbor Chapter
2013 Spokane Chapter
2015 Edmonds Chapter
2016 Kitsap County Chapter
2017 Pullman Chapter
2018 *Your Chapter?*

—Harriet West, Chapter of the Year Chair

Arts Advocacy: Do You See Us Now?



Debra Florian, NCTM
MTNA Secretary-Treasurer,
WSMTA Arts Advocacy Chair

Dear WSMTA
Colleagues:

I hope this New Year has started off with fresh energy in anticipation of all the exciting opportunities ahead this Spring. Activity in my studio always intensifies at this time of year as preparation for master classes, MAP (formerly Adjudications) and MLP (formerly Musicianship Exams) takes central focus. I'm sure that's a common experience for all of us during these winter months of teaching.

Our goals with each student are *clear* and *intentional*. The performance and exam dates are locked in as target, and our work (and hopefully theirs!) is *carefully planned* and *executed* to ensure SUCCESS!

We can draw a connection between teaching toward the accomplishment of goals and organizing our WSMTA activities toward the accomplishment of goals as well... the intentionality of planning, execution and evaluation have many similarities.

The first step is to set **clear goals!** Specifically identify goals of **outreach** aimed at increasing **awareness** and **visibility** of WSMTA/MTNA in our communities in order to:

- **Spark the enthusiasm** of our current members and students, as well as to create interest among non-members;
- **Elevate the importance** of the arts in our lives, individually and collectively;
- **Engage the public** by increasing the number of people making and teaching music (as well as better equipping those who teach);
- **Promote the music teaching profession as a respected and financially viable career.** When the community at large can observe us in action at local or state venues, or better yet participate with us in those activities, they witness a thriving, productive and valuable profession at work!

We are at the beginning of a new calendar year, but midway through our academic year. This is a perfect opportunity to take a fresh look at our upcoming WSMTA activities with OUTREACH in mind. A good first step might be to set a goal of publicizing the events you are planning in a bigger, broader way this year. Be creative and intentional about raising your visibility within your local music community and engaging the public at large. Wishing all of us success in 2018!

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

Make a Difference: Become a MusicLink Teacher!



Karen Monroe, NCTM
WA State MusicLink
Coordinator

As of November 2017, the MusicLink Foundation has reached 6,718 students. Over 488,500 hours of instruction have been given, which is equivalent to \$12.6 million in scholarship donations. Washington State has served 575 students over the years. Way to go Washington!

BIG thanks go out to those of you who have taken on MusicLink students this past year and before. You are much appreciated!

If you haven't been active with MusicLink, please consider taking part. As MusicLink Coordinator, when I receive MusicLink requests (students are financially prequalified before I contact any teachers for them) it makes a huge difference if they can be placed with a teacher immediately.



Becoming a MusicLink teacher will make a difference in many ways! MusicLink teachers must be willing to take on students at half of the cost of their regular lesson fees. Keep in mind that there are many businesses who give discounts for MusicLink teachers and students. You do not receive the discounted portion of lesson fees paid but you receive benefits in many other ways. It takes a village to help each other out! Please email me if you have any questions!

—Karen Monroe, NCTM, WA State MusicLink Coordinator
musicalnotestudio@q.com

“My Chopin Etude is Better than Your Chopin Etude” (Not)—*How to Foster Healthy Competition In Your Studio*



RoseMarie Tamburri
*Independent Music
Teachers Forum Chair*

COMPETITION! Just the word can make us applaud or cringe. Competitions offer students an opportunity to reach for excellence – especially if we as teachers help prepare them psychologically, as well as musically, to deal with the emotional aftermath of the results (whatever they may be). After all, students who enter competitions experience wins and losses—that’s the nature of the game.

A healthy dose of the competitive spirit can also work wonders to motivate students of all levels to push themselves to reach a higher degree of competence. Whether you embrace or eschew formal, organized competition, there are some tools you can employ in your studios to help your students keep aiming for the high notes.

At the June conference IMTF discussion, many of you shared ideas for how to foster healthy competition while maintaining the students’ self-esteem and feeling of musical worth. Here’s a summary of those ideas:

- 1) **Games.** Our group agreed that games allow all participating students to “win” and learn at the same time while having fun. Here are a few ideas: (not all from the discussion)
 - a. “Puzzlemania”—display a poster with a “fill in the blank” musical puzzle with 10 questions. At each lesson students fill in as many answers as they can on a sheet of paper and at the end of the week, the student with the most correct answers “wins.” There can be many winners—possibly every student!
 - b. “Interval Relay” for two teams of students—all you need are dice. Roll the dice and have the student play or sing the interval corresponding to the number rolled.
 - c. “Name that Tune”—self-explanatory.
 - d. “Dueling Duos”—a game for teams of two players who each sight-play a brief excerpt from an appropriate level duet. Students can switch partners or parts and then self-critique their performance.
- 2) **Critical Listening and Performance Etiquette.** An idea from Wendy Stevens’ www.composecreate.com online store, this is an activity designed for students to evaluate

their peers’ performances. Use a handout with categories such as: Note Accuracy, Pedaling, Musical Expression, Rhythm and Tempo. The rules are simple: students must make at least two positive statements and list two ways the performance could be improved. Positive comments and constructive feedback must be specific—e.g., “smooth phrasing,” “contrasting dynamics,” or “try less pedal,” “observe rests,” etc. This allows the students to evaluate their own and others’ playing objectively with specific language.

- 3) **Peer Teaching.** This is especially helpful for older students who want to test their pedagogy muscles and help less advanced students learn. As we know from our own teaching experience, when you teach, you learn more.
- 4) **Recognition.** Recognize students’ accomplishments publicly or in your studio newsletter or website. Quarterly “rewards” for developmental milestones like participating in the Music Artistry or Music Literacy Programs, entering a formal competition, or performing in “Bach in the Subways” or other public recital, go a long way toward boosting students’ confidence.

The consensus was that healthy competition fosters learning and motivates students to achieve excellence! Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information on these ideas or if you would like to share some of your own tried-and-true resources.

—RoseMarie Tamburri, IMTF Chair



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Lois Whitner Student Study Grants: Looking Back with Gratitude and Forward with Promise

Do you have a student who is committed to music study but is struggling to continue lessons because of financial concerns? You might want to encourage that student to apply for a WSMTA Whitner Student Study Grant.

The funding for this grant program was launched in January, 2001 with our Double Your Dollars campaign. Students, parents, teachers, and chapters all over the state rose to the challenge of a matching grant and by holding benefit concerts, practice-a-thons, bake sales, and soliciting direct donations we raised over \$8,000. Then in June, 2001 our funding was solidified when WSMTA received a generous bequest from the estate of Lois and Chet Whitner.

It has been inspiring to look back in our archives to learn about the life of Lois Whitner. Music was her life. She taught public school music for several years before moving to Montesano in 1933 where she directed the Methodist choir for 44 years, including several English Handbell choirs. But her true love was as a piano teacher. She touched the lives of hundreds of students, many of whom were contest winners and became teachers themselves.

Throughout her teaching career she studied with Leonard Jacobsen, of UPS, Nellie Tholen of Lewis and Clark, Sylvia Killman, of Portland, and David Kaiserman, of UPS. A member of WSMTA for 52 years, Lois served for 13 consecutive years as an officer, including Secretary, President, Executive Secretary, and Chairman of the Education Board. She was charter member of Grays Harbor Chapter. She was a knowledgeable and passionate teacher of both piano and religious choral music, and a fixture for decades in the musical life of Grays Harbor County.

For two weeks for several summers Lois traveled to the Tahola Indian Reservation to conduct music appreciation classes, instilling a love of music in children for whom music was otherwise unavailable.

Both Lois and her husband, Chet, were enthusiastic supporters of WSMTA, and hoped that the bequest from their estate would be used to promote music study by young people. Over time, other memorial gifts have been added to our scholarship endowment funds: in honor of Jane Moore in 2001, Janet Mooney in 2003,

Joan Moody in 2004, Mary Jane Carter in 2005, and a bequest from the Eleanor Hale Wilson estate in 2011. Donations to our scholarship funds continue to come in to our coffers! These monies are invested conservatively and the yearly earnings are used to fund grants that help with costs of music lessons, theory or composition classes, or tuition for music camps. Our grant program has shown exciting growth. Starting with our first grant of \$500 awarded in 2003 to a student of piano, WSMTA has been able to award 118 study grants totaling \$60,935. Students of bass, cello, piano, violin, and voice from all over the state have benefitted from this program, and many have continued their music studies in college.

Next month's *Clarion* will contain an article that lists the specific requirements for applicants. Further information can be downloaded from the application itself. Go to our website at www.wsmta.org. Click on "Programs for Students" and "Scholarships." Application deadline is **May 1, 2018**.

—Connie Hungate, WSCTM,
Student Study Grants Chair

Music Literacy Program (MLP) High Honors

Students scoring 98% or higher on Written Theory for the Music Literacy Program receive High Honors.

MOSES LAKE-CENTRAL BASIN CHAPTER

TEACHER: STUDENT (LEVEL)

Gracie Payne: Zoe Calbreath (2), Cesar Chavez (2), Jaylen Frank (3), Taylor Galbreath (4)

Harriet West: Ally Cardile (1), Anna Bowes (2), Dalton Underwood (2), Tyler Wiseman (3), Natalie Sloan (4), Megan Hanover (4)

Mary Merrell: Weston Stowe (2), Brooklyn Stowe (2)

Doreen Slauch: Kylan Chivers (2), Lily Diediker (2), Cy Christensen (2)

CLARKSTON-LEWISTON CHAPTER

TEACHER: STUDENT (LEVEL)

Nyla Clare: Addison Coats (A), Kennedie Clare (A)

Stephanie Hill: Ben Kauffman (A), Lily Helm (4)

Lori Germer: Ash Emerich (3), Paige Tippetts (3), Lauren Gibbs (3), Brody Emerich (3), Aliah Winterbottom (4), Mia Bunce (5), Sarah Vestal (5), Madeline Bunce (6), Jack Shafman (6)

Tracy Winterbottom: Alex Wik (1), Miles Bouterse (1), Reagan Russell (2), Leyla Marshall (2), Preston Russell (3)

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Dr. Jody Graves,
jgraves@ewu.edu

Chair:
Dr. Jonathan Middleton,
jmiddleton@ewu.edu



Music Literacy Program (MLP) Reminders

Many chapters run their Music Literacy Program (formerly Musicianship Examinations) testing in the spring. Here are a few reminders:

- New Material with MLP 2018 used (since it's an even year, we'll use Set 2). Audio CDs are the same.
- The State Fee is \$3.50 per student. Please send one check to Patti Robertson, WSMTA Treasurer.
- Email Karen Scholten your MLP Testing Date.
- After your MLP Chair has collected registrations, send Karen the "Participation Profile" in the Misc. Folder.
- When testing has concluded, send Karen all Written Theory scores. The form is in the Misc. Folder.
- Send the "High Honors" report (found in the Misc. Folder) to Karen and Samantha Yeung (c.samantha.yeung@gmail.com) for teacher and students names to be published in the Clarion.
- Contact Kirsten Carlson, WSMTA Executive Manager (wsmtaoffice@gmail.com) to let her know many certificates (each student receives a certificate) and gold seals (for students scoring 94% and higher) are needed.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need the new testing material!

—Karen Scholten, Music Literacy Program Chair
klscholten87@gmail.com

Studio Technology News: Note Identification Salvation for the Busy Music Teacher



Michelle Mielke
*Studio Technology Chair,
Pullman Chapter President*

I'm not too proud to admit it: I don't have the energy I did when I first started teaching. Now, there are some other significant upsides to being older (and hopefully wiser), but I have noticed changes in my teaching that weren't solely motivated by sound pedagogy, but came from my own fatigue and need to save my sanity. It's in those frazzled moments that I'm grateful for all the creative apps out there that efficiently drill note recognition while framing it with lively graphics, charming music, and ingenious challenges, to keep my students' concentrated attention and everybody's frustration to a minimum. (Disclaimer: I've already mentioned in previous articles many of my tried-and-true favorite apps, and since they still remain at the top of my list. They are: **Noteworks**, **Flashnote Derby**, **Piano Notes Pro**, **Staff Wars**, **Treble/Bass Cat**, **Note Perfect**. Now I'll move on to new favorites).

NOTE RUSH

Whether you run a keyboard lab as part of your weekly curriculum, or just like to have a "grab bag" of apps to occasionally season your lessons, the **Note Rush** app (www.noterushapp.com), for iOS and Android, is a terrific product. There are a lot of really well done elements in this app, including high quality graphics, widely customizable parameters, and an extremely friendly user interface (UI). My favorite feature is the microphone, which actually detects the student playing the correct note, in the correct octave, on the instrument (not just tapping a letter name on the screen). The only downside I've found to this app is that it won't work with a MIDI-headphones combination, so I can't use it in a group lesson situation very effectively.



Note Rush

PIANO HEAD

The **PianoHead** app (for iOS, search for it in the App Store) isn't limited to drilling only note recognition, but includes

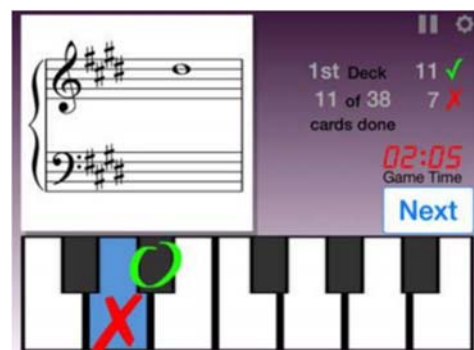
scales, intervals (major ascending only), key signatures, and a challenge mode. The UI is easy to navigate, and the various icons are large enough to tap for adult-sized fingers. The settings menu for each module is a bit limited: for example, in the Note Recognition module, you can only choose natural, sharp OR flat options, and you can only select a 1-octave range at a time (although you can choose to drill yourself on the entire keyboard span—impressive). The Intervals module only drills major and perfect intervals, but you can "hide" the notes to turn it into an ear training exercise. The Challenge round sets a timer and leads you through various modules in increasing levels, which is a nice capstone feature.



Piano Head app (iOS)

MUSIC FLASH CLASS

Music Flash Class (www.musicflashclass.com) is an easy-to-use and highly customizable stack of digital flashcards, albeit without too many frills or cute graphics. The user can easily choose and customize a deck (note range, clef/keyboard/solfege mode, timer, key), and it's easy for the teacher to review the assessment data. One nice feature is the game mode: the "Hot Potato" game can be used in a group setting, and students are meant to gently (!) pass the device and choose the correct note before the buzzer sounds. (If they jostle the device too much while passing it, the buzzer will go off—a considerate feature to encourage students to be gentle!)



Music Flash Class

—Michelle Mielke, Studio Technology Chair