

THE CLARION

Volume LXIX, No. 22 · February/March 2019

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President's Corner: On the Road



Krista Seely
WSMTA President

*O*n the road again,
I just can't wait to get on the road again
The life I love is makin' music with my friends
And I can't wait to get on the road again...

Do you know that song by Willie Nelson? That would describe the first week or so of 2019 for me. I visited three WSM TA chapters and attended several hours of rehearsals for my local chapter's big Monster Concert, along with my fellow colleagues and our students. Fun! And occasionally exhausting...

Highlights from my travels: I visited Shelton on a rainy Sunday afternoon and found a room full of warmth and hospitality at the home of **Mason County Chapter President Alice Johansson**. How many chapters can boast having 100% attendance for the state president's biannual visit? There was lots of free-wheeling laughter around the table as we enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Alice. Plans were underway for their Music Artistry Program and honors recital. These teachers are committed to music-making for all children in their communities.

My next stop was Edmonds, where I sat in on a packed agenda of reports on upcoming activities. **Edmonds Co-Presidents Mary Beth Rogers and Frances Goei** are doing a marvelous job at the helm of this busy chapter. New in February is an all-day Jazz, Rags and Blues Festival organized by two enthusiastic members. Edmonds offers Music Artistry Programs for students of piano and voice, sponsors regular community recitals, and they anticipate more than 160 students will take about 1200 exams during their Musicianship Festival in May. They have planned a cruise ship theme, "All Aboard!" Sounds like a fun place to take a test! Dozens of volunteers take part in this event.



Mason County Chapter



(President's Corner continued from page 1)

Back in Bremerton at the end of the week, I cooked up a new activity and tried it out on my home team during my official visit to the **Kitsap Chapter**. They seemed happy to accept their chocolate treats for successful completion.

Here's a question from that activity:

During what month does MTNA open its elections? Answer: FEBRUARY! Please take a moment (how about right now?) to go to mtna.org and vote for your next national leaders. As members of MTNA, voting is an important responsibility.



Kitsap Chapter

I can't wait for the **MTNA Conference in Spokane**. Last time I checked, registrations were running a little ahead of last year's numbers in Florida. March will be the month for Music Teachers Road Trips! Let's rock Spokane with our energy and enthusiasm. Best of luck to our many Washington students who will be performing in the national final competitions and honors recitals, and to their dedicated teachers. We are so proud of you!

Tunefully,

—Krista Seely, *WSMTA President*

MTNA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

March 16-20, 2019 · Spokane, Washington



Renowned pianist Ingrid Fliter and the award-winning Transcontinental Saxophone Quartet will highlight the evening recitals. Alan Walker, preeminent Liszt and Chopin scholar, will provide the keynote address.

Pedagogy Saturday boasts five tracks: Entrepreneurship, Musician Wellness, Recreational Music Making, Teaching Artistry, and Teaching those with Special Needs.

CLARION INFORMATION

The *Clarion* is the official bulletin of the Washington State Music Teachers Association and is published six times during the school year: Sept, Oct/Nov, Dec/Jan, Feb/Mar, Apr/May, and June/July. 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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WSMTA EDUCATION BOARD



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Stephanie White, NCTM (*see Music Artistry Program Chair*)
Kirsten Carlson (*see Administrative Coordinator*)

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 16-20: MTNA National Conference in Spokane, WA

June 17: Education Board Meeting, UPS

June 18: Board of Directors Meeting, UPS

June 19-21: WSMTA State Conference at University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA

DATES AND DEADLINES

February 19: Deadline for Young Composers Project Entries

March 1: Deadline for submitting articles for the Apr/May *Clarion*

March 1: Deadline for Chapter of the Year applications (Harriet West, chair)

April 20: State Recital Competition Results Due (Karen Hollenback, chair)

April 20: Last Day for Music Artistry Program

May 1: Deadline for submitting articles for the June/July *Clarion*

May 1: Music Artistry Program (MAP) Final Report Due (Stephanie White, chair)

May 1: Visiting Artist Expenses Due (Stephanie White, chair)

May 15: Deadline for Early Bird Registration for Conference

May 31: Chapter Presidents Reports and Chapter Officer List Due to Administrative Coordinator

WELCOME NEW AND REINSTATING MEMBERS

Eastside Chapter
Melanie Plant

Lake Washington Chapter
Stephanie Lee

Pullman Chapter
Morgan Zearott (collegiate)

Seattle Chapter
Kari Zimmerman

Félicitations

Dozens of WSMTA members will be in Spokane in March for our national conference. Although the in-state locale makes attendance considerably less expensive, it is still a financial reach for many who would like to go. Numerous members of the **Spokane Chapter** graciously offered homestays at no charge as well as discounted Airbnb options. Special thanks to **Greg Presley (Spokane Chapter)** for making arrangements between Spokane members and out-of-town travelers.

As a member of this year's MTNA Conference Committee, **Jody Graves (Spokane Chapter)** has spent dozens of hours preparing for our arrival in Spokane. A highlight will be the Northwest Division dinner on Sunday evening, March 17th. At last count, there were already more than 80 signed up! The cost is \$42.50 collected at the event (no-host bar). The sign-up deadline is February 1.

Two esteemed WSMTA members will be wrapping up their service on the MTNA Board of Directors at the end of conference in Spokane. **Peter Mack (Seattle Chapter)** has served as MTNA Vice President, while **Debra Florian (Kitsap County Chapter)** has been MTNA's Secretary-Treasurer for the past two years. When you see them in Spokane, please take a moment to thank them for their commitment to MTNA and for providing a vital connection between WSMTA and our national organization.



The **Music Link Foundation** reaches out to help give deserving young people the opportunity to study music regardless of their family's financial circumstances. Many thanks to **Karen Monroe (Lewis County)**, who assists WSMTA members with student-teacher connections and Music Link registrations. Presently, WSMTA has 24 active Music Link teachers serving about 48 students. Recently, Music Link recognized WSMTA members **Verna Wagner (Spokane Chapter)** and **Brandy Pancoast (Spokane Chapter)** as "Teachers With Distinction With Honors" for more than 15 years of service as registered Music Link teachers. Thank you, Verna and Brandy!

—Krista Seely, WSMTA President



The WSMTA Board of Directors hard at work during the winter board meetings on January 26-27, 2019 at the Red Lion Hotel in Seatac.



2019 WSM TA State Conference

Wednesday-Friday, June 19-21, 2019 · University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA

Conference On-Campus Housing

Stay on campus at Thomas Hall for the 2019 state conference! Thomas Hall is a three-year-old residence hall with rooms grouped in flats. Each flat features 9-14 single rooms, 3-4 bathrooms, a common living area, and kitchen.

Meals are included for all conference attendees who stay in the dorms, including breakfast on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and dinner on Thursday. Lunches on Wednesday and Thursday are included for all registered conference attendees.



Thomas Hall

MEALS INCLUDED FOR FULL TIME CONFERENCE ATTENDEES STAYING IN DORMS

- 3 Breakfasts
- 2 Lunches
- 1 Dinner

MEALS INCLUDED FOR FULL TIME CONFERENCE ATTENDEES COMMUTING OR STAYING ELSEWHERE

- 2 Lunches

2019 WSM TA State Conference Schedule

Wednesday-Friday, June 19-21, 2019 · University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA
Conference schedule is subject to change.

TUESDAY PRE-CONFERENCE

8:30 A.M.—4:00 P.M.

Board of Directors Meeting

4:00 P.M.—8:00 P.M.

Registration in Thomas Hall

5:00 P.M.—8:00 P.M.

Pre-Conference Meet & Greet: finger foods, drinks, and musical entertainment

6:00—6:30 P.M. Making Friends in

Spite of Our Lonely Profession

Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM

7:00—8:00 P.M. IMTF Resource

Roundtable

RoseMarie Tamburri

WEDNESDAY

8:00 A.M.—9:00 P.M. Registration

8:00—10:30 A.M. Coffee Service

9:00—10:00 A.M. Opening Meeting

10:30—11:45 A.M.

- **HONORS RECITAL #1**
- IMTF Panel Discussion: Mind Your Own Business
RoseMarie Tamburri
- Organ Topics
Joann Richardson

11:45 A.M.—1:00 P.M. Lunch

- Music Literacy Program
Karen Scholten

1:00—2:00 P.M.

- Five Finger Patterns and Famous Composers: Fresh Ideas for Solo and Duet Piano Works
Vicente Della Tonia, Jr.
- Composition
Jeff Pettijohn

2:15—3:30 P.M.

- **HONORS RECITAL #2**
- Market Your Studio Like You Mean It!
Mariya Lincoln

3:30—4:00 P.M. Light Post-Recital Reception and Afternoon Coffee Break

4:00—5:00 P.M.

- “I Just LOVE My Minuet!”
Judith Schoepflin
- The Art of the Interview: How to Reveal Priceless Insights with New Students and Parents
Janice Smith, NCTM

5:00-6:00 P.M.

- Happy Hour
- District VP Meeting: *Kathy Mortensen*
- Visiting Artists Meeting: *Greg Presley*

6:00-7:30 P.M. Banquet

8:00 P.M. GUEST ARTIST RECITAL (reception to follow)

THURSDAY

8:00 A.M.—9:00 P.M. Registration

8:00—10:30 A.M. Coffee Service

9:00—10:15 A.M.

- Practice: How Practice Works (The Brain Science), Practice Strategies, Winning the Mental Practice Game
Diane Walker
- Evoking, Suggesting, and Murmuring at the Piano: Franz Liszt and the Seeds of Impressionism
Thomas Lee

10:30-11:45 A.M.

- **HONORS RECITAL #3**
- Composition
Bruce Stark
- Sound Business Practices for Private Studios
Angelo Rondello

11:45 A.M.—1:00 P.M. Lunch

- MTNA Certification 101
Rose Freeman

1:00—2:00 P.M.

- Playing with Blocks: How Keyboard Harmony Exercises Can Make Learning Repertoire Easier
Lark Powers
- Flute Topic
Rebecca Cook

2:15—3:30 P.M.

- **YOUNG COMPOSERS PROJECT AND COMMISSIONED COMPOSER OF THE YEAR RECITAL**
- Can Music Be “Masculine” or “Feminine”? Including Gendered Themes in Music Lessons (2:15-3:00 p.m.)
Garrett Snedeker
- Organ Topics
Joann Richardson

3:30—4:00 P.M. Light Post-Recital Reception and Afternoon Coffee Break

4:00—5:30 P.M.

- Irene Peery-Fox Masterclass
- Intermediate Flute Repertoire
Kristine Richman
- Fun and Finney Games for the Intermediate Piano Student
Davis Hill

5:30-6:00 P.M.

- **Young Professionals Get-Together:** *Mark Stevens* on Avenues to Academia: Making Yourself Marketable for a Career in Higher Education
- Making Friends in Spite of Our Lonely Profession
Mary Kaye Owen

6:00—7:30 P.M. Dinner on Your Own (dorm residents have dinner included with their meal plans; commuters may purchase meals at the cafeteria)

8:00 P.M. WA WINNERS RECITAL
(reception to follow)

FRIDAY

8:00 A.M.—9:00 P.M. Registration

8:00—10:30 A.M. Coffee Service

8:30—9:00 A.M. Closing Meeting

9:00—10:15 A.M.

- Guest Artist Presentation
- Music History: Why We (Should) Teach It
Kira Theine

10:30—11:45 A.M.

- **HONORS RECITAL #4**
- Five Essential Principles to Prevent Musicians' Injuries
Yelena Balabanova and Andrew Tan

Conference schedule is subject to change.



Conference Guest Artist: BYU Piano Faculty Irene Peery-Fox



SMTA is pleased to announce the 2019 Conference Guest Artist, **Irene Peery-Fox**. Read on for her impressive bio:

Irene Peery-Fox received her doctoral degree from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University, where she studied with Leon Fleisher. Before her doctoral work, she earned bachelor of music and master of science degrees from Juilliard, studying with Irwin Freudlich, Jeananne Dowis, and Ilona Kabos. She has also earned an ARCT degree from the Royal Conservatory of Toronto and a performing arts degree from the University of Alberta, Edmonton.

Irene has won numerous piano contests; twice she won the International CBC Talent Festival Contest. She also won the Alaska Music Trails Concert Tour. She has received four Ford Foundation Grants, four Canada Council grants, an INCO grant, and five full-time Juilliard scholarships for piano study. Her many concerto appearances include performances with orchestras in Montreal, Toronto, Salt Lake City, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Victoria, Calgary, Provo, and Lethbridge. She has performed solo recitals in Canada, the United States (including Carnegie), and Europe, as well as chamber recitals at Carnegie Hall and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. She has also performed on radio and television on the NBC, CBC, and BBC networks.

Irene was formerly a faculty member at the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University, Preparatory Division. Currently, she serves on the Brigham Young University piano faculty. Her students have been frequent prize winners in international, national, state, and local competitions. She is listed in the Canadian Dictionary of Music and Musicians and in the Outstanding Young Women of America.

2019 State Conference Honors Recitals



Karen Hollenback,
NCTM
WSMTA President-Elect

The 2019 WSMeta Conference is fast approaching! That means the planning for the State Conference Honors Recitals is in full swing. All Chapters and Districts need to report their Honors recitalist winners by **April 21, 2019**. Please use the link on the WSMeta website (<https://wsmta.org/programs-for-students/map/>) to report the winners, and be sure all information is complete and accurate.

Recitalists and their teachers will be contacted shortly after April 21 to begin scheduling the Honors Recital performance day/time. Recitalists must be available for all recital times/days but every effort will be made to schedule recitalists for their first choice day/time. Scheduling will be done on a first come-first served basis so prompt return of requested scheduling information will increase the chance (but not guarantee) that the recitalist's first choice of recital day/time will be accommodated.



If there are questions concerning the State Honors Recitals please contact WSMeta President Elect Karen Hollenback, NCTM at karen.hollenback@gmail.com.

—Karen Hollenback, NCTM, WSMeta President-Elect
karen.hollenback@gmail.com

Call for Lois Whitner Student Study Grant Applications

The Lois Whitner Student Study Grant Program was established in 2003 with a bequest from the Lois Whitner estate. The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance for continued private study to music students who demonstrate financial need and who show serious commitment to music study.

Guidelines:

1. The grant is open to music students currently in grades 8-11 who have studied a minimum of 4 years. Their teachers must be WSMeta members (of at least 12 months standing).
2. The applicant will be considered on a basis of financial need and commitment to music study.
3. The applicant must have participated in the WSMeta Music Artistry Program.
4. Grants up to \$1,500 may be awarded. The applicant

must explain specifically and in detail how the funds will be used. The grant will be for a period of one year. Students may re-apply in subsequent years by submitting another full application to the committee for consideration.

5. The grant may be used to offset the cost of music lessons, theory, or composition classes, or tuition for music camps. Grant money will be sent directly to the teacher or camp/ program director.
6. The five-part application form can be downloaded from www.wsmta.org. From the navigation bar, select "Programs for Students" and then "Scholarships."

If you have questions or need further information, please contact me at cchungate@comcast.net or 206-232-0117. The application deadline is **May 1, 2019**.

—Connie Hungate, WSCTM, Grants & Scholarships Chair

Apply for the Chapter of the Year Award!

Your Chapter's name would look great on our WSMTA "Chapter of the Year" plaque! Each chapter in our state is unique and has its own story to tell. We'd love to hear yours! Information, along with the application, can be found at wsmta.org under the *Information for Teachers* tab. The application deadline is **May 1, 2019**.

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
2019 Your Chapter?

—Harriet West, Chapter of the Year Chair
dhwest6@gcpower.net



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2019 Northwest Division MTNA Performance Competition Results

Congratulations to our Washington State Northwest Division Winners! Winners advance to the MTNA National Competitions in Spokane this March. Thank you to all participants, parents, and teachers, for successfully entering the first year of online competitions for the division round.

We are also grateful for the judges who put in the time during the holiday season to listen and prepare encouraging comments for each entrant. The judges are listed below:

NW Division Piano Competitions:

William Chapman Nyaho
Susanna Garcia
Lucia Unrau

NW Division String Competitions:

Jared Ballance
Sally O'Reilly
Margaret Pressley

NW Division Woodwind and Chamber Music-Wind Competitions:

Javier Arau
Wendy Hymes
Eric Thomas

It has been a pleasure working with all as competition administrator! I look forward to hearing our winners compete in the national finals this March.

—Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM, Northwest Division MTNA Performance Competitions Chair

JUNIOR PIANO

WINNER

Nathaniel Zhang, student of Sasha Starceвич

JUNIOR WOODWIND

WINNER

Sebastian Kelzenberg, *oboe*, student of John Dimond

SENIOR STRINGS

WINNER

Stephen Leou, *cello*, student of Leslie Marckx

SENIOR WOODWIND

WINNER

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

SENIOR VOICE

WINNER

Hyungmin Hwang, *tenor*, student of Kyungmin Lee

SENIOR PIANO DUET

WINNER

Connor Zhang and Jaden Zhang, students of Peter Mack & Ni Liu

YOUNG ARTIST PIANO

WINNER

Brenda Miller, student of Tanya Stambuk

YOUNG ARTIST STRINGS

WINNER

James Marshall, *viola*, student of Julia Salerno

YOUNG ARTIST WOODWIND

WINNER

Monica Weber, *saxophone*, student of Fred Winkler

CHAMBER MUSIC WIND

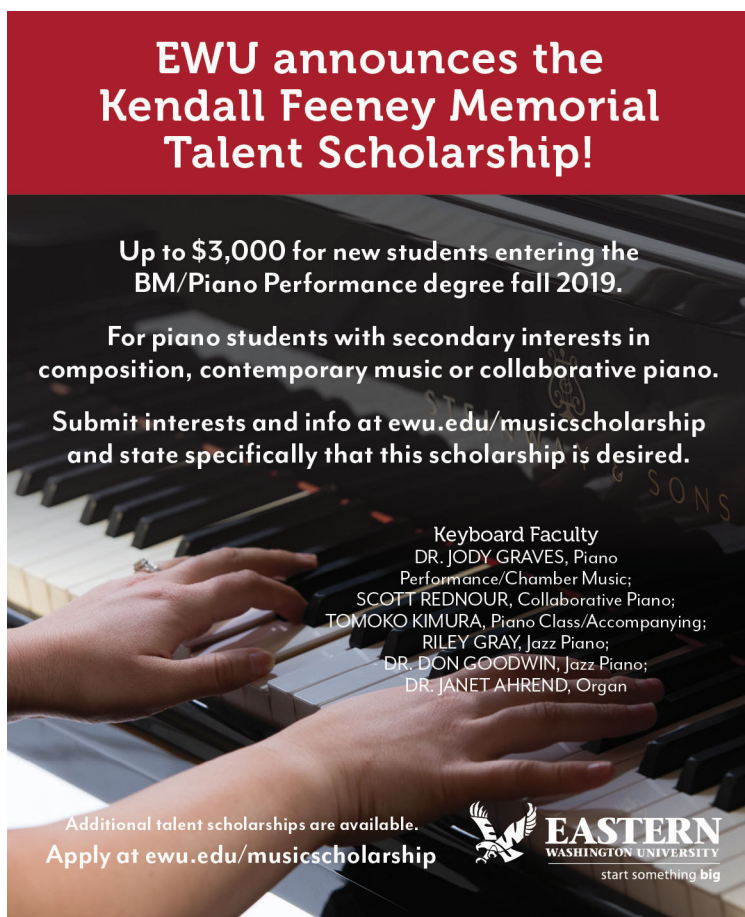
WINNER

The Crimson Flute Trio: Elaine Martir, *flute*, Marissa Watanabe, *flute*, Sofiya Chayka, *flute*, students of Sophia Tegart

Grants, Waivers, and Scholarships

WSMTA would like to assist you, your chapter, and your district! You can find more information and applications on the website on the grants and enrichments page, but here is the list of grants and other enrichments available to you, your students, and your chapter:

- Small Chapter Grant (for workshop assistance up to \$500 for chapters with 25 or fewer members)
- Collegiate Chapter Grant (up to \$300 for events the collegiate chapter would like to present)
- District Grant (up to \$500 for District conference assistance)
- Lois Whitner Study Grant (to be used to offset the cost of music lessons, theory or composition classes, or tuition for music camps)
- Collegiate to Active Member Dues Grant
- Caroline Allen Certification Grant (pay for half the cost of obtaining certification)
- State Dues Waiver
- State Conference Fees Waiver



EWU announces the Kendall Feeney Memorial Talent Scholarship!


Up to \$3,000 for new students entering the BM/Piano Performance degree fall 2019.

For piano students with secondary interests in composition, contemporary music or collaborative piano.

Submit interests and info at ewu.edu/musicscholarship and state specifically that this scholarship is desired.

Keyboard Faculty
DR. JODY GRAVES, Piano
Performance/Chamber Music;
SCOTT REDNOUR, Collaborative Piano;
TOMOKO KIMURA, Piano Class/Accompanying;
RILEY GRAY, Jazz Piano;
DR. DON GOODWIN, Jazz Piano;
DR. JANET AHREND, Organ

Additional talent scholarships are available.
Apply at ewu.edu/musicscholarship

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Robin McCabe and Craig Sheppard, Directors

Session I: July 7-17
Faculty: Robin McCabe and Craig Sheppard
Guest Faculty: John Perry, *Royal Conservatory, Toronto; Visiting Professor Boston University; Professor Emeritus USC Thornton School.*
All students will play for John Perry in a public masterclass.
UW dormitories and food plans available for additional cost.

Session II: July 17-20
Faculty: Robin McCabe, Craig Sheppard, Dainius Vaicekonis, Amy Grinsteiner

Details at: seattlepianoinstitute.org
Priority Application Deadline: April 1, 2019

2019

From Your Membership Chair: An Infinite Mindset



Yelena Balabanova,
NCTM
Membership Chair

Two 6-year-olds, Maggie and Lauren, were learning their first piano duet. When playing together, they did everything well until the last section of the piece. Maggie would suddenly speed up and finish the piece. After it happened a few times, I finally asked her, “Why are you doing this, Maggie?” Her answer was, “I want to finish first and win!”

Welcome to our human nature. It’s all about competition.

Today, with social media taking up a lot of our attention and time, companies and organizations are in a constant competition for the most “likes,” the most followers, the most exposure. Professional organizations are not exempt from the competition. There are many options available to teachers. Why join MTNA?

There is no better time to join MTNA or renew your membership into the next year than now. Simon Sinek, the modern-day guru of business success, describes the 21st century organizations that have an “infinite mindset.” MTNA fits every description!

First, we have compelling and inspiring reasons to be who we are: keepers of the immortal art of music, of timeless values, and of universal beauty.

Second, in MTNA we have trusting teams. No one can do it all alone. Many hands make the heavy load light. We learn

from each other, support every member, inspire to raise and reach the new goals.

Third, we educate, inspire, and support a healthy level of competition between teams. It is good to have a role model in real life, worthy rival, the professional that we want to be more like.

Fourth, as an organization MTNA provides the necessary education that we need in order to be in line with the rapid changes in our communities. Ideas, technology tips, market and research news, new publications are all at MTNA members’ fingertips.

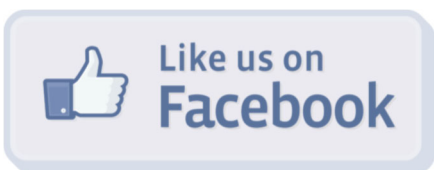
Fifth, through MTNA membership we never stop growing as professionals. Certification process for teachers, adjudication opportunities for students, constant encouragement and support from our peers provide the opportunities to grow and to contribute to our communities. This is like air and water for plants. Without growing and contributing to our peer community, we would not survive.

So MTNA would make Simon Sinek proud!

If you know a friend or a teacher who is not an MTNA member yet, right now they can join for only six months cost of a trial membership. Or bring back an old friend to renew!

Who doesn’t want to join the 21st century organization with the “infinite mindset”?

—Yelena Balabanova, NCTM, WSM TA Membership Chair



Stay connected with WSM TA on
Facebook! Find us at
www.facebook.com/WASStateMTA

From Your Woodwinds Chair: Checking the Basics



Rebecca M. Cook, NCTM
Woodwinds Chair

Roughly one-third of my time in flute lessons is allocated to tone studies, the second-third to technique, and the last third to repertoire. Consistently dividing it that way helps my students realize that the parts of practicing that aren't songs do matter.

One simple way to perk up a student doing long tones is to pull out a stopwatch. Of course we want to practice long tones in different tone colors, but sometimes a student simply forgets that a long tone is supposed to be long. Timing it opens up the conversation about breathing, vibrato, register and pitch.

If they can remember that they are not just doing an exercise, but practicing a skill for improvement, they are better focused. And the skill usually improves!

Happy teaching and preparing for your local Music Artistry Program.

—Rebecca M. Cook, NCTM, WSMTA Woodwinds Chair

DISTRICT AND CHAPTER NEWS

Music Literacy Program High Honors Report

CLARKSON-LEWISTON CHAPTER

TEACHER: STUDENT (LEVEL)

Stephanie Hill: Will Kaufman (A), Ben Kaufman (2), Elizabeth Helm (2), Caden Seward (4), Lily Helm (5)

Nyla Clare: Alivia Smith (2), Natalie Elskamp (6)

Tracy Winterbottom: Kayleigh Massey (A), Cedar Betzold (1), Jackson Grossman (1), Julia Grossman (1), Elise Justis (1), Micah Kanooth (1), Savannah Kanooth (1), Kiley McVicars (1), Ella Tretheway (1), Fischer Morgan (4), Dana Neace (4)



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Seattle Chapter Workshop and Master Class



The Palette of Touches Joanne Haroutonian Workshop and Master Class

Saturday, March 23, 2019 · 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Music Center of the Northwest, 901 N 96th St, Seattle

About the Workshop

The Palette of Touches offers a way for developing pianists to gain an aural awareness of tonal colors available on the piano and the technical tools needed to produce them in performance. Teachers and students learn to define interpretive decisions in music being studied using a descriptive, clear-cut “touch vocabulary,” assigning a level of weight into the key (key depth) to define dynamics, and through exercises and repertoire that allow students to physically fine-tune the sound and feel of these touches. The results can be remarkable. Student performances suddenly gain life and vitality!

Presenter's Bio

Joanne Haroutounian enjoys a career across the fields of music, arts education, piano pedagogy, educational psychology, and gifted education as a teacher, performer, researcher, lecturer, writer, and consultant. She serves on the music faculty of George Mason University, overseeing its piano pedagogy program and offering doctoral seminars exploring musical talent. Dr. Haroutounian has presented numerous sessions at the World Congress of Gifted Education, the Music Teachers National Association, and the National Association for Gifted Children.

Dr. Haroutounian's specialized research in musical talent development led to the founding of the MusicLink program, which provides long-term private instruction to promising students in financial need. She is currently the Executive Director of the MusicLink Foundation, a non-profit organization that has reached over 6,800 students across the United States and parts of Canada over the past 20 years.

Save the Date!

- When: Saturday, March 23, 2019, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Where: Music Center of the Northwest, 901 N 95th St, Seattle, WA 98103
- Contact: Linda Gutterman, NCTM, 301-509-7720 or goandpractice@cs.com

Registration

Register at www.seattlemta.org.

Pedal Points: Put Your Oxygen Mask On First



Joann Richardson, NCTM
Organ Chair

Based upon the level of feedback I received from the “One for the Band” article, it appears that quite a few readers of this column identified with the idea that they need to be feeding their own souls by learning some art music. The quandary is, of course, how are busy musicians supposed to find time to learn music that nourishes them at their level of musicianship? Sometimes it seems like there are not enough hours in the day

for what we “have to do.” May I suggest that keeping our own musical batteries charged is something that we “have to do” in order to remain excited in a profession where we may be teaching “Für Elise” for the 257th time or playing our least favorite hymn for the third time this month! I’ve talked with some colleagues about how they manage to learn art music in addition to their regular church or teaching fare. Here are some ideas that may also work for you. Many of these ideas you undoubtedly already use with your students. However, I’m amazed in my own practicing how often I need to remind myself: “Teacher, teach thyself!”

1. Choose your art music wisely. Find that piece that you’ve always wanted to play.
2. Feel no obligation to perform the art music in public. We read books without feeling the need to write book reports. Likewise, it is fine to learn some music solely for our own edification.
3. Be inspired by performances of your piece by great artists. YouTube is great for this.
4. Start (this is the hardest part). Learn one or two measures per day. Some people like learning one measure at the beginning and one measure working back from the end. Even if there’s only time to learn a measure or two, once you’ve learned them, those are measures that you didn’t know yesterday.
5. Work on your art music first in your practice. The inspiration and technical skills learned through the study of great music will carry-over when learning more mundane fare.
6. Make arrangements to take a lesson from someone. It’s

amazing how practice time becomes more frequent and productive as the lesson date approaches.

We music teachers and church musicians are “giving types” of people. Sometimes we feel guilty doing something for ourselves when we have so many responsibilities. Don’t feel guilty. We are musicians because at some point in our lives we recognized that this great art of music touches us to the core of our being. When flying, the flight attendant instructs us to put on our own oxygen masks first and then help those around us. This makes sense. Without oxygen we die, and a dead person cannot help others. If we’re not receiving our musical oxygen (that is, our own inspiration from great art music), then we are, in effect, musically-dead. Musically-dead music teachers or performers really aren’t doing anyone much good. So, learn some art music that inspires you. Those in your musical world will be better off because you remembered to put your own mask on first.

SUMMER ORGAN EXPERIENCE FOR TEENAGE KEYBOARD STUDENTS

For your teenage keyboard students, I highly recommend the upcoming Seattle Pipe Organ Encounter (POE), July 14-19, 2019. POEs are designed for teenagers who have achieved an intermediate level of keyboard proficiency. [Previous organ study is not required.](#) Locations for POEs change yearly, so it may be a while before this great opportunity presents itself again in Washington State.

POEs are well-planned summer pipe organ experiences with a track record of decades of success. Students have daily organ lessons with world-class faculty. Also included are: recitals, workshops, masterclasses, the opportunity to see and/or play a variety of excellent pipe organs, and many other fun activities. Registration includes five nights lodging at Seattle Pacific University, all meals, transportation between venues, and all POE activities. Scholarships are available to students who qualify. Registration has already begun and POEs sometimes fill early, so please don’t delay in passing along this information to your students. Details may be found at: <https://www.agoseattle.com/poe>.

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

Certification Corner



Rose Freeman, NCTM
Certification Chair

After reading my last WSMTA Clarion article, did you write your teaching philosophy in two sentences? If not, [go back to see my example!](#)

If you haven't heard, I'm the pianist of the [Musical Mountaineers](#). This past year, Anastasia Allison and I performed sunrise concerts at over 30 wilderness locations and at Benaroya Hall in the Washington National Park Fund Benefit Concert!

Sometimes it's so cold our fingers go numb. Sometimes the wind tries to blow the music away, so we play simple hymns and improvise as the notes are shaped by the rugged beauty of the peaks on the horizon. Sometimes there's so many black flies we go home with big welts. But every adventure reminds us that it's all part of the journey. It's overwhelming to read the messages we've received this past year from people who have found healing and hope through our wilderness music. When people ask me, "why do you play your piano on a summit?" this is my response: "Our mission is to combine the powerful language of music and the wilderness to remind people of all the good in the world and to encourage others to follow their heart and blaze their own trail."

This new year, I want to recommend that you reflect on your teaching philosophy and challenge you to write it down. When someone asks you, "why do you teach?" What is your answer? Whether you've taught for one year or fifty, this reflection of reminding yourself who you teach, what you teach, and why you teach is invaluable. Also, it's the first step to completing your five teacher profile projects and receiving MTNA Certification!

To those of you who have completed your five teacher profile projects and you're ready to submit, congratulations! I want to remind you of two things. First, it's best to integrate all your photos and adjudications documents right into your

projects document. Second, I recommend uploading one document or video at a time to the MTNA database. You can continue to go back to that web page to add more files! When you've completed uploading your files, remember to email Melissa Curtice at mcurtice@mtna.org so she can access your files.

Since our last WSMTA Conference in June 2018, four teachers have received a WSMTA Certification grant of \$100. I currently have six more grants available! Contact me at rosefreemanmusic@gmail.com to learn more about applying for a grant that will cover half of your application costs.



The Musical Mountaineers

Learn more about MTNA Certification: <https://certification.mtna.org/>

I look forward to hearing from you this new year!

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

Independent Music Teachers Forum



Rosemarie Tamburri
IMTF Chair

If you're like me, you made a New Year's resolution or two, most likely to change a habit or make an improvement in your life. If you're really like me, you may have broken it early into January. (I have the utmost respect and admiration for anyone who maintains the discipline to stick to their resolutions.)

Why is it so difficult to change behavior? Especially when that change might make a positive impact on your well-being?

I'm not a psychologist nor do I play one on TV, but I've read many self-help books by experts who describe strategies for strengthening will power. Recently, on a morning news program, a life-coach explained why making resolutions can often end in failure. To be successful, you should first envision a different self-image. Instead of resolving to lose 20 pounds, explore ways to see yourself as a physically fit individual. A fit person makes healthy choices which eventually will result in weight loss.

It occurred to me that this approach might apply to developing students' musicianship. Instead of asking a student to practice a certain number of hours per week, ask the student to craft a vision of what type of musician he wishes to be. How about becoming a more accurate sight-reader; or a better listener; or a more creative improviser? Perhaps the student envisions herself as a performing soloist or ensemble player. Each of these self-images might require developing specific skills or habits in order to achieve it.

As a new year of being an Independent Music Teacher unfolds, my shift in self-image is to become a more technically informed teacher. With that image in mind, I can take steps to develop the needed skills: explore different apps; read books; attend a workshop or take a class; or even involve students in choosing how they want to use technology to enhance their musical study.

I'll keep you posted on how this approach works for me. Losing those 20 pounds? That's a different story.

—RoseMarie Tamburri, *IMTF Chair*



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