



WASHINGTON STATE
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION

THE CLARION

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 22, 2020: District VI & VII Conference · Whitworth University · Spokane, WA

March 21-25, 2020: MTNA National Conference · Marriott Magnificent Mile · Chicago, IL

March 22, 2020: Northwest Division Meeting · Marriott Magnificent Mile · Chicago, IL

June 17-20, 2020: WSMTA State Conference · Washington State University · Pullman, WA

IN THIS ISSUE

State News

President's Corner	1
Changes in WA State Insurance Laws	2
Save a Seat at the MTNA Gala	2
WSMTA Board Meetings	3
Thank You Scholarship Donors	3
2020 WSMTA State Conference	4
MTNA NW Division Competitions	5
MTNA Elections	6
New MusicLink Chair	6
Lois Whitner Student Study Grants	8
2020 Young Composers Project	8

District & Chapter News

District VI & VII Conference	9
Chapter Holiday Celebrations	10
MLP High Honors	11

Teacher Enrichment

Certification Corner	12
Pedal Points	13
From Your Woodwinds Chair	14
Independent Music Teachers Forum	15

Advertisers

Washington State University	4
Eastern Washington University	7
UW Seattle Piano Institute	11
Henry Bischofberger Violins	14
J.W. Pepper	14

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Karen Hollenback, NCTM
WSMTA President

Search for WSMTA Membership Chair and Commissioned Composer Chair

Welcome to 2020! The New Year is just a few days old as I write this column. After two weeks of holiday hubbub, including a trip to California for a family wedding, things are about to settle back into a "normal" routine. As you read this, we are moving into the second month of the new decade and I hope that your "normal" routine is both familiar and yet new, with opportunities for growth and challenge. After all, isn't that what we bring to our students with each lesson—the familiar springboarding into the unfamiliar and the challenging?

As WSMTA moves into a new decade, your Board of Directors and Education Board has gathered for their first meeting of the year/decade. This "normal" scheduled meeting will cover the familiar and the unfamiliar as we review the past year and look forward to 2020 events and activities and the years ahead.

At this time WSMTA could use your help. We currently have two programs in need of committee chairs.

The position of **Membership Chair** is open. We thank Yelena Balabanova, former Membership Chair, for her many years of service to WSMTA. We are so grateful for the enthusiasm she has shown for WSMTA and for her encouragement and mentorship of new and continuing members!

The position of **Commissioned Composer Program Chair** is also open. The Commissioned Composer Program is a wonderful program designed to showcase and support composers in their creation of new works. Unfortunately, in 2020, there will be no WSMTA Commissioned Composer. Would you be willing to fill this position so that we can commission a composer in 2021?

Can you lend a hand? Would you be willing to find out more about serving in

either of these two positions—Membership Chair or Commissioned Composer Program Chair? Please contact me to get more information on either of these two important programs if you might be interested in lending a hand. I will be happy to provide more information and answer any questions you might have.

I see great things ahead for WSMTA for 2020 and the decade to come! Here's to a Happy New Year to WSMTA and to each of you!

Karen Hollenback, NCTM

CHANGES IN WASHINGTON STATE INSURANCE LAWS

There have been some changes in WA State Insurance laws. For information on Paid Family and Medical Leave, check out the following website: <https://paidleave.wa.gov/find-out-how-paid-leave-works>. At this site, there is a link with more information for those who are self-employed.

Additionally, you may want to check out the insurance options offered through MTNA. At the MTNA website (www.mtna.org), select the *JOIN+Renew* tab, then *Members Only*, then *Personal or Professional Insurance*. You will need your MTNA username and password to sign in. Through these links you will be able to get more information on products and coverage options. In the past, health insurance was not available to WA state members. There have been some changes as some members are now receiving coverage options through these plans. You might want to check this out as part of your 2020 financial review process!

SAVE ME A SEAT AT THE MTNA GALA

The 2020 National Conference in Chicago is in March 2020 so it's time to start planning what you want to see, hear, and do! If you will be attending the Gala Banquet on Monday March 23 at 6:00 pm be sure to purchase your banquet ticket when you register for the conference.

Our WSMTA Foundation Fellows, Marilyn Brossard and Connie Hungate, will be honored at the Gala Banquet along with other Foundation Fellows from across the nation. WSMTA will be reserving some tables at the banquet, so if you wish to sit at our state table(s) with your colleagues from Washington, please contact me by email.

WSMTA will pay half of the state table reservation fee, so your cost to reserve a place at our state table is only \$17.50 per person. All funds from the state table reservations go to the Foundation Fund to provide monies for awards and scholarships. I look forward to celebrating our honorees with you in Chicago!

—Karen Hollenback, NCTM, WSMTA President
karen.hollenback@gmail.com



WASHINGTON STATE
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION



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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www.wsmta.org | The *Clarion* 2

2020 WINTER BOARD MEETINGS

Your WSMTA board members hard at work! The WSMTA Education Board and the WSMTA Board of Directors met over the weekend of January 25-26, 2020 at the Red Lion Hotel in SeaTac.



Jani Peterson, Strategic Plan Chair and 2020 Conference Chair



Colleen Hunter, WSMTA Vice President; Mark Stevens, District VII Director; Karen Hollenback, WSMTA President, and Carrie Kahler, WSMTA Administrative Coordinator



WSMTA Board of Directors Winter Meeting

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Olympia Chapter
Tricia Asher

South King County Chapter
Carissa Brooks
Jennifer Matson
Yun Peng (*Transfer from Nevada*)

Eastside Chapter
Hung-Wen Chen

Moses Lake—Central Basin Chapter
Gina M. Colver

Edmonds Chapter
Jaime Davis

Kitsap Chapter
Madison Hennings

Gig Harbor Chapter
Carol Kutsch

Walla Walla Chapter
Amanda Grace Nicoara

Seattle Chapter
Yunqing Zhang

Spokane Chapter
Julie Heard (*Transfer from New Hampshire*)

Collegiate
D'Laney Jevas

THANK YOU SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

We thank our supporters for the following gifts to the WSMTA Student Scholarship Fund, in memory of Kathy Taylor:

Scott and Lisa Ellertson
Leslie Hoback
Notion Solutions Imaginet

Elizabeth Nunn
Margaret C. Venemon
Sally Zoll

If you would like to make a gift to one of our student or teacher enrichment funds please visit www.wsmta.org/about-wsmta/donate for more information.



Follow WSMTA on Instagram!
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www.instagram.com/wastatemta

2020 WSM TA STATE CONFERENCE

GUEST ARTISTS: JEFFREY & KAREN SAVAGE

Wednesday-Saturday, June 17-20, 2020 · Washington State University · Pullman, WA



We are heading “back to college” for the 2020 WSM TA State Conference, this time on the east side of the state!

We are excited to announce that Dr. Jeffrey Savage, NCTM and Dr. Karen Savage, NCTM will be our 2020 Conference Guest Artists.

The Education Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 16 and the Board of Directors Meeting will be held Wednesday, June 17.

The conference schedule, information about hotel accommodations, and information about conference registration are coming soon! Please stay tuned.

MUSIC MAJOR FOR A DAY

Attend classes and take a lesson with faculty!
Monday February 10

SCHOOL OF MUSIC AUDITIONS

Saturday January 25 – Tacoma, WA
Sunday February 9 – Pullman, WA

SUMMER KEYBOARD EXPLORATIONS

June 21 – 26, 2020
Deadline: May 23, 2020

COME EXPERIENCE OUR EXCEPTIONAL FACILITIES

- 2 Fazioli concert grand pianos
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    @WSUPullmanMusic



School of
Music

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

MTNA COMPOSITION AND PERFORMANCE COMPETITIONS

Northwest Division Results

Congratulations to our Northwest Division finalists! The following lists winners from Washington State only. Visit mtna.org for the full list of winners from the Northwest Division, which includes the states of Oregon, Alaska, Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho.

Elementary Composition

Winner *Vansea Barnett
Student of Sharon Van Valin

Junior Composition

Honorable Mention Noah Morris,
Student of Elizabeth Morris

Junior Performance Piano

Alternate Jeslyn Cai
Student of Peter Mack/ Karlyn Brett

Junior Performance String

Alternate Zoe Lonsinger, *violin*
Student of Simon James

Junior Performance Woodwind

Winner *Grace Wang, *flute*
Student of Sarah Bassingthwaighte

Senior Composition

Winner *Nathan Paek
Student of Sharon Van Valin

Senior Performance Brass

Representative *Timothy Schrader, *tuba*
Student of Christopher Dickey

Senior Performance Piano

Alternate Janet Phang
Student of Peter Mack

Senior Performance String

Winner *Yvette Kraft, *violin*
Student of Simon James

Senior Performance Woodwind

Alternate Anthony Xie, *flute*
Student of Bonnie Blanchard

Senior Piano Duet

Winner *Sarah Girges and Avah Girges
Students of Barbara Miller

Young Artist Composition

Winner *Nicholas Colletto
Student of Martin Kennedy

Young Artist Performance Brass

Alternate *Duncan Titus, *tuba*
Student of Christopher Dickey

Young Artist Performance Piano

Winner *Reid Wolch
Student of Oksana Ezhokina

Young Artist Performance String

Winner *Luis Perez, *violin*
Student of Carrie Michel

Young Artist Performance Woodwind

Winner *Jake Berreth, *flute*
Student of Sophia Tegart



*Winners will compete in the National Finals at the MTNA National Conference in Chicago, IL in March 2020! WSMTA is proud to have 10 national finalists!

MTNA DISTRICT DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM, is Running for MTNA Northwest Division Director-elect!



Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM

Former WSMTA President, Current Northwest Division Competitions Chair

MTNA members will elect Division Directors-elect beginning in late January 2020. **Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM**, a former president of WSMTA and current Northwest Division Competitions Chair, has been nominated for the Northwest Division Director-elect position. Using her background of different positions served in local associations, state, and division committees, Mary Kaye intends to represent the six Northwest states (Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Wyoming) with an eye to the future of MTNA and its growth.

Please go to mtna.org, click on *About Us*, and *Elections* to cast your vote for Mary Kaye!

From the MTNA website: In accordance with Article VI, Sec. 2 of the MTNA Bylaws, this slate of two candidates per office was prepared by the MTNA Nominating Committee. Members also may submit nominations: MTNA Bylaws, Article VI, Sec. 3: "Nominations for National and Division offices, other than those presented by the Nominating Committee, may be added to the election ballot by petition signed by one hundred Active Members and received at the business offices of the Association no later than three months prior to the scheduled date of the election."

The February/March 2020 issue of *American Music Teacher* will contain a ballot and voting instructions. Online voting also will be available at that time.

INTRODUCING AMANDA SNELL, MUSICLINK CHAIR

On behalf of the WSMTA Education Board, I want to thank **Karen Monroe** for her many years of service chairing our MusicLink program. For your information, this is the Mission Statement of MusicLink:

Our Mission: Any child who has musical potential deserves the opportunity to nurture this talent to its full extent. Many children lack the chance to receive music lessons due to financial need. The MusicLink Foundation reaches out to low income families by linking these students with professional music teachers willing to reduce their fee to make the lessons more affordable for the child.

WSMTA has been a supporter of the MusicLink program for many years, but we can only be involved when we have a teacher/member who will be involved and chair this program. Karen has taken on this program, helping to involve other teachers in providing lessons to underprivileged students.

We deeply appreciate Karen and her work in the area, and wish her well as she moves on to other activities within WSMTA, including being a new Visiting Artist for Music Artistry Program (MAP)!

We are so fortunate to have a new MusicLink Chair! **Amanda Snell** has been involved in working along with Karen Monroe in the Seattle area, and graciously accepted the chair position. Amanda has taught piano in Seattle for the past 5 years. Prior to teaching piano full time, she worked in early childhood centers and nonprofits supporting low-income students. She is passionate about making music education accessible to all! Outside of her teaching job, she enjoys exploring the outdoors with her partner and her dog! Many thanks to Amanda! Please say "YES" if Amanda asks you for help!

*—Laurie Eash, NCTM
WSMTA Education Board Chair*



MUSIC AT EWU SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS

FEBRUARY 21 AND 22, 2020
OR BY APPOINTMENT

**TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS
DISTRIBUTED IN 2019: \$170,000**

APPLY
EWU.EDU/MUSICSCHOLARSHIP

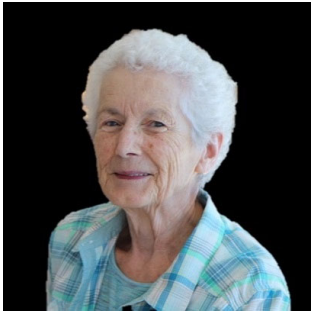


EWU.EDU/MUSIC | 509.359.2241



LOIS WHITNER STUDENT STUDY GRANTS

Application Deadline May 1, 2020



Connie Hungate, WSCTM
Student Study Grants Chair

- The WSMTA 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.
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."

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 WSMTA 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 WSMTA Music Artistry Program.

If you have questions or need further information, please email me at cchungate@comcast.net or phone: 206-232-0117 (landline) or 206-849-4303 (cell).

Application deadline is May 1, 2020.

Connie Hungate, WSCTM, Grants & Scholarships Chair

—*Connie Hungate, WSCTM*
Student Study Grants Chair

2020 YOUNG COMPOSERS PROJECT

Entry Deadline February 18, 2020



Martin Kennedy
Young Composers
Project Chair

WSMTA is pleased to announce the 2020 Young Composers Project.

This competition gives students of WSMTA members the opportunity to submit their compositions for judging and comments by qualified adjudicators. These adjudicators are college professors and/or private teachers whose area of expertise is composition. The project provides educational feedback, a goal-setting format, and a focus on music that students love—their own compositions. Adjudicators select a first, second, and

third place composition for each grade level, giving written comments.

Certificates are awarded to all participants, and a small monetary prize is awarded to each first place winner (see yearly Rules and Guidelines form for details.) First place winners are invited to perform their compositions at the WSMTA Conference each summer.

The deadline for entries to this year's Young Composers Project is Tuesday, February 18, 2020. Guidelines and Entry Form are available on our website: www.wsmta.org. Direct all questions to Martin Kennedy, Young Composers Project Chair at mpk324@gmail.com.

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

2020 DISTRICT VI & VII CONFERENCE

FEATURING DR. MARK STEVENS, NCTM

Saturday, February 22 · 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Whitworth University · Spokane, WA

Cost: \$25

Pre-Registration not required; please contact Carolyn Stuart at stu.jason@gmail.com with any questions.

10:00 am–10:50 am *Contemporary Music in the Studio for All Ages*

11:00 am–12:00 pm Master Class Featuring Students Playing Contemporary Music

12:10 pm–1:00 pm *Have a Week-Long Summer Intensive in Your Home Studio!*



Dr. Mark Stevens, NCTM, enjoys a varied and vibrant career as a solo pianist, collaborative artist, teacher, adjudicator, and arts administrator. He is pleased to join the faculty of the Washington State University School of Music in August 2018. Dr. Stevens' experience as a pianist ranges from traditional piano repertoire to contemporary music, including living composers. As an advocate for 20th and 21st century music, he performs a diverse range of repertoire, with a special affinity for American composers. In recital, he engages audiences through thematic programming, juxtapositions of unique repertoire, and colorful insights about music, composers, and cultural context.

An active and passionate teacher for almost two decades, Dr. Stevens has repeatedly been

awarded for the quality of his instruction. He was selected to receive MTNA recognition for his teaching excellence while earning a Masters of Music degree in Piano Pedagogy at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Most recently, he was honored in 2017 as the University of Oregon's Outstanding Graduate Performer in Piano Pedagogy. His students have won nearly 20 prizes in competitions including the Seattle Young Artists Music Festival, and the Northwest Bach, Viennese Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary Piano Festivals. He is regularly invited to adjudicate and teach throughout the Pacific Northwest. In the past year, he has adjudicated for the MTNA, the Oregon Music Teachers Association, and the National Federation of Music Clubs. His academic teaching experience includes class piano, functional keyboard skills, and aural skills. Most recently, he taught graduate piano literature at the University of Oregon.

Dr. Stevens holds graduate degrees in piano performance and piano pedagogy from the University of Oregon and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He completed his undergraduate studies in piano performance at Whitworth University in Spokane, WA. He has served as a member of the faculty at the University of Oregon, the Chopin Academy of Music, as an instructor of piano, class piano, and aural skills at Cornish College of the Arts, and as a graduate teaching fellow in collaborative piano and piano pedagogy at the University of Oregon and University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His primary teachers include Dean Kramer, Paul Barnes, David Riley, and Judith Schoepflin, and he has performed in masterclasses with artists including Jon Nakamatsu and the Chiara String Quartet.

DISTRICT AND CHAPTER NEWS

CHAPTERS CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS



How did your chapter celebrate the holidays? This month's chapter spotlight features the South King County, Clark County, Eastside, and Edmonds Chapters.

South King County Chapter (SKCMTA), pictured to the left, celebrated the holidays with a Breakfast Party Potluck at the home of WSMTA President Karen Hollenback.

L-R: Julie Swienty, Jan Irvine, Sviatlana Riedel, Sally Ramsden, Alison Dellicker, Christine Szabadi, Karen Hollenback, Elena Aleksandrova, and Samantha Yeung.

Clark County Chapter (CCMTA), pictured below, rang in the holiday season with an evening Christmas Social at the home of Patti Duthie. Lena Vozheiko-Wheaton and Cinda Redman performed a special friends duet of *Sleigh Ride*!



Eastside Chapter (EMTA), pictured below, welcomed the holiday season with a Holiday Tea at the home of EMTA Co-President Yunbo Cassady.



DISTRICT AND CHAPTER NEWS

Edmonds Chapter (also EMTA), pictured below, celebrated with a Christmas Potluck, complete with piano ensemble music and singing! The performances included an 8-hand piano ensemble arrangement of "O Holy Night" and a vocal ensemble of eight women singing and spelling out "C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S."



MUSIC LITERACY PROGRAM HIGH HONORS

Clarkston/Lewiston Chapter

TEACHER: STUDENT (LEVEL)

Lori Germer: Kaili Chapman (3), Lauren Gibbs (4)

Lorinda Bisso: Finnley Wheeler (1), Paul Lane (1)

Stephanie Hill: Kaufman, Ben (3), Keller, Alexis (3), Helm, Lily (6)

Nyla Clare: Jackson Clare (A), Kendry Gimlin (3), Alivia Smith (3)

Tracy Winterbottom: Sage Pankey (1), Ella Tretheway (2), Sylus Potter (2), Cedar Betzold (2), Maya Pankey (3)



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Robin McCabe and Craig Sheppard, Directors

Session I: July 5-15

Faculty: Robin McCabe and Craig Sheppard
Guest Faculty: Angela Cheng and Alvin Chow,
Oberlin Conservatory of Music

All students will play for Professors Cheng and Chow in a public masterclass.

UW dormitories and food plans available for additional cost.

Session II: July 15-18

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

Details at: seattlepianoinstitute.org

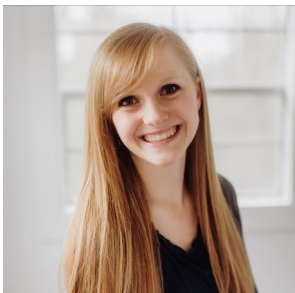
Priority Application Deadline: April 1, 2020

2020



Skyline Lake Trail

CERTIFICATION CORNER



Rose Freeman, NCTM
Certification Chair

How do you practice? As music teachers, I know we all teach the concept of practicing to our students daily. As a musician, the art of practicing to me means keeping small promises to myself with a growth mindset.

Here are five practicing tips that my students came up with to support a positive learning environment!

1. Warm up
2. Be realistic with your goals (have goals!)
3. Create a positive learning environment
4. Identify and overcome the problems (ask for help!)
5. Record yourself

I wanted to share these with you as we enter a new year! Whether you're learning a Mozart Sonata, teaching ensembles, leading a music teachers meeting, or completing the five teacher profile projects for National Certification, I know they will support you in every area of your vocation.

I've learned so far this year that getting started is often the most difficult step. The last few months I've applied the "five-second rule" that Mel Robbins introduces in her speaking. Now, this isn't the five-second rule about eating the cookie

that dropped onto the kitchen floor. This rule supports creating new neuropathways of thought and behavior by simply counting down from "five, four, three, two, one," then taking action. I encourage you to pick up your phone right now and apply the five second rule! Call up a colleague (you know that one person!) and ask if they want to go through the projects with you. I know that these five teacher profile projects will support you as a professional music teacher and give you a new spark to your teaching. You can learn more about National Certification at <http://mtnacertification.org/>.

Did you know WSMTA offers \$100 grants to teachers applying for Certification. Contact me at rosefreemanmusic@gmail.com and I can get the grant process started for you!

Lastly, I'm excited to announce two more Certified Teachers of Music in our state!

- **Victoria Hall** from Sequim, Washington received her National Certification in Piano
- **Darin Kaschmitter** from Yakima, Washington received his National Certification in Piano.

Congratulations!

—Rose Freeman, NCTM, WSMTA Certification Chair
rosefreemanmusic@gmail.com · 425-248-9288
www.rosefreemanmusic.com

PEDAL POINTS

“We Must, Indeed, All Hang Together or, Most Assuredly, We Shall All Hang Separately”



Joann Richardson,
NCTM
Organ Chair

The University of Washington has decided to no longer fund its organ program in the wake of the retirement of UW Professor of Organ Dr. Carole Terry. An effort is underway to secure funding to create an endowment that will fund an organ faculty position. The Seattle Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) has agreed to match donations up to a certain dollar amount and has information on its website (www.agoSeattle.com/support-organ-study)

about how anyone can make a pledge toward this endowment. On the website, Dr. Terry and others have written compelling and thoughtful reasons why the loss of the organ program at UW is a loss for our entire community—and why we should try to prevent this loss.

Here's why this matters to us all. A vibrant musical community needs to have teachers, performers, and scholars at universities who can devote their lives to their art at the highest level of achievement. When any faculty position in a music department is eliminated, a big hole is formed in the fabric of the music department's program, thereby weakening the entire department. We are fooling ourselves to think that a piecemeal collection of adjunct faculty can provide the same attention to students and scholarship as full-time resident faculty—it can't. In the case of the organ faculty position, the organ professor not only teaches organ, but also teaches harpsichord and early music, collaborates with other faculty, performs regularly, serves as a resource to the community, and serves as an advisor—most critically to those pursuing advanced music degrees.

Did you know that the UW organ program is one of the only two west coast organ programs that offered advanced degrees in organ performance and scholarship? When organ programs disappear, they might as well be considered extinct—they rarely come back. Losing one of the two west-coast programs for advanced degrees in organ is devastating. Who is

going to teach our next generation of teachers and performers? Is the loss of an organ position a canary in a coal mine? Which music position is next? Will our institutions of higher learning be reduced to trade schools for money-making industries or will they be places where students learn to think creatively?

In describing how a school of music can decline and lose its ability to fulfill its mission when a faculty position is eliminated, Melinda Bargreen, Music Critic and Composer, wrote: “The UW School of Music has already lost so many significant faculty positions. The more positions are lost, the fewer music students will come, resulting in still fewer faculty members ... a vicious circle on which the School of Music has already embarked. There is still time to reverse this downward slide, but it must happen on a case-by-case basis. Restoring the Organ Faculty position is a good place to start.” (www.agoSeattle.com/support-organ-study)

Graduates of the UW Organ department have become music professors. They play at cathedrals, in concert halls, and in churches. They present workshops at conferences. They direct and collaborate with choirs and soloists, teach music, and play in ensembles. Without their contributions, the musical lives of many communities would be greatly diminished.

If you or others you know are concerned by the loss of the faculty position in organ at UW, I encourage you to read more about this at www.agoSeattle.com/support-organ-study. When it comes to preserving the arts within the fabric of our culture, we all need to be in this together—for who knows whose arts program will be next on the chopping block? What Benjamin Franklin said to his compatriots when our nation was in its fragile infancy also applies figuratively to us as we work to preserve the fragile survival of music in a society that is increasingly indifferent to the arts: “We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately.”

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

FROM YOUR WOODWINDS CHAIR

Growth and Improvement



Rebecca Cook, NCTM
Woodwinds Chair

I was recently practicing organ and noticed that some of my skills in other musical areas were impacting my ability to practice and perform now as compared to 20 years ago.

Three thoughts I want to share about this are:

1. I talk nicer to myself. This is a result of 35+ years of teaching and of also being a parent. When I practice, I hear myself say 'good job' or 'nice improvement' or 'you are progressing well' and sometimes I think 'hmmm, I wonder what I'm not understanding there.' I progress much faster when I support my own learning. I'm thankful for years of teaching and understanding how to do that with children and youth.


2. I understand that amateurs practice until they get it right. Professionals practice until they can't get it wrong. I do not remember who I learned that from, but it is true. So, when I make a goof I go back and practice that section until the natural way to play it is correct. Practicing in this manner has helped me fix a lot of goofs. I realize we teach youth and children who are mostly not going to become music majors at college, but the idea of how to truly become proficient at something is a good skill for them to learn.
3. I keep remembering the statement by Trevor Wye in his practice books (and he is quoting Marcel Moyse). *'It is a question of time, patience and intelligent work.'* So I break things up into chunks of learning, understand that that with time they add up and only skip practice on the Sabbath.

Isn't it wonderful that we can teach and experience musical improvement? As the days get longer and we yearn for spring, we can see our own personal growth and rejoice in that.

—Rebecca Cook, NCTM, Woodwinds Chair


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INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHERS FORUM

Wheels of (Mis)Fortune: Prepare for the Unexpected!



RoseMarie Tamburri
IMTF Chair

In October, during my student Halloween piano recital, I missed a step coming down from the stage, fell and broke my ankle. Having the good fortune to have several doctors in the audience, who quickly came to my aid, I was able to finish the recital before heading to urgent care.

Within 10 days I had surgery, followed by a two-week period of 24/7 elevation, then several weeks of physical therapy and recovery. I missed quite a few weeks of teaching and consequently income.

This accident brought an important question into focus. As an Independent Music Teacher, how can I prepare my studio and myself for a turn of events that is beyond my control, in other words how can I prepare for the unexpected? An economic downturn, a severe weather incident, a significant decrease in my student roster—all are potential threats to my business' sustainability.

Here are some ideas for a preparedness plan (taken from articles I've read and discussions with colleagues):

- **Policies.** When establishing your relationship with the student, provide a clear, written policy regarding your payment and scheduling system. Like most businesses do, factor in payment for "personal time off" whether it is due to illness, vacation or an unexpected event. It is your studio policy so you can be as strict or flexible as you feel is appropriate for your circumstance.
- **Partnerships.** Develop one or two partnerships with a friend, relative or colleague who could teach at least some of your students in your absence. During my "down time" following my accident, I was fortunate to ask my husband to "sub" for several of my more advanced students. This also can be very helpful during vacations or holiday breaks. These

types of partnerships require both trust, fair compensation to both you and the "sub," and a commitment to reciprocity. The student can benefit greatly from exposure to a different perspective.

- **Technology.** I admit I am not as up to speed as I would like to be on using technology as a pedagogical tool. But the times, they are a changing! My son gives electronic music/sound production lessons to students in Seattle, but also to people who live in Finland and Brazil. I have an adult student who recently moved with whom I may try an occasional lesson via Skype (there are a number of other programs for distance teaching). Closer-to-home and perhaps simpler ways to teach remotely include downloading/uploading sound files for review; assigning musicianship skills for the student to do on an app or software program (again for your review); smart phone recordings also are a viable option.

As we say good-bye to the 2010s and usher in a new decade, let's resolve to "Be Prepared" for the unexpected and build our business tool kit to help us weather any storm.

IMTF SESSION AT THE WSMTA CONFERENCE

Join the IMTF discussion at the WSMTA Conference, Friday, June 19, 2020, 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. Enjoy your lunch while we discuss many of the above topics and much more—to the tune of a popular TV game show! I hope to see you in Pullman!

—RoseMarie Tamburri, *Independent Music Teachers Forum Chair*