

Michigan Music Teacher

PUBLICATION OF
THE MICHIGAN
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Assn.

Vol. LV No. 5 June 2007

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members,

I wish you a wonderful and adventurous Spring! With the whirl of music activities – contests, recitals, preparing students for summer music adventures, etc. – I hope you have also made time to enjoy your own music, the refreshing spring air in your gardens, and the feeling of success as you bring your teaching season to yet another cadence.

Many of our members attended the MTNA Annual Conference in Canada in March. Truly an International Conference with the attendees numbering close to 3,000. Once again we heard many people say they wished they didn't have to choose between so many excellent programs for each session. Midori Koga, former MMTA member now residing in Canada, was very happy to see friends from Michigan and sends warm greetings to all.

Akiko and Forrest Kenney, the clinicians from our 2006 MMTA conference, presented a session on their ideas of "Pattern Playing" similar to their presentations at our conference. They also send sincere wishes to all the membership of MMTA. The 2008 MTNA Conference will take place in Denver, Colorado, March 29 – April 2.

I am very excited about a wonderful student opportunity that has come our way. We have been invited to "partnership" with the Birmingham – Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra for one of their five season concerts. The concert on May 4th 2008 will feature our MMTA 2008 Piano Concerto Contest winner. Deborah Moriarty, MMTA Concerto Competition Chairman assures us that the contest date will be early February in East Lansing (Michigan State University) The Birmingham – Bloomfield Orchestra will provide \$750 cash prize, the performance opportunity May 4th, one free pass to the performance, CD of the performance, promotion through their website and news articles. This opportunity will continue to be available to us in alternate years. The board was very impressed with this format and voted to adopt this plan in 2008. We shall pursue this idea for next season and then decide if we want to continue in 2010, 2012, etc.

Marilyn Sluka, our MMTA 2006 Distinguished Service Award Recipient, will be presented and recognized as our representative to receive an "Educator of the Year Award" at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival held at Western Michigan University. Each member organization of the Michigan Youth Arts Council is invited to name one of their members as a recipient of this award to be presented on May 11th at the Festival.

Also, our appreciation goes to Jean Hull who is organizing a Piano Master Class presentation for the Youth Arts Festival. Gerardo Ascheri will serve as the clinician for this

event held on May 12th at Western Michigan University. Jean has taken on this responsibility for many years. Thank you for representing MMTA in this way, Jean!

Sheryl Iott Richardson, MTNA Competitions Chairman, has announced the date of the Student Composition Contest, MTNA Junior High, Senior High, and Collegiate Performance Competitions - November 11th 2007, at Michigan State University. Registration requirements will be published in the AMT Magazine this summer.

Congratulations to the students and their teachers that qualified for participation in the Student Achievement Testing Semi-Finals and Finals. Your diligent effort to reach this level of accomplishment does not go unnoticed!

To each and every MMTA member and especially to those who have had the responsibility of chairmanship, board position, or a duty in any capacity, I want to say, "Thank You! – a job well done!"

"Music gives voice to the soul and definition to the human spirit. Studying and making music allows imaginations to soar and dreams to take flight. Nothing is more important to the future of our nation than nurturing this kind of creativity in our children."

Bill Ivey, National Endowment for the Arts

Sincerely,
Isabelle Tulk, President



NOTE Information regarding submission of articles and ads may be found on page 2.
Please send all copy to the editor by the due date.

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1/4 Page \$60.00

Submit Ads to the MMT
editor with a check payable
to MMTA. Fees are for one
issue only.



DEADLINE

FOR THE

MMT IS AUGUST 1

FOR SEPTEMBER 1

**All materials must be
received by the due date.**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR E-MAIL

Send to

Cheryl Cameron, Membership Chair: cheryl@cheryls-music-studio.com

~ or mail to: ~

Cheryl Cameron, 5514 State Road, Fort Gratiot, MI 48059, (810) 385-9888

Notes from the Vice President . . .

I am very pleased to announce the Fall, 2007 MMTA Conference! The Conference will be held at the Westin Southfield-Detroit Hotel and Convention Center on October 13-15, 2007. The Conference will open on Saturday, October 13, with the Teacher Education Session given by Julianne Miranda. Ms. Miranda is a Certified Professional Co-Active Coach and a member of the International Coach Federation. She brings her experience as a trained musician and educator to her work with her clients who are writers, musicians, artists, and educators. Ms. Miranda is the Chief Information Officer for the Music Teachers National Association, and also serves on the music editorial board for the National Institute of Technology in Liberal Education, and has worked with a number of non-profit educational agencies including the National Piano Foundation. Ms. Miranda has been a guest speaker at many state music teachers conferences, and we are pleased to have her here!

The Metropolitan Detroit Music Teachers League will be hosting the opening night concert on October 13. Featured on this concert will be Yin Zhang, newly appointed chair of the Oakland University piano department and the Oakland University African Steel Band. The 2007 Commissioned Composer, Dr. Murray Gross will also be featured in this evening performance. Dr. Gross is an award-winning composer and teacher, and has been honored by the American Symphony Orchestra League as one of the outstanding young conductors in the nation. His compositions have been performed across the country, been broadcast over National Public Radio, and have received many honors including a Broadcast Music Incorporated Award (BMI). Dr. Gross currently serves as Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at Alma College where he conducts the Alma Symphony and teaches theory, composition, and conducting.

On Sunday, October 14, our association will be treated to an Exhibitor Showcase given by Frederick Harris



Publishers. Our host will be MMTA member, Dr. Laura Beauchamp-Williamson. Dr. Williamson's college teaching career has included positions at Furman University, Capitol University, Lenoir-Rhyne College, and Saginaw Valley State University. She currently works as an editor for the Frederick Harris



Music Company and maintains a private studio in Freeland, Michigan.

The main Conference Clinician for 2007 is Mr. Marvin Blickenstaff. A "teacher's teacher," Mr. Blickenstaff has presented sessions most recently at the 2007 MTNA Conference in Toronto, and has been featured as a soloist and clinician nationally and internationally. His teaching career includes positions at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and Goshen College. He currently resides in the greater Philadelphia area and teaches at The College of New Jersey, the Westminster Choir College, and The New School for Music Study. Mr. Blickenstaff will present two an, a master class for our association.

MMTA member, Sister Mary Margaret Delaski, will join the Conference to present a special session on teaching the "special needs child." Sister Mary Margaret was awarded the Barbara Lipinski Professional Award at the Annual Spring Conference of the Autism Society of Michigan in the spring, 2006. She will share her expertise in the area of teaching people with spectrum disorder.

Rounding up the day will be a special session/panel discussion that will involve piano teachers, both college/university level and independent teachers as well, performers, and college students studying piano. This is a special event you will not want to miss! Our host will be Dr. Garik Pedersen, who is currently Professor of Piano at Eastern Michigan University. Stay tuned!

To close the evening, the Gala Banquet and Concert will feature pianist Aviram Reichert, Bronze Medalist of the 10th Van Cliburn Piano Competition in 1997. Mr. Reichert is a frequent soloist with all of the leading orchestras in his native country, and has performed as a soloist nationally and internationally in a variety of venues. Mr. Reichert currently teaches at Grand Valley State University.

Our Conference will close on Monday, October 15, with guest speaker Cora Enman in two sessions devoted to the Alexander Technique. Ms. Enman has extensive teaching experience in the area of voice, and continues her work with the National Association of Teachers of Singing, and in the field of the Alexander Technique. Ms. Enman is on the voice faculty at Central Michigan University.

A REMINDER Your MTNA/MMTA Dues Are Due July 1 !!!!!

In Memoriam



EILEEN KEEL was born on October 10, 1941 in Lansing, and had lived in the Lansing area all of her life. Eileen Keel started playing the piano at age three with formal lessons from Margaret Armitage, a graduate of Julliard, and at age seven, studied at the Wilde Conservatory of Music in Lansing. She continued her studies as a sophomore with Helene Schaul, who prepared her for auditions for the MSU School of Music. Further studies were with Leon Gregorian, David Renner, Pauline Arnold and Jere Hutcheson.

Early in her teaching career, Eileen became a charter member of the Greater Lansing Chapter of the Michigan Music Teachers Association (MMTA), which later combined with the Lansing Piano Teachers Guild, to become the Capital Area Music Teachers Association (CAMTA) in which she was a key organizer. Locally she served as Secretary, Student Achievement Testing Chairman, Vice President, and two terms as President, ten years apart. Most recently, she became the CAMTA Scholarship Chair introducing a Sonatina/Sonata competition with monetary awards from the CAMTA Scholarship Fund.

She was a member of the National Federation of Music Clubs, Lansing Matinee Musicale, and an active member of a local performing group.

At the state level Eileen served on the MMTA Board of Directors, where she worked for eight years as Handbook Chairman, during which time two handbooks were issued. Within MMTA she held the position of 2nd Vice-President, Vice President, President and Immediate Past-President. Additionally, she was a Certified Teacher Emeritus and served on the MMTA Board of Certification for four years.

Eileen Keel was the East/Central Division President of the Music Teachers National Association, on the Advisory Council of the Michigan Music Teachers Association, the Steering Committee for the Summit Conference for the National Teachers Association, and on the State Council of Presidents.

In 1988, she was named "Teacher of the Year" at the Michigan Music Teachers Association 103rd annual convention and in the same year was recognized by the National Foundation for the Advancement in the Arts for her "Contributions to Teaching Students of the Arts".

One of her career highlights came in 1996, when she was awarded a "Distinguished Service Award" by the Michigan Music Teachers Association.

Throughout her career, Eileen Keel taught hundreds of students to play piano. Many of her students received high honors in testing programs, competitions and scholarship auditions to the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and Interlochen. Some of her most enjoyable experiences were her many encounters judging students from around the state of Michigan.

Students of music can continue to enjoy the legacy of Eileen Keel's love for music through her donation of her Steinway to the Lansing Christian School, from scholarship funds awarded at the Sonatina/Sonata Competition named in her honor, and at the Eileen Keel Music Library at the MSU Community School of Music, where she donated her music for all to enjoy.

**MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION**

122nd Annual State Conference

Southfield, Michigan

October, 13, 14, 15, 2007

Conference and Meal Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

REGISTRATION FEES:

Advance Registration-Full Conference, MMTA Member \$60.00 _____
(registration after September 24-\$65.00)

Advance Registration-Full Conference, Non-MMTA Member \$70.00 _____
(registration after September 24-\$75.00)

Registration, MMTA Member's Spouse \$35.00 _____

Student Registration Waived _____

MEAL RESERVATIONS:

Sunday Evening Gala Banquet
(Tax and gratuity are included in the price) \$37.00 _____

* Grilled Chicken Breast _____

* Tilapia (white fish) _____

* Vegetarian _____

Entrees include rolls, salad, vegetables, rice or potato (chef's choice), dessert, and a non-alcoholic beverage. The Vegetarian plate will be the chef's choice featuring a pasta dish.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Please mail this registration form (payable to MMTA):

Millie Muller, MMTA Treasurer,

1835 Pine Bluff S.E.

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Questions? Contact Adrienne Wiley, Conference Chairman,
989.615.1746, or Wiley1ae@cmich.edu

**MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION**

122nd Annual State Conference

Southfield, Michigan

October 13, 14, 15, 2007

Hotel Information

The Westin Southfield-Detroit Hotel and Conference Center is the location of the 2007 Conference.

1500 Town Center
Southfield, Michigan 48075
248.827.4000

- * Room reservations received after 9/21/07 will be on a space and rate availability basis.
- * To reserve a room, please call 248-827-4000 Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., OR 24 hours a day at 1-800-WESTIN-1. Please remember to ask for the "Michigan Music Teachers Association" or "MMTA" group rate.
- * Attendees may also go on-line to make a reservation:

www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb

Rooms available for the 2007 Conference are single or double rooms at a cost of \$89.00 plus tax.

Driving Directions:

From East:

Take Interstate 696 West to the Evergreen Exit. Continue South on Evergreen and continue to 10 Mile Road (approximately 1 mile). Take 10 Mile Road west and take an immediate right on Northwestern Service Drive. The entrance to the hotel will be on the right.

From Detroit Metropolitan Airport:

Take Interstate 94 East to North Southfield Freeway (M-39). After approximately 8 miles, exit in the left lane to US-10 (Lansing). Continue to 10 Mile/Evergreen Road. Stay on the service road and the entrance to the hotel is on the right.

From North:

Take Interstate 75 South to Interstate 696 (approximately 9.9 miles). Continue on I-696 to the Evergreen Exit (approximately 4.1 miles). Travel 1 mile to 10 Mile Road. Proceed west on 10 Mile Road and take an immediate right onto Northwestern Service Drive. The entrance to the hotel is on the right.

From South:

Take Interstate 75 North to Southfield Road (M-39). Turn left (West) and continue on to Southfield Freeway (M-39). Exit at John C. Lodge Freeway (US 10) North and continue to the 10 Mile/Evergreen Road Exit. Stay on the service road through 2 traffic lights. The entrance to the hotel will be on the right.

Note: You may wish to access the official website of the Westin Southfield-Detroit at: www.westinsouthfield.com

**MMTA PIANO AND VOICE FINALS
SATURDAY, MAY 05, 2007
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF MUSIC**

Congratulations to the following MMTA Piano and Voice Final Winners! MMTA is justly proud of the incredibly polished and advanced levels of performance given by our state winners, and the association is likewise proud of the exceptional coaching and training so evident in these outstanding performances.

SENIOR DIVISION WINNERS

First Place: Jennifer Xu (Student of Catherine Rollin)
Second Place: Dylan Perez (Student of Joan Conway)
Third Place: Stephanie Webb (Student of John Ellis)

Honorable Mentions

Anthony Baron (Student of Catherine Rollin)
Stephen Chang (Student of Mary Siciliano)
Ingrid Gan (Student of Mary Siciliano)

Adjudicators: Andrew Le and Eric Van De Vort

JUNIOR DIVISION WINNERS

First Place: Christine Wu (Student of Mary Siciliano/
Logan Skelton)
Second Place: Emily Wang (Student of Catherine Rollin)
Third Place: Alim Leung (Student of Mary Siciliano)

Honorable Mentions

Catherine Chang (Student of Mary Siciliano)
Yesse Kim (Student of Mary Siciliano/Arthur Green)
Charles Qin (Student of Catherine Rollin)

Adjudicators: Mary Jo Cox and Aviram Reichert

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION WINNERS

First Place: Yiran Liu (Student of Natalie Matovinovic)
Second Place: Elizabeth Xiong (Student of
Catherine Rollin)
Third Place: Laura Huang (Student of Isabelle Vilensky)

Honorable Mentions

Julien Bazin (Student of Claire Tang)
James Han (Student of Andrew Song)
Lydia Saldanha (Student of Susan Day/T.J. Lymenstull)

Adjudicators: Joan Haggard and Derek Polischuk

VOICE FINALS

First Place: Gabrielle Dahl (Student of Elaine Yanz)
Second Place: Grace Cichy (Student of Julia Ellis)
Second Place: Jillian Gatesy (Student of Julia Ellis)
Honorable Mention: Michael Kurley (Student of Julia Ellis)

Adjudicators: Abbie Matthews and Laura Stebbins

**CONFERENCE
CLINICIAN FOR 2007
MARVIN BLICKENSTAFF**



**DOING WHAT COMES NATURALLY:
NATURE'S CLUES TO EFFECTIVE
INTERPRETATION**

What more could one ask? The student plays accurately, the rhythm is steady, fingerings and dynamics are observed, and most of the articulations are present. That's a good student! Yet something is missing in the flow of the sound, the shape of the line, and in the expression. In this session we examine ways in which natural laws of gravity, inertia, heart beat, and tension/relaxation can influence our performances in a most positive way.

**THE CASE OF THE POTENTIAL PIANO
DROPOUT: WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THE
MAGIC STOPS?**

Our students are very busy people, and piano practice often is shoved to the side. With a lack of practice comes slow progress, teacher and student discouragement, and a mother may call our studio and lament "We're going to have to drop lessons." We cannot change society and the pressures on our students, but there are attitudes and teaching procedures that can keep students productively involved at the piano.

2007 Commissioned Composer

The 2007 Commissioned Composer Competition for the state of Michigan was completed in February, 2007. The event brought 14 excellent compositions from Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, Virginia, Oregon, Washington, California and Illinois. This year's adjudicator was Dr. Charles Ruggiero from Michigan State University.

The first place winner is Mr. Murray Gordon Gross, from St. Johns Michigan for his entry of "Folie a deux" for flute and clarinet. The first runner up is Mr. Dan Pinkston from California for his work, "Devils in the Deep Blue Sea" for two pianos and percussion. The second runner up is Ms. Catherine McMichael from Michigan for her three movement symphony called "A Joyful Noise." Honorable mentions include Dr. Charles Argersinger, Washington State University for his work "Three Fates" for base flute, bassoon, cello and percussion and Dr. Kent Holliday from Virginia Tech University for "Temporal Longitudes" for voice and piano.

Dr. Ruggiero cited three composers for their notable work: Justin Merritt from Minnesota for his work "Veloce" for cello and piano, Dr. Scott Harding from Michigan for his "Scenes of Mackinack" for flute, cello and vibes and Wallace Depue from Ohio for his "Concerto for Percussion and Orchestra".

Murray Gordon Gross will be the 2007 featured Commissioned Composer for the state conference this fall.

Adrienne Wiley-Commissioned Composer Chair

MOSTLY MUSIC CAMP

The Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild (AAAPTG) has sponsored a Mostly Music Camp since 1995. This year the camp is expanding from morning only to full day (9:00-4:30), and is also offering pre-care (8:00-9:00) and after care (4:30-5:30). Students may attend morning only, afternoon only, or full day. The AAAPTG Foundation has money available for partial scholarships.

The goals of the camp are:

1. To strengthen the student's musical skills,
2. To expand the student's musical horizons,
3. To expose students to new musical experiences,
4. To enrich the student's musical knowledge, and
5. To enliven the student's perception of music — in other words, to help students discover the joy of music.

Camp is for students Pre-K and up, with each morning class having its own age/grade requirement. As in past years, morning students will choose one class for the week, and then be treated to a special presentation at the end of each morning.

The classes offered this year are:

Adventures in Music, Finding the Music Inside You, Get Ready, Get Set, Go! Explorations in Music, Piano Performance and Sight Reading, Creative Writing, and The Organ, Swell and Great.

Afternoon sessions will be a potpourri of some of the following - art, writing, dance, drama, and music (keyboard, hand chimes, various instruments).

Some of the money raised by the camp is used for:

1. Auditions in order to give awards to area piano students,
2. The awards themselves,
3. A recital to showcase the award winners,
4. Teacher Enrichment Grants,
5. Discretionary Assistance Grants, and
6. Donations to other musical entities.

The site for the 2007 camp, to be held August 20-24, is Grace Bible Church on S. Maple in Ann Arbor. Brochures may be obtained by calling Merilee Magnuson at 734-426-8337, Mary Sue Moore at 734-428-8687, or seen on the website - www.michiganmusicteachers.org.

I AM INTERESTED IN THE MMTA CERTIFICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Instrument _____

Make Check for \$5.00 Payable to MMTA.

Send to:

SALLY LEWIS
9766 LONDOLYN BLUFF
TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49686
PHONE: (231) 941-8938
E-MAIL: lewistvc@umich.edu

Congratulations to all Student Achievement Testing Centers

On behalf of the Piano Handbook/Testing Committee may I extend special acknowledgment and appreciation to all who gave of their time and expertise in organizing and providing another successful testing opportunity for the students.

We really appreciated the response to our request of the evaluation forms – 60% arrived by deadline, April 1st. Another four chapters have since sent their forms leaving only five chapters not responsive.

The evaluation sheets are really very important to us. We compile the various areas of concern and discuss these fully at our annual summer meeting. In many cases we respond directly to the chairman of the center; many ideas we implement in the tests for the next season.

The sizes of the staves in the theory section of the tests are always an item of concern. We have tried to make them as large as possible, especially where the students have to write their answers on the staves. Please be aware that the tests are notated by computer – you may see room on the page that you think might be used to make staves bigger, but computer program (Sibelius) may not allow as much freedom as one would like. At this point, larger staves would force most levels to go to three test pages instead of two. After considering this option, the committee felt the extra printing costs and yet more pages of paper for each center were not the best decision.

Many comments were made this year regarding administering the tests. Several of these comments infer that directions printed on the guideline sheets were either not read or ignored. These guidelines are reviewed and are sent with the tests each season. We hope they are an aid in helping your center to run smoothly.

Please keep sending your comments and suggestions.

Isabelle Tulk-Acting piano committee chair

MMTA BOARD MEETINGS

Friday July 20th 10:00-12:00 Executive Committee
12:00 Lunch for BOTH Executive board and general board members
1:00-3:00 pm General Board Meeting Home of Isabelle Tulk

October 13, 2007 8:30-9:30 am Executive Committee
9:30-11:00 am Board of directors
MMTA Conference in Southfield Michigan