



**MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

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Port Huron, Michigan 48060

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Vol. LI No. 3 March 2005

## Presidents Message

Greetings Everybody! I am sure many teachers are at their peak of activities, getting their students ready for so many musical events, MMTA SAT, Federation Festival, scholarship and summer camp auditions. It's also good to know that Spring is just around the corner, just a few more weeks!

Perhaps the most important piece of news is the upcoming MMTA Leadership and Strategic Planning Summit. It is scheduled for Saturday April 23, at the Lansing Sheraton Hotel. Please make a note on your date books. Just like Spring, the Summit will be a great opportunity for renaissance, renewal, and celebration. There is more information about the Summit in a separate ad in this newsletter.

The Summit will be from 9:30 a.m.

until 4:30 p.m. approximately. Lunch will be served. All past Presidents, Local Association Presidents and Vice-Presidents, and all Committee Chairs are invited. Members who have held positions at MMTA are also encouraged to come. Please register for the Summit no later than March 30.

The first Summit of this nature took place in Lansing, on June 25, 1990, during the presidency Jill Christian, who with great vision and dedication to the organization saw a need to bring our membership together periodically to refine strategies for meeting our collective mission. The second Summit took place at Western Michigan University on January 8, 2000, during the presidency of Roberta Kraft.

I'm sad to announce the resignations of *Jere Hutcheson*, as MTNA Composition Chair; *Mary Anne Hornik*, as IMTF Chair, and *Donald Morelock* as Concerto Competition Chair. To all of them, my sincere gratitude for so many years of service and dedication. I would like to remark on the growth of the concerto Competition, and just give some statistics: the 1995 Competition held at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, on February 5 had fourteen contestants. The 2005 Concerto Competition, which took place on January 30 at MSU in East Lansing, had a record number of fifty-one entrants! The evolution and level of performance at this event has been phenomenal. A special Thanks to Don for such a great job!

I am happy to announce *Thea Hoekman* as the new IMTF Chair. Thea lives in Freemont and is a member of the Grand Rapids Piano

Teachers Forum. *Deborah Moriarty* will be the new Concerto Competition Chair. Deborah is piano Faculty at MSU and member of the Capital Area Music Teacher Association. *Mary Siciliano*, from the Metropolitan Detroit Musicians League will be the new Coordinator of the East Central Division MTNA Senior Piano Competitions.

On January 15-16 I attended the East Central Division MTNA Competitions held at University of Wisconsin at Madison. It was a great opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with the other division presidents and officers. It was equally impressive to witness the performance excellence of so many Michigan students. Four of our students were named ECD Winners, and in addition five others were chosen as alternates, and two were Honorable Mentions. To all of them my warmest congratulations!

The winners who will be representing Michigan at the National Conference in Seattle in April are: Senior Voice Winner *Irene Zarr* from Grand Blanc, student of Kimberly DeRosso; Senior Percussion Representative *Jonathan Smith* from Haslett, student of Stacey Jones; Young Artist String Winner *Mialtin Zhezha* from Western Michigan University, student of Renata Knific; and Composition Junior Winner *Elizabeth Schick* from Dearborn, student of Christine Smith.

Michigan students named ECD alternates are: Junior Piano *Joo-Hyun Lee* (Thomas Lymnestull); Junior String *Jordan Huang* (Renata Knific); Senior Piano

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## MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHER

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JEAN HULL, Editor, 2405 Hampshire Rd., Lansing 48911

Phone: (517) 482-9753 Fax: (517) 267-0828 E-mail: jhull2405@aol.com

MMTA Web Site: www.mi-mtna.org

PRESIDENT *Gerardo Ascheri 2200 Groesbeck Ave. Lansing 48912-3400	STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT TESTING COORDINATOR *Barbara Collins, NTCM 4430 West Water St. Port Huron 48060	MTNA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMANCE COMPETITION *Pauline Martin 5876 Tabor Drive West Bloomfield 48322
VICE-PRESIDENT *Isabelle Tulk 4755 Ravinewood Dr. Commerce Twp. 48383-1659	STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT TESTING AUDITION CHAIR *Penny Draper 513 Woodland Dr. East Lansing 48823	MTNA STUDENT COMPOSITION COMPETITION CHAIR  (TBA)
SECRETARY *Nancy Skriba 6100 S. Grapevine Tr. Suttons Bay 49682	STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT TESTING PIANO CHAIR  (TBA)	COMMISSIONED COMPOSER CHAIR Deborah Beachnae, NCTM 553 Pacific Lansing 48910
TREASURER *Mildred Muller 1835 Pine Bluff SE Grand Rapids 49508	STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT TESTING STRING CHAIR Richard Piippo Hope College Holland 49423	CONCERTO COMPETITION CHAIR Deborah Moriarty School of Music MSU East Lansing 48824-1043
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT *Marilyn Sluka 16791 Fitzgerald Livonia 48154	STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT TESTING VOICE CHAIR Julia Ellis 2045 Sheldrake Okemos 48864	NON-COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES CHAIR Kelly Yoakam 120 W. Sycamore St. Mason 48854
CERTIFICATION CHAIR *Michelle Mitchum, NCTM 900 Jennings Petoskey 49770	STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT TESTING WOODWINDS CHAIR TBA	COMMUNITY OUTREACH & PUBLIC EDUCATION CHAIR TBA
CERTIFICATION EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Sally Lewis, NCTM 9766 Londolyn Bluff Traverse City 49686	AWARDS CHAIR Deborah Long 4799 Fountain Square Dr. Kalamazoo 49009-9573	MTNA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION CHAIR George Widiger 116 Harrison Midland 48460
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR *Cheryl Cameron 2630 Seventeenth Ave. Port Huron 48060	MTNA COMPETITIONS COORDINATOR  (TBA)	MTNA COLLEGE FACULTY FORUM REPRESENTATIVE TBA
LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS COORDINATOR *Joan Haggard 33974 Hampshire Dr. Livonia 48154	MTNA COLLEGIATE ARTIST/PERFORMANCE & COLLEGIATE CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITIONS CHAIR  (TBA)	HISTORIAN Mary Chartier 3252 Pinehurst Dr. Gladwin 48624
STUDENT CHAPTERS COORDINATOR *Colleen Wilcox-Ensborg, NCTM 4900 Zimmer Williamston 48895	MMTA HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMANCE COMPETITION CHAIR Sheryl Richardson 6421 Byron Road Zeeland 49464	PARLIAMENTARIAN Christie Otter 14735 Richfield Livonia 48154
TEACHER EDUCATION CHAIR * Adrienne Wiley, NCTM 4007 Washington St. Midland 48642		TECHNOLOGY CHAIR *Diana Spitnale Miller, NCTM 208 West Burnside Caro 48723-1501
IMTM CHAIR Thea Hoekman 216 Southwoods Fremont 49412		

\* Indicates Board Member

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR E-MAIL

Send to

Gerardo Ascheri, 2200 Groesbeck Ave., Lansing 48912-3400

~ OR ~

Cheryl Cameron, 2630 Seventeenth Ave., Port Huron 48060

## MMTA 13 YEARS AGO MARCH 1992

The Michigan legislature has recently passed a bill that requires Michigan schools to develop a portfolio for each student. This is in line with a recent Michigan Employability Skills Project that is an effort to have a permanent student record of activities that contribute to employability skills.

Bill #4572 provides that, to be eligible to receive state aid under the act, a school district shall develop a plan during 1991-92 to provide and maintain a student portfolio until the student leaves high school. The portfolio will be implemented in 1992-93 for each student beginning high school this year.

**DEADLINE  
FOR THE  
June  
2005  
MMT  
IS  
May 15th**

## PROGRAMS AROUND THE STATE 2004-2005

### METROPOLITAN DETROIT MUSICIANS LEAGUE

Contact: ARVI SINKA  
phone: (248) 689-8932

**April 25** - 10:00 a.m.  
*Hamel Music: Bloomfield Hills*  
Speaker: Flavio Varani

**May 16** - 10:00 a.m.  
*Hamel Music: Bloomfield Hills*  
Student Winners and Annul Meeting

### PIANO TEACHERS FORUM OF GRAND RAPIDS

Contact: Trish Brummel  
phone: (616) 457-1589  
e-mail: pianolab@sbcglobal.net

**February 11** - 9:30 a.m.  
*St. Cecilia Music Society Building*  
Piano Repertoire at the Turn of the Century  
piano music of Debussy, Janacek,  
Medtner Ludmilla Lazar

**March 11** - 9:30 a.m.  
*St. Cecilia Music Society Building*  
Gershwin, an American Classic  
Rich Ridenour

**April 15** - 9:30 a.m.  
*St. Cecilia Music Society Building*  
Master class with Deborah Moriarty

## MMTA 2005 CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**OCTOBER 16, 17, 18**  
SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY

CROWN PLAZA HOTEL  
ANN ARBOR

## PIANO TEACHERS SUMMER WORKSHOP

JULY 15-16, 2005

DART AUDITORIUM

LANSING  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



## MMTA CONCERTO COMPETITION 2005

January 30th, 2005  
Michigan State University - East Lansing  
Deborah Moriarty, Chair

### ELEMENTARY:

(Jimena Grandon and Ellen Elder, adjudicators)

1st place: Catherine Chang (Student of Mary Siciliano)  
2nd place: Robert Hsu (Donald Morelock)  
3rd place: Annie Yang (Donald Morelock)

### INTERMEDIATE:

(Jimena Grandon and Ellen Elder, adjudicators)

1st place: Tie (no second place)  
Ivan Moshchuk (Marina Zharkin) and Joo-Hyun Lee (Thomas Lymenstull)

3rd place: Hee-Ji Moon (Thomas Lymenstull)

1st Honorable Mention: Bryan Yang (Donald Morelock)  
2nd Honorable Mention: Amy LaCount (Donald Morelock)

### SENIOR:

(Marie-France Lefebvre and George Vatchnadze, adjudicators)

1st place: June Wu (Logan Skelton)  
2nd place: Chien-Lin Lu (Yoshi Nagai)  
3rd place: Kara Huber (Michael Coonrod)

1st Honorable Mention: Edwin Yik (Izabella Vilensky)  
2nd Honorable Mention: Lo-An Lin (Yoshi Nagai)  
3rd Honorable Mention: Zhu Zhu (Thomas Lymenstull)



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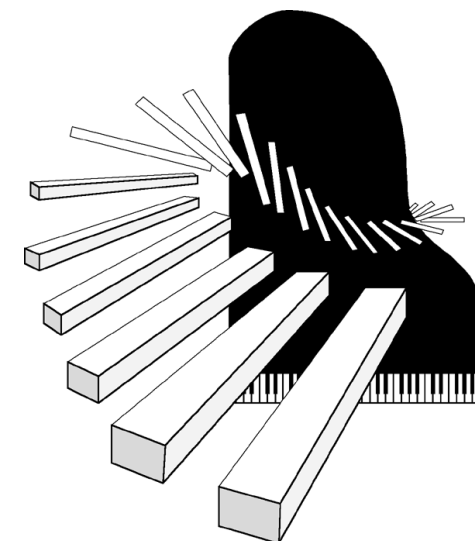
*Natalia Kazaryan* (Logan Skelton);  
Senior Strings *Eugene Ivanov*  
(Solomia Soroka); and Young Artist  
Piano *Rajung Yang* (Arthur  
Greene).

In addition, Young Artist Woodwind  
*Melissa Williams* (Joseph Lulloff),  
and Senior Composition *Aubrey*  
*Langeland* (Billie Netterwald)  
received Honorable Mentions.  
Composition Elementary *Rosemary*  
*Schick* (Christine Smith) was named  
3rd place winner.

I hope to see many of you at MTNA  
National Conference in Seattle,  
April 2-6, 2005. MMTA members  
Charles Aschbrenner and Midori  
Koga will be presenting at the  
conference on April 4. I will be  
attending an ECD and Presidents'  
Council meetings, as well as  
supporting the performance of  
Michigan students at the  
competition finals.

Good luck to all of you on the busy  
weeks ahead!

Sincerely,  
Gerardo Ascheri



## TEACHERS OF THE YEAR FOR 2004



Six outstanding instructors were chosen by their local associations as their Michigan Teacher of the Year for 2004. They were honored at the Gala Recognition Banquet during the Fall 2004 Conference held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Kalamazoo. All of these remarkable teachers have a true passion for the teaching of music, enjoy working with students (both young and old) and never cease in their quest to perfect their music skills.

CHARLES ASCHBRENNER was named by the Holland Piano Teachers Forum. He is Professor of Music and Chair of the Piano Area at Hope College where he is in his 42nd year in the Department of Music. His piano students have entered graduate programs throughout the country and ultimately have careers in teaching, performance and opera direction.

His degrees are in piano performance from the University of Illinois and Yale University. He did advanced study during four summers at the American Conservatory in Fontainebleau, France and also studied with Adele Marcus at Aspen, Colorado and Ambler Pennsylvania. He has lectured and performed throughout Michigan and the Midwest. In 1986, he gave lecture recitals in San Miguel, Mexico and was sponsored in a two-week tour of Portugal in 1987. For many years, he has appeared with Joan Conway as the duo-piano team, Conway and Aschbrenner.

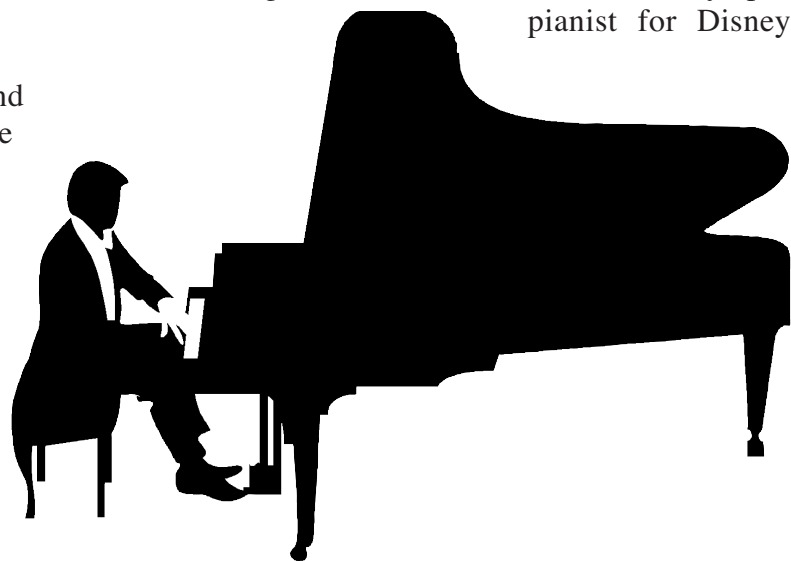
As a certified Dalcroze instructor, he has taught eurhythmics at Hope College for thirty years. His presentation, Pulse Patterns for Pianists was given at the 1993 MTNA convention in Spokane, Washington.

For MMTA, he has served as Membership Chair, MTNA Collegiate Competitions Chair and MTNA Scholarship Foundation Chair. He is also a member of the European Piano Teachers Association, the College Music Society and the Dalcroze Society of America.

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MARIA LONCHYNA-LISOWSKY was named by the Metropolitan Detroit Musicians' League. She teaches in her private studio in Troy, Michigan. She began teaching piano in 1967, became a member of MMTA and MTNA in 1998 and joined MDML in 1999. She earned her MMTA certification in 2001. Her degrees include a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Detroit with a major in music theory and a Master of Music with a major in Piano Performance from Wayne State University. Maria continues to remain current and improve her teaching by attending classes, conferences and workshops at the Eastman School of Music, University of Michigan, Oakland University and International Workshops for Piano Pedagogy. She made a recording of Ukrainian music for children's stories and two tapes on the Montessori method of teaching singing to children.

Her performance and professional activities include being a soloist in recitals and concerts. Accompanists for grade school and high school choruses, MBOA and Suzuki workshops, Music Director for the Women's Vocal Ensemble Luna and Orchestra Librarian for the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra. An active member of MDML, she serves on its Board of Directors and various committees.



BRENDA KRACHENBERG was named by the Livonia Area Piano Teachers Forum. Her desire to be a music teacher was solidified during her two years at Detroit's Cass Technical High School. Clarinet was her principal instrument throughout her undergraduate years at the University of Michigan. After teaching elementary music for four years, she returned to the University of Michigan for her Masters Degree as a voice principal, giving a recital in lieu of writing a thesis. She didn't begin teaching piano privately until after the birth of her two children. During the late 1970's to improve her skills playing and teaching piano, she joined LAPTF while pursuing an Associates degree in Piano Pedagogy

from Schoolcraft College. She became certified in 1985. Brenda has been a student of Joseph Gurt and currently studies with Katherine Teves Mizruchi in Ann Arbor. During her twenty-five years in LAPTF, Brenda has served two terms as Secretary, one term as member-at-large and two terms as Honors Recital Chair. She has been the National Guild Chair for the Plymouth area for ten years and has judged performances for the Student Achievement Testing all over the state.

PHILIP W. PLETHCHER was named by the Piano Teachers Forum of Grand Rapids. He is a pianist and Music Director of the St. Cecilia Music Society in Grand Rapids. An active musician since the age of four, Philip won a full tuition scholarship to the Interlochen Academy for the Arts and has been a recipient of numerous other awards. He received his bachelor's degree in piano performance, appeared with the South Bend Symphony, served as personal pianist for Disney singer Bobbi White, accompanied master classes by Phyllis Curtin and Jerome Hines of the Metropolitan Opera and played a command performance for Indiana governor Otis Bowen. His graduate study was at Michigan State University with Ralph Votapek his principal teacher.

Philip is active as soloist and collaborative pianist, is immediate-past president of the Piano Teachers Forum of Grand Rapids, maintains a teaching studio, and adjudicates for regional competitions. He produces and performs annually in the Eight Piano Concert of the St. Cecilia Music Society, has served as accompanist for the American baritone Robert Sims and accompanies musicians from the Grand Rapids Symphony. Recently, he has recorded with Gwenneth Bean, William Bolhout and Nancy Hascall. He was pianist at the gala opening of the North American 2003 Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibition. He serves as staff accompanist at Calvin

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College and plays for the Schubert Male Chorus. Philip hosts a weekly radio show, "Guest Conductor" on WFGR 98.7 FM Grand Rapids classical station.

ELAINE YANZ was named by the Capital Area Music Teachers Association. She studied both piano and voice at the University of Maryland from 1965-1969. She has had a successful career as a private piano and voice teacher, music director, church musician, youth and adult choir director, handbell/hand chime choir director and organist. Elaine earned her certification in 1991 and has served her local association as President, Local SAT Chair and MMTA SAT Central District Semi-finals Chair. As a staunch supporter of Student Achievement Testing, she has prepared many students to perform at the local level with some going on to compete at the semi-finals and finals levels. Elaine values all of the opportunities that CAMTA, MMTA and MTNA have to offer. They are her pathways to increased knowledge and understanding so she can provide the very best for her students.

RHENDA PEASE was named by the Kalamazoo Area Music Teachers Association. She completed her undergraduate work at Valparaiso University before entering Western Michigan University where she earned her Master of Music degree in 1978. As a member of KAMTA, she has served as MMTA Ensemble co-chair and as local chair of the National Piano Guild. She performs as a substitute organist, for weddings and for her studio recitals. Taking part in the MMTA programs has provided her with great joy and inspiration.

**I AM INTERESTED IN THE MMTA CERTIFICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:  
SALLY LEWIS  
9766 LONDOLYN BLUFF  
TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49686  
PHONE: (231) 941-8938  
E-MAIL: lewisrs@elmo.nmc.edu

## Michigan Music Teachers Association 2005 LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

### GENERAL INVITATION

The Michigan Music Teachers Association will hold a Leadership Summit on Saturday, April 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel in Lansing. This invitation is extended to all Executive and Full Board members, Past-Presidents, all Local Association Presidents and Vice-Presidents, and all Committee Chairs. Because of the important nature of this summit your participation is crucial. In the event you absolutely cannot attend yourself, please designate a representative who can voice your opinions and input. Members who have held positions in the past and would like to participate are also encouraged to attend this summit.

Participants will have an opportunity to think together about the priority goals of the association over the next five years. This will be a very lively and kinetic process. Please come and share your best insights into ways we can improve our effectiveness and impact in the years ahead.

All participants need to register for the Summit. Please confirm your participation by e-mailing me at [ascheri@msu.edu](mailto:ascheri@msu.edu) no later than March 30. Lunch will be served during the Summit.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE PLANNING SESSION

1. To summarize the current status of MMTA's achievements over the past five years, and its current administrative and organizational functions.
2. To identify current strengths and challenges facing MMTA as it works to achieve its mission.
3. To articulate a set of recommendations that can guide MMTA in improving its effectiveness and impact over the next five years. These recommendations will be sent to all participants after the meeting for comment, validation, and revision.

Sincerely,

Gerardo Ascheri  
President