

Michigan Music Teacher

MICHIGAN
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Assn.

Vol. LIII No. 1 April 2006

CONFERENCE ISSUE

Conference Coordinator - Isabelle Tulk

President's Letter

As I write this message many of us are still going through the various SAT Days in the state. We had our local SAT on March 12. I also had the opportunity to adjudicate at other locations and I can't help marveling at the great deal of effort, organizational and strategic skills, and countless of hours of dedication that takes to produce an event like this. That's not to mention the day to day work of preparing our students. It's truly commendable and something of which we should be very proud. To all of you involved in SAT Day my sincere congratulations for such a good job! I also enjoyed very much Barbara Collins' Thirty Years of SAT article on the last MMT issue. It made me realize, among other things, that when the first SAT Handbook was published I was still in high school! The article gives a good perspective and how the program evolved, honoring those who fostered its development and implementation. We are indeed part of a great tradition.

I have exciting news regarding our **MMT Newsletter**. Due to the lateness of the December newsletter, the Board decided to forego the March MMT and in its place produce this issue dedicated to the State Conference. We are also looking forward to the June MMT issue which will be our first electronic one. I can't thank enough **Jean Hull** and **Christopher Carlon** who have been working so closely to have a smooth transition. In order to help the membership adjust to the change, during the first year there will be both an electronic and paper versions of the MMT. This will also help our new editor to learn the various aspects of the new electronic format, and to adjust and correct any glitches that may happen in the process. There is a new address dedicated exclusively to the MMT: MMTnewsletter@aol.com where all contributing writers to the MMT will need to send their articles, ads, or announcements via e-mail. This will hopefully expedite the process of producing the newsletter in a timely fashion.

One of the most positive aspects of having access to our membership via e-mail is that it will allow more direct communication. This will be an invaluable tool before the state conference, for instance, when last minute changes, announcements or other relevant information could be sent to everybody who has e-mail. Of course, those members who do not have e-mail address, a paper version of the MMT will still be available to them via regular mail.

On January 20-21, I went to Muncie, Indiana, to participate of the **East Central Division MTNA Competitions**. I would like to congratulate **Mary Siciliano** (ECD Competition Chair) for organizing and running this event. Mary took care of so many details and contingencies that the event ran smoothly and trouble-free. I was also very impressed at the high quality and preparation of Michigan students. I am pleased to announce five Michigan students are national finalists! Congratulations to the following students and teachers:

- **Justin Paupore** (student of Christine Smith, Junior Level), and **Matthew Croft**, (Judy Wade, Senior) Junior and Senior Composition winners.
- **Lo-An Lin** (Yoshikazu Nagai), and **Clemetine Fu** (Philip Dikeman) Senior Piano and Woodwind finalists.
- **Ryun Hwangbo** (Logan Skelton) Young Artist Piano finalist.
- Congratulations as well to **Emily Wang** (Catherine Rollin) Junior Piano Alternate, **Irene Zarr** (Kimberly DeRosso) Senior Voice Alternate, and **Erik Asgeirsson** (Steven Doane) Senior Strings Honorable Mention.

A few weeks later, our own **MMTA Concerto Competition** took place on January 29 at Michigan State University in East Lansing. Contrary to our expectations, related to the change of rules and cash awards, the number of participants hit a record high this year, there were 66 applicants! (up from 45 last year). We are greatly indebted to **Deborah Moriarty** who, as first time chair of this competition, did an outstanding job both organizing and running the event. Congratulations to the following students and their teachers:

- **Kevin Dong Won Lee** (Arthur Greene), **Catherine Chang** (Mary Siciliano), **You-Kyung Nam** (Anna Weller), 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners Elementary Division.
- **Sehun Kim** (Catherine Rollin), **Christine Wu** (Mary Siciliano) and (tie) **Fang-Wei Hsu** (Yoshikazu Nagai), **Andrea Jarrett** (Anna Weller), 1st, 2nd (tie), and 3rd place winners Junior Division.
- **Si-Yi Fang** (Yoshikazu Nagai), **Chien-Lin Lu** (Yoshikazu Nagai), **Drew Mitzelfeld** (Mary George), 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners Senior Division.

Best wishes to all members, it seems the Spring is around the corner, let's hope it comes early this year!

Gerardo Ascheri,
President MMTA

MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHER

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* Indicates Board Member

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR NEW MMT NEWSLETTERS

Effective as of June 1st your copy of MMT issues will be sent to your email address. Members without email addresses will receive their issue of MMT via standard mail.

All news items or announcements for the June issue should be submitted by the prescribed due date of May 15th via email to the editor, Christopher Carlon. Please use the following email address for this purpose: MMTAnewsletter@aol.com

Please note this email address is case sensitive. (Use upper case letters for MMTA) Submission of materials via standard mail will also be accepted. Send materials to: Christopher Carlon, 2218 Stellar, Ann Arbor MI 48105.

DEADLINE

FOR THE

June

2006

MMT

IS

May 15th

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR E-MAIL

Send to

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

~ or mail to: ~

Cheryl Cameron, 5514 State Road, Fort Gratiot, MI 48059-2604

Note New
Address!

*You and Your Friends
are Cordially Invited
to Attend.....*

**121st Annual
MMTA State Conference
October 8 - 10, 2006
Holland, Michigan**

Dear Members,

I am enjoying my responsibility of organizing the Annual State Conference! We have an exciting agenda already planned for you and will be adding more facets daily!! Do plan on attending!

I want to express our appreciation to the Holland Piano Teachers Forum, our Host Chapter this year; Roberta Kraft and Sheryl Iott Richardson are co-chairs for this event.

Our theme is "Creativity for All" – We plan to explore "How We Teach", "What We Teach" and "What Students Learn".

It is our pleasure to announce our featured presenters will be Akiko and Forrest Kinney – a dynamic husband and wife team from Seattle, Washington. You will enjoy reading more about them in this issue of MMT. The following is a short description of their presentations.

Session One: Creativity for All - We carefully teach our students how to read and interpret the magnificent compositions of the masters, but how can we help them speak their own musical thoughts?

Session Two: Teaching Technique Through Creativity - Franz Liszt said, "Technique should flow from spirit, not from mechanics." How can we teach technique in a spirited, lively way?

Workshop Style Master Class: Music Loves to Grow - In this master class, both experienced and inexperienced students will be taught to create their own music in many styles, as well as create musical conversations (duets and quartets) with other students.

More about these presentations will be published in the next issue of MMT. Our Guest Artist for the Monday evening concert and Tuesday performance master class will also be announced in the next issue of MMT.

Adrienne Wiley, Commissioned Composer Chair, will present Gregory Hutter and his composition for clarinet, cello and piano at the Sunday evening host chapter concert. Commissioned trio composition performers will be: Kristin Ward, clarinet, Richard Piippo, cello, Charles Aschbrenner, piano. More of the Host Chapter Concert plans and performers in the next MMT issue.

We plan to present both the MMTA Student Winners program and the MTNA Student Winners program on Sunday afternoon this year. Hopefully this will eliminate the problems of the students being dismissed from school and the transportation arrangements working parents have to consider on weekdays.

Details of hotel arrangements and banquet dinner selections are printed on the registration and reservation forms enclosed. Please note we are offering half day fees for those that wish to attend only Sunday afternoon (Evening Concert is included) or Tuesday morning conference presentations.

Look forward to the MTNA Foundation Raffle conducted by George Widiger (member - Midland Music Teachers Association). Vendors' exhibits, and displays by MMTA Chapters and members are very welcome. Please register with me and let me know your needs in the way of table and/or display area size. All these extra facets will make this conference another great event!

Michelle Mitchum, Certification Chairman and Sara Carriere, Teacher Education Chairman, are planning special "Breakout Sessions" to share information with you. Thea Hockman will present the Local Chapter Teacher of the Year Awards at the Monday Gala Recognition Banquet.

Want to know how YOU can organize and officiate a more productive meeting? Plan to attend a presentation by our MMTA State parliamentarian, Christie Otter, titled, "De-Mythologizing Parliamentary Procedure".

We are very privileged to have use of Steinway pianos provided by Hammell Music for our presentations in Haworth Center.

Plan to attend – grow in musical experiences - meet new friends - renew long time friendships!!

Sincerely,
Isabelle Tulk,
MMTA Vice-President
Phone: 248 685-2613
Email: itulk@comcast.net (new)

MEET OUR PRESENTERS AKIKO & FORREST KINNEY!

Akiko Kinney was awarded a Masters of Music Degree in Piano Performance from the University of Washington in 1999. She has an affinity for the music of Bach, and in her final Master's recital performed the complete Goldberg Variations. She was awarded a B.M. Degree in Piano Performance from California State University at Northridge in 1993.



Forrest and Akiko Kinney

Akiko is interested in the purpose and power of music, and how it can be used to explore and express our highest potentials. She strives to awaken the power of imagination in her students. As part of her quest, she taught the Yamaha Music Education System in Southern California for five years to groups, and taught choir in a Catholic school. She was a certified Suzuki Music Teacher and she still incorporates many Suzuki methods into her teaching of young children.

Akiko gives workshops for teachers with her husband, Forrest. She offers her colleagues practical solutions to teaching creativity, and proof that even a teacher who believes they are not creative can become so!

Forrest Kinney has devoted his life to helping others recognize and express their unique creative potentials. He has taught music to private students for nearly thirty years, teaching them classical literature, technique, composition, arranging, song writing, music theory, and improvisation in all styles. He also frequently gives workshops for music teachers with his wife, Akiko.

Forrest is also a professional pianist and arranger. He has performed thirteen times at the home of Bill Gates, and he also played for the gala dinner at the opening of the Seattle Symphony's Benaroya Hall.

Forrest is an active composer of songs and music for the piano. He is currently notating the 126 World Songs (featuring lyrics from nearly forty countries) that he has composed with Dr. Kevin Helppie, a vocalist teaching at Western Oregon University. The two have performed numerous concerts together, including one completely improvised from phrases supplied by audience members.

Forrest is the author of a series of books on musical creativity called *Pattern Play: Create Your Own Music*. The first book was published in November 2004, and the second will be

published later this year. Over 200 members of the Washington State Music teachers have a copy of the book, and many are actively teaching from it. Forrest has also written a forthcoming book entitled *Creativity—Beyond Compare!* This book dispels most of the popular misconceptions that keep people from feeling the joy of creating.

Conference Theme - Creativity for All

How can we help our students create their own music? Can this be done in a weekly lesson when there is already too much to pack in? Yes.

As an Ute proverb says, "God gives us each our own song." Anyone can learn to create their own music, if only they have the desire, and an approach that allows them.

This workshop offers an enjoyable and natural way to learn how to spontaneously create music at the piano, with or without other instrumentalists. Improvising is not only done in jazz styles! Perhaps the greatest improvisers in history were Bach, Beethoven, and Mozart—their ability to create "on the spot" is legendary.

Our approach is called "Pattern Play" because it consists of learning short musical patterns and then playing (creating) with them. In the Pattern Play way of making music, you learn to create melodies the same way you learned to make sentences. You will develop the same kind of creative powers with tones that you now have with words.

Simple Patterns grow into more complex musical Patterns naturally. At the same time, the common language of musical Patterns will grow into a more private language, able to express something uniquely your own.

More Information on Teaching Technique Through Creativity

As teachers, we all can recognize students who are tense and tentative—there seems to be more of them these days, doesn't there? But how can we help them relax and enjoy playing? How can we help them quit pushing and straining, and help them learn to let gravity do some of the work?

Exercises don't usually work for such students, especially when the student is musically sensitive. Even etudes require students to give so much attention to the score that they can't focus on how their bodies are feeling or responding.

The solution often lies in engaging the musical spirit of the student. For example, while practicing a five-finger Hanonesque pattern can be mechanical and cause strain, practicing the same pattern above a rhythmic two-chord jazz accompaniment or a mellow two-chord accompaniment in Chopin style can make all the difference.

Invitation from our host chapter - Holland Piano Teachers Forum

On behalf of the Holland Piano Teachers Forum, we invite you to the 2006 MMTA State Conference. In the ten years since we last hosted the MMTA membership, the town of Holland has changed considerably.

This year, with the conference housed at Holland's Haworth Center, attendees will find themselves a mere block from the beautiful downtown, with trendy dining, shopping, coffee shops, and book stores readily available. An even shorter block away is the stately Dimnent Chapel, where the conference-sponsored evening concerts will be held.

One thing that has not changed in Holland is the spirit of Dutch hospitality and generous volunteerism. We will do everything we can to make your stay memorable.

Hope College has always been known for its excellent and cleverly appointed catering. Please do come and Eet Smak! elijk (Eat well and with good taste).

You can be assured that the high quality presentations and performances you have come to expect from this annual event will not disappoint. This, combined with the gracious service and amenities of the Haworth Center, Hope College, and the town of Holland should provide an enjoyable as well as educational experience. We look forward to seeing you there!

Welkom,
Roberta Kraft and Sheryl Iott Richardson,
co-chairs

EVALUATION COMMENTS FROM 2005 CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

Your comments from the 2005 Conference were much appreciated. They have helped in the planning of our 2006 conference! As you read these observations please send along more ideas that come to mind; it's not too late!! Since these comments for the most part were written anonymously, I cannot print "credits", I can only thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts! Here are only a few of the written comments – all comments were read and carefully considered!

GENERAL COMMENTS -

The Pridonoffs were outstanding presenters and performers – Let's have them again!

Enjoyed visiting with friends, colleagues and sharing ideas with the presenters outside of actual meeting.

Great job of welcoming attendees by host chapter, Ann Arbor Piano Teachers Guild.

Breakout sessions very helpful – tax preparation, composing, certification —learned much!

Each conference day was packed with inspiring experiences – could we add another day?

Day long snack and beverage service a real plus!

Vendors were so friendly and helpful – enjoyed vendors from out of state - a real plus!

CONSTRUCTIVE CRITIQUE –

(My comments as conference organizer in italics - Tulk.)

Master classes – limit time for each student or have several one student master class sessions throughout the conference.

Cell phone and pager announcement should be made at each session or signs at the door or announcements printed in program booklet. *Yes, will do in 2006!*

Exhibit and display room too crowded. *We will provide several rooms for this purpose this year.*

I was not notified of this by mail. *The mailing list is derived from the MMTA State Directory – check to be sure information is correct.*

Meetings need to start on scheduled time. *This year meetings will start on time even if room is empty!*

Wireless microphones and general sound system not reliable. *We already have a "back-up" plan in the event of problems with the conference center sound system.*

Program Booklet contained several errors and omissions – *This year I have set the deadline for program book articles and information much earlier so that I have ample time to produce a more accurate and professional publication for you.*

Do send your ideas and comments to – Isabelle Tulk, phone: 248 685-2613 email: itulk@comcast.net (changed from listing in 2006-07 MMTA Directory)

**Michigan Music Teachers Association
121st State Conference
October 8 – 10, 2006**



Accommodations

Haworth Inn and Conference Center
 Located on the campus of Hope College
 225 College Avenue
 Holland, Michigan 49423
 Phone: (616) 395-7200 (800) 903-9142
 Fax: (616) 395-7151

Directions

- From the north: Proceed south on US-31 to 16th St., turn right, proceed to College Ave., turn right, proceed to 10th St. and turn right. Haworth Inn and Conference Center will on left side.
- From the east: From I-196 take Exit 55 which turns into Chicago Drive, proceed west which turns into 8th St., to College Ave. (the last cross street before 8th St. becomes one way) Turn left onto College Ave., go south one block to 9th St., turn left. Haworth Inn and Conference Center will on right side.
- From the southeast: From M-40, proceed to US 31, turn right and proceed north to 16th St., go past the traffic light and make a U-turn onto southbound US 31, turn right on 16th St., proceed to College Ave., turn right, proceed to 10th St., and turn right. Haworth Inn and Conference Center will be on left side.
- From the south: From I-94 and I-196 and US 31, proceed to 16th St. and follow directions above for southeast travelers.

Reservations

- Room reservations received after 9/8/06 will be subject to availability and higher room rate.
- To reserve room, please call (800) 903-9142 or Fax form: (616) 395-7151, or mail perforated portion to hotel at above address. Reservations must be guaranteed with deposit or major credit card.
- To receive group rate, you must identify yourself as a Michigan Music Teachers Association participant when calling to make your reservation.
- Quoted rates are subject to state and local taxes (8%)

NOTE: Please confirm (1-800 903-9142) mailed or faxed reservations five business days after sending to hotel

Group: Michigan Music Teachers Association - October 8, 9, 10, 2006

- Please Reserve: _____ Rooms for _____ # of people **(Credit Card or Advanced Deposit required)**
- Request room with: King Bed ___ Two Queen Beds ___ Rollaway ___ Smoking ___ Non-smoking ___

Name:	Rates	
Address:	Single: 90.00	Double: 90.00
Phone:	Triple 90.00	Quad: 90.00
City	State:	Zip:
Plus state & local taxes, 8%		
Will arrive:	Day	Date
Will depart:	Day	Date
Indicate payment type:	Credit Card	Check Money order
Credit card type, number and expiration:		
Signature of card holder:		



MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
121st Annual State Conference
October 8, 9, and 10, 2006 ~ Holland, Michigan
CONFERENCE AND MEAL REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

REGISTRATION FEES:

Advance Registration – Full Conference, MMTA Member (registration after September 25 - \$ 65.00)	\$ 60.00 _____
Advance Registration - Full Conference, non-MMTA Member (registration after September 25 - \$ 75.00)	\$ 70.00 _____
Registration, MMTA Member's spouse	\$ 35.00 _____
Student Registration	Waived _____
 Advance Half Day - MMTA Member - Circle Sunday or Tuesday (registration after September 25 - \$40.00)	 \$35.00 _____
Advance Half Day - Non-MMTA Member - Circle Sunday or Tuesday (registration after September 25 - \$45.00)	\$40.00 _____
Half Day MMTA Member's spouse	\$15.00 _____

MEAL RESERVATIONS:

Monday Evening Banquet - \$ 27.00 _____

Please select one Banquet Entrée: Tax and gratuity are included in Price

_____ Citrus-Soy Chicken – Roasted, boneless, marinated chicken breast, jasmine rice, fresh vegetables

_____ Baked Orange Roughy – mandarin orange and honey sauce, sweet potato rosette, fresh vegetable

_____ Vegetarian Entrée – Chef's Selection with appropriate accompaniments

Entrées include house salad, rolls and butter, beverage and desert (Fruit Tart - A flaky pastry shell filled with creamy custard topped with fresh berries and a strawberry glaze.)

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the premises.

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

CONFERENCE AND MEAL ADVANCED REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 25

Please mail this registration form and check (payable to MMTA) to:
 Mildred Muller, MMTA Treasurer, 1835 Pine Bluff, S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49508
 For more information, contact Isabelle Tulk, Conference Chairman
 Phone (248) 685-2613 Email: itulka@comcast.net



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Cheryl A. Cameron, MMTA Membership Chair

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