

# Michigan Music Teacher

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ASSOCIATION

*Affiliated with the Music Teachers  
National Association*

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*From the desk of . . . . .*

Adrienne Wiley, [Past] President

Dear MMTA Membership,

Well, for me, the semester is just flying on by! I can't believe that we are almost, yes, ALMOST, done! (but then again, are we ever really "done?") This year's Conference was spectacular and so well coordinated by Penny Draper. Bravo Penny for your hard work that went into this! Our kick-off recital featuring the talents of the Livonia Area Teachers and our Commissioned Composer was a super start to the Conference. This was then followed by great presentations by Martha Hilley, Brian Chung, The Oakton Six, and Diana Munch. In addition, the concert and master class by Leon Bates was awesome (powerfully good), and we were again treated to the student recital featuring some of our very talented students. Also, a special thanks to those who participated in and

presented sessions on the SAT Handbook, Certification, and the College Student Forum. Thanks for taking the time to present for us! What a solid Conference for all those who attended. I can't wait until next year!

Our MMTA Board has been active again (we don't just sit around painting our nails!) working on various issues that come our way. I am grateful to this board for all of their dedicated hard work and support of MMTA. Thanks everyone for all that you have done and will continue to do! Our board has a few new members that I would like to mention:

Debbie Beachnau is stepping down as SAT Coordinator to move into new venues in her life (no, not retirement—she is not one to sit still!). Diana Munch is assuming her position and we welcome Diana to our board!

George Widiger's term as MTNA Foundation Chair is now at an end. We will miss him for all of his hard work and joviality at the Conference Raffle. Taking his place will be Alex Hanway. Welcome to Alex!

Dianne Klinger, our now 'Past Secretary', is stepping down to hopefully pursue a more relaxed-and-nearly-retired phase of life (and no, I don't think she will slow down much either!). Taking her position will be Dorothy Vogel. Welcome Dorothy!

Amy Dykhouse, SAT Auditions Chair, is stepping down to continue to channel her efforts into completing her masters in psychology at Central Michigan University. Taking her place will be Margarete Thomsen. We welcome Margarete!

Also, as I step down as President, Penny Draper will now assume the Presidency! She will be a great leader for us and I am confident she will manage our state association well. In her place, we welcome Gary Pedersen as our new Vice President this year! Gary will be hard at work coordinating the next Conference, I am sure, and he has the energy and drive that will "get it done!" Welcome Gary!

In our house, we have turned over from golf to basketball. I have to say, this is the longest golf season we have ever had! Cameron was out playing into the first week of November (before basketball practice even started), which is nearly unheard of.

As we have wound down from golf with the weather change, I was asking Cameron about his golfing buddies up at Crystal Mountain, you know, what are THEY doing now that golf season is pretty much over. A few, he said, are doing nothing—no exercise, no other sport, just school, Face Book, and video games (yes, they are 14-16 year olds, by the way). There are a very few that are still practicing the "long game" and doing their PST's (exercises) and even doing some weight training like Cameron is. What a shame, however, that you only "do it" when the "season" is in? Do we stop practicing because we are not playing a program? I think not . . . I hope not?! Why this very summer, when teaching at the two camps, I ran into one camper who flat out told me that her mother sent her to the camp to keep her practicing. She usually stops right after a specialized testing in February (not the SAT's, something different due to their state/region). So she doesn't play from March until December, and then learns selected pieces and scales and such just to play in the testing again in the spring. That was a "wow" for me . . . I guess it exists, but . . . . . What do you all think?

So much for the glorious day here, but: let's get on with life and enjoy every day! As Chick Moorman says, progress is made "inch-by-inch," so let's do it!

Thank you again for your support during my term as President! I truly appreciate your help in maintaining the interests and goals of MMTA!

Warmly,  
Adrienne

**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.

# MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHER

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Send to

Cheryl Cameron, Membership Chair: [cheryl@cheryls-music-studio.com](mailto:cheryl@cheryls-music-studio.com)

~ or mail to: ~

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

## A Message from Penny Draper

Dear MMTA Members,

It's official... the MMTA gavel - along with a detailed, well-organized notebook - has arrived from our Past President, Adrienne Wiley. The notebook gives me direction and a "recent" historical perspective as I embark in the office of MMTA President. In that regard I am honored and consider it a privilege to serve as president of such an august organization, through which so much has been accomplished in supporting and promoting private music teachers and their students in the state of Michigan for over twelve decades.

A retrospective look at the earliest years in MMTA's history is possible with a visit to the Clarke Historical Library, a state-of-the-art archival facility that houses MMTA records at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant. The early MMTA scrapbooks in this collection include a program from the first annual meeting, held at the Hibbard Opera House in Jackson on June 30th and July 1st in 1887. Since that year we have now had 125 state conferences; although the years between the first meeting and this last conference don't exactly correspond... it would seem that the 125th conference should have occurred in 2012 if my math is correct.

Disregarding this apparent discrepancy, our 125th conference ran smoothly in 2010, due to the efforts of the local host chapter, the Livonia Area Piano Teachers Forum, whose members volunteered as monitors, at the registration desk, as greeters and in hospitality. A special thanks to the conference co-chairs, Janice Derian and Nancy Whitecar, along with committee members Roy Coloma, Doris Edwards, Ellen Nixon and Charles Schenck, all of whom put in untold hours throughout the spring and summer to ensure that the conference was a success.

Our conference clinician, Martha Hilley, was warm, personable, knowledgeable and a technical whiz! Likewise, international piano artist Leon Bates' Gala Concert performance was inspiring, as he executed a demanding repertoire with technical prowess and a thoughtful sensitivity. Brian Chung, Senior Vice President of Kawai, presented an enthusiastic and inspirational session on improvisation for the classically trained pianist. Our own Diana Munch, along with her sister, soprano Linda Munch, gave us an enlightening historical performance featuring the fortepiano and its role in an ensemble, directly compared to the same on a modern piano.

And the concerts! It was such an inspiration to hear the outstanding performances of our Michigan Youth Winners in the MMTA and MTNA Competitions... pushing the bar up a notch in our own studio expectations. Likewise, the ensemble performances of our Michigan colleagues, namely Kazimierz Brzozowski, Roy Coloma, Christina Dragone, Diana Munch, Kathy Ranus, and duo pianists Yuki and Tomoko Mack, displayed the magic of precision and resulting pure pleasure in listening to four- and eight-hand compositions and arrangements. That same precision was evident in the Oakton Six presentation (six pianos and twelve hands) under the able direction of founder and conductor Glenna Sprague.

In addition to the inspiring sessions and concerts, our MMTA conferences allow us to reconnect with our colleagues in other areas of the state, and I am already looking forward to that opportunity in 2011. The 126th MMTA Conference will be hosted by the Capital Area Music Teachers Association, with Gerardo Ascheri and Elaine Yanz serving as co-chairs. Our new Vice President, Garik Pedersen, brings his wealth of knowledge and ideas to the planning of our next conference, and it promises to be exceptional.

Though I am writing this in the lingering afterglow of the 125th conference, you'll be reading it in the midst of holiday preparations in December. My best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and continued success in your professional endeavors!

Sincerely,

Penny Draper  
MMTA President

**2010 MTNA State Competitions**  
**Sunday, October 10, Central Michigan University**  
**MTNA Competitions Coordinator: Lia Jensen-Abbott**

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**Junior Competitions**

**Piano:**

Winner: Elizabeth Xiong (Catherine Rollin)  
Alternate: Yuanzhe Zhong (Mary Siciliano)  
Honorable Mentions: Briana Feng (Catherine Rollin) and Michelle Liu (Faye Mao)

MTNA Junior Competitions Chair: Gail Lytle Lira

**Senior Competitions**

**Piano Solo:**

Winner: Nicha Stapanukul (Thomas Lymenstull)  
Alternate: Jason Gong (Catherine Rollin)  
Honorable Mentions: Scott Sherman (Catherine Rollin), Paul Shen (John Ellis), and Vivian Anderson (Joel Hastings)  
Adjudicators: Kenneth Drake, Silvia Roederer, Susan Lawrence

**Piano Duet:**

Winner: Emily Wang and Christina Yuan (Arthur Greene and Logan Skelton)  
Alternate: Emily and Kristin Beckman (Helen Marlais)  
Adjudicators: Cynthia Bristol, Gerardo Ascheri, Kelley Bensen

**Woodwinds:**

Winner: Connor Mikula (Joseph Lulloff)  
Alternate: Jordan Lulloff (Jonathan Nichol)  
Honorable Mention: Jinwoo Lee (Justin O'Dell)  
Adjudicator: Henning Schroeder

MTNA Senior Competitions Chair: Lia Jensen-Abbott

**Chamber Music Competition**

Winner: The Akropolis Reed Quintet (Jeffrey Lyman, coach)  
Alternate: Trio Arvo (Justin O'Dell, coach)

Honorable Mention: Apollo Quartet (John Nichol, CMU)  
Adjudicators: Laurie Sears, Donald McKinney, Henning Schroeder

MTNA Chamber Music Competition Chair: Arvi Sinka

**Young Artist Competitions**

**Brass:**

Winner: Matthew Eastwood, euphonium (Kenneth Kroesche)  
Alternate: Bailey Rose, euphonium (Kenneth Kroesche)  
Adjudicator: Mark Cox

**Piano:**

Winner: Jiyi Fang (Logan Skelton)  
Alternate: John Boonenberg (Logan Skelton)  
Honorable Mentions: James LaVelle (Joel Schoenhals), Dylan Perez (Louis Nagel), and Stijn DeCock (Logan Skelton)  
Adjudicators: David Abbott, Charles Aschbrenner, Michael Coonrod

**Woodwinds:**

Winner: Matthew Tracey, saxophone (Joseph Lulloff)  
Alternate: Amy Tindall, clarinet (Arthur Campbell)  
Honorable Mentions: David Cook, clarinet (Kennen White); Kyle Landry, saxophone (John Nichol); and Matthew Shirey, saxophone (Jeff Heisler)  
Adjudicators: Joanna White, Dan Stolper, Deborah Choacki

**Strings:**

State Representative: Matthew Armbruster, cello (Anthony Elliot)

MTNA Young Artist Competitions Chair: Arvi Sinka

## New SAT Coordinator & SAT Auditions Chair

Dear MMT Teachers,

I am the new SAT Coordinator. I have been a Co-Chairman of SAT with Doris Edwards for the Livonia Area Piano Teachers Forum for the past 11 years and my students have been participating in SAT since the 1980's. I think that our Student Achievement Testing program is excellent, and I look forward to working with all of you in this new capacity. Here's my contact information:

Diana Munch  
22720 Nancy Ave.  
Southfield, MI 48033  
Phone 248-356-1274  
E-mail: dianamunch@comcast.net

Margarete Thomsen will be the new SAT Auditions Chair. Here's her contact information:

Margarete Thomsen  
8765 Eastham Dr.  
Canton, MI 48187  
Phone: 734-451-9678  
E-mail: mthomsen@mac.com

The Handbook Revision Committee is in the process of revising our SAT Handbook. This committee really needs ideas and suggestions from as many members as possible. A survey will be emailed to all MMTA members and will also be posted on the MMTA website. Please mail your survey to Gerardo Ascheri, our SAT Handbook Chair at the following address: 2200 Groesbeck Avenue, Lansing, MI 48912. The Handbook Revision Committee will review the surveys and use your information to help them in their revision process.

Thanks for your help with this!

Diana Munch  
MMTA SAT Coordinator

## Teacher Education Corner

Hello! I hope you enjoyed Martha Hilley at the MMTA 2010 Conference as much as I did. I'm putting "tap, clap and snap" in every lesson plan! Remember, "2 people make a group", so we can do group activities with our students at their private lessons, such as improvising with a melodic "idea, which is repeated and then repeated with an extension." For those of you who could not make the Conference, please go to her website at [www.pdmpiano.org](http://www.pdmpiano.org) for great examples of her teaching ideas. She uses all the 21st century technology to teach keyboard harmony, improvisation and sight reading skills to 21st century students. I would love to hear how you plan to incorporate some of her ideas into your teaching. Send emails to [carrieres@comcast.net](mailto:carrieres@comcast.net).

Sara Carrieres  
Teacher Education Chair

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## Local Associations Meeting

We have had several new presidents this year in the local associations. Those new presidents are: Jeannette Faber/Ann Arbor, Paul Reid/Battle Creek, Beth Cook and Betty Pavlov/Bay Area, Diana Miller/Metropolitan Detroit, Joyce Stehouwer/Grand Rapids, Barb Collins/Port Huron and Debra Culver/West Oakland. CONGRATULATIONS!

The outgoing presidents are: Heidi Cowan/Ann Arbor, Teresa Pash/Battle Creek, Pam Dubey/Bay Area, Debra Culver/Metropolitan Detroit, Cynthia Bristol/Grand Rapids, Melanae Clark/Port Huron, and Jacqueline Rhodes/West Oakland. THANK YOU for the time and energies you gave for your local associations.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the presidents that stayed in their positions: Gail Lytle Lira/Capitol Area, Amy Dykhouse/Central Michigan, Helen Sanders/Flint and Owosso, Nancy Skriba/Grand Traverse, Susan Tindall/Greater Muskegon, Charles Aschbrenner/Holland, Debra Mancuso/Kalamazoo, Charles White/Lake Superior, Janice Derian/Livonia, and Perri Harper/Midland.

Our local associations are vibrant and active. Several associations have been using the Speakers Bureau list to gather speakers for their monthly meetings. One local association is using videotapes for their monthly meetings. Another local association is using speakers from within their own group and so forth. Many associations are having meetings around SAT testing and planning.

At this October's Annual Conference we had about 13 presidents and guests gather for our once-a-year annual dinner meeting. This year I didn't have much to report. So much of our communication is done through emails, and any information that needs to be sent is sent via the computer. Sometimes I wonder if we should have this meeting at all.....however.....after my very short 'business' speech, the conversations around the table began. The questions flew about how one group schedules SATs and how teachers advertise for new students, and more questions about monthly meetings and ideas to garner new members, etc. etc. etc. It was invigorating and inspirational. The conversations were continuing as I walked out the door!

What a great group of presidents we have. We should be very proud of the leaders in each of our local associations.

Cynthia Robertson  
Local Associations Coordinator  
October 27, 2010

## MTNA Member Insurance Programs

Through the Trust for Insuring Educators (TIE) and Forest T. Jones & Company, MTNA is now offering comprehensive health care insurance along with a variety of other new insurance products for members. TIE is an organization established to bring together educational associations to secure competitive insurance plans and rates. Though availability of insurance varies from state to state, some of the other insurances available include liability, life, disability, auto, and identity theft protection.

To find out more about the coverage available to MTNA members, visit [www.ftj.com](http://www.ftj.com) or contact the insurance administrators, Forrest T. Jones and Company at (800) 821-7303.

## Call for 2012 MTNA National Conference Proposal Submissions

MTNA is now accepting proposals for the 2012 National Conference that will take place March 24-28 in New York City. This call is for all General, Collaborative, Group Piano, Recreational Music Making, Technology and miscellaneous session proposals. This is the only call for session proposals for this conference. Proposals are accepted online only and must be received no later than midnight (Pacific time) on April 14, 2011. The deadline will be strictly enforced. Conference sessions are 60 minutes in length, inclusive of introductory and closing remarks and Q & A. Membership in MTNA is not a requirement to submit a proposal or present a session. However, all selected presenters are required to register for the conference at their expense. Proposals should not be commercial in nature.

For more information, guidelines and to submit a proposal(s) please visit:

<http://members.mtna.org/submit/proposal2.html>.

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### **MTNA Teacher Enrichment Grants**

The MTNA Foundation Fund is committed to keeping America's musical future alive for future generations by supporting comprehensive programs that nurture the creation, performance, study and teaching of music. One way to help meet this commitment is the Grants program, funded through MTNA Foundation Fund endowments. These grants are available to MTNA members and affiliate organizations. Teacher Enrichment Grants are provided to music teachers for private study, specific college-level course work or other projects that will enhance the performing and teaching skills of the applicant. To find grant applications, follow this link:

<http://www.mtnafoundation.org/Grants/tabid/119/Default.aspx>

The deadline to apply is January 7.

### **MDML Calendar**

All meetings are held at Evola Music, 2184 Telegraph,  
Bloomfield Hills on Mondays at 10 a.m.  
Contact Arvi Sinka 248 689-3459

January 24, 2011  
Thomas Rosencranz  
Masterclass

February 28  
Derek Polischuk  
Creative Lessons for Adult Beginners

March 21  
Waleed Howrani  
The Teachings of Emil Gilels