

# Michigan Music Teacher

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PUBLICATION OF  
THE MICHIGAN  
MUSIC TEACHERS  
ASSOCIATION**

*Affiliated with the Music Teachers  
National Association*

Vol. LVII No. 4

June 2011

Dear MMTA Members,

Spring has arrived with the awakening of nature; unfolding leaves and buds about to bloom signaling to us that a change of pace is looming. Hopefully that means less strenuous schedules, allowing time to participate in summer seminars and festivals, to read, garden, travel, and practice more!

During the summer months our MMTA board work continues, most significantly for Vice President Gary Pedersen, who is fine-tuning preparations for MMTA's 126th Conference, scheduled from Sunday October 16th through Tuesday, October 18th at the Lansing Radisson and hosted by the Capital Area Music Teachers Association (see details in this MMT issue). I always come away from our conferences revitalized from the informative sessions, with cherished memories of conversations with colleagues, and am looking forward to that opportunity again in October.

MMTA has a summer board meeting scheduled on July 6th and members are welcome to direct any concerns or issues to the appropriate board member prior to that date. Know that our executive board regularly corresponds via email, enabling MMTA's business to continue between our scheduled sessions. We also welcome two new board members, Mary Vander Linde as MMTA Historian, and Barbara Collins as Community Outreach and Education Chair. Mary and Barbara are longtime members of MMTA, and both have served in other positions; we look forward to working with them again.

In late March I attended the MTNA Conference in Milwaukee as the representative for MMTA. The conference included a leadership summit that in previous years had been held in the fall, but which this year was transferred to an afternoon at the conference in an effort to cut down on expenses. It was an invaluable session, as was the East Central Division Meeting of MTNA, open this year to all members from those states (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin). East Central Director Amy Rose Immerman was assisted in leading this meeting by the Director-elect, MMTA member Gerardo Ascheri.

Conference highlights included our own MMTA members who presented sessions at the conference, namely Nancy Faber, "From the Pen to the Premiere;" Nancy and Randall Faber's session, "Faber Piano Adventures: Guiding Your Students' Piano Adventures;" Helen Marlais, "The FJH Music Company, Inc.: Succeeding At The Piano—A Method For Everyone!;" and Louis Nagel, "Liszt: Composer Of Other People's Music."

Another conference highlight was the Winners Concert of the MTNA Young Artist Performance Competition, which included The Akropolis Reed Quintet from the University of Michigan, coached by Jeffrey Lyman, and winner of the Young Artist Chamber Competition. An outstanding performance of "De Vrouw Die Eieren Uitbroedt" (translation: The Woman that

Hatches Eggs) by Chiel Meijering was given by Quintet members Timothy Gocklin, oboe; Kari Dion, clarinet; Matthew Landry, saxophone; Andrew Koepp, bass clarinet; and Ryan Reynolds, bassoon.

At the conference the University of Michigan collegiate chapter participated in a joint session with the University of Oklahoma's student chapter, planned mainly through email and Skype dialogues. The session, on "Liszt for the Advancing High-School Pianist," was presented by U-M students' Jani Ann Parsons, Jovanni-Rey de Pedro and Sonya Schumann. Those students, along with U-M students David Leifer, Lynelle James, Christine Choi, Nuri Oh, and Christina Liu, also presented a poster session on "Video Technology at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance." MMTA member John Ellis is the advisor to the chapter, which held a number of fundraiser events to help cover conference travel and lodging costs. Both sessions were well-planned and informative, and the students were warm and engaging. How proud we can be of the accomplishments of our collegiate MMTA members!

At the opening concert of the conference a new partnership between Carnegie Hall and The Royal Conservatory was announced, namely the Carnegie Hall Royal Conservatory Achievement Program (CHRCAP). Visit [TheAchievementProgram.org](http://TheAchievementProgram.org) for more information on this collaboration.

Attending the conference was a delight. I travelled with my husband and we fit in visits to the Milwaukee Public Museum, Ghost Ships Festival, Milwaukee Art Museum, which featured a display of Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural line drawings, as well as a pre-conference visit with relatives in the area. Summer plans should include such excursions...my best wishes for a change-of-pace summer filled with memorable activities!

Sincerely,

Penny Draper  
MMTA 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.

# MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHER

Official Publication of  
**MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

Affiliated with  
**MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

Dr. Stuart Foster, Editor, 1524 Columbine Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823

Submit materials to: [stuartdfoster@gmail.com](mailto:stuartdfoster@gmail.com)

MMTA Web Site: [www.michiganmusicteachers.org](http://www.michiganmusicteachers.org)

#### PRESIDENT

Dr. Penny Draper  
513 Woodland Drive  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
517-351-4632

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Garik Pedersen  
8766 Sleepy Hollow Drive  
Saline, MI 48176  
734-429-3439

#### SECRETARY

Dorothy Vogel  
405 W. 11th Street  
Traverse City, MI 49684-3145  
231-947-1700

#### TREASURER

Diana Spitnale Miller  
3352 W. River Dr.  
Gladwin, MI 48624-9730  
989-426-2644

#### PAST PRESIDENT

Dr. Adrienne Wiley  
4007 Washington  
Midland, MI 48642  
989-837-0903

#### PARLIAMENTARIAN

Christie Otter  
14735 Richfield  
Livonia, MI 48154  
734-464-3319

#### CERTIFICATION CHAIR

Debra Culver  
2635 Perry Lake Road  
Ortonville, MI 48862-8926  
248-793-3060

#### MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

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

#### LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS COORDINATOR

Cynthia Robertson  
P.O. Box 360  
Interlochen, MI 49643-0321  
231-883-5661

#### COLLEGIATE CHAPTERS COORDINATOR

Dr. Adam Clark  
2891 Riley Ridge Road  
Holland, MI 49424  
513-349-7993

#### TEACHER EDUCATION CHAIR

Sara Carriere  
3911 Edmonton Court  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
734-665-3322

#### AWARDS CHAIR

Jennifer Drake  
110 N. Lauderdale Drive  
Kalamazoo, MI 49006-4346  
269-373-4971

#### TECHNOLOGY CHAIR

Eric Van De Vort  
712 Sunset Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
734-883-8490

#### SAT COORDINATOR

Diana Munch  
22720 Nancy Avenue  
Southfield, MI 48033  
248-356-1274

#### SAT PIANO HANDBOOK CHAIR

Dr. Gerardo C. Ascheri  
2200 Groesbeck Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48912-3449  
517-485-1363

#### SAT AUDITIONS CHAIR

Margarete Thomsen  
8765 Eastham Drive  
Canton, MI 48187  
734-451-9678

#### SAT STRINGS CHAIR

Ruth Fry  
2102 8th Street  
Port Huron, MI 48060  
810-989-9516

#### SAT VOICE CHAIR

Elaine Yanz  
2998 Parman Road  
Dansville, MI 48819  
517-623-6083

#### SAT WOODWINDS CHAIR

Ann Decker-Beck  
12480 Glasgow Drive  
Romeo, MI 48065-4479  
586-752-0824

#### MTNA COMPETITIONS COORDINATOR

Lia Jensen-Abbott  
412 S. Clinton Street  
Albion, MI 49224  
517-629-2950

#### MTNA COLLEGIATE & CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITIONS CHAIR

Arvi Sinka  
407 Randall Drive  
Troy, MI 48085  
248-689-3459

#### MTNA SENIOR COMPETITIONS CHAIR

Lia Jensen-Abbott  
412 S. Clinton Street  
Albion, MI 49224  
517-629-2950

#### MTNA JUNIOR COMPETITIONS CHAIR

Gail Lytle Lira  
131 Oakland Drive  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
517-351-8402

#### MTNA COMPOSITION CHAIR

Mary Ann Anschutz  
5404 Sunset Drive  
Midland, MI 48640  
989-631-6833

#### CONCERTO COMPETITION CHAIR

Patricia Lobbestael  
55161 Washington Drive  
Shelby Township, MI 48316  
248-652-8917

#### NON-COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

Kelly Yoakam  
120 W. Sycamore Street  
Mason, MI 48854  
517-244-9433

#### MTNA FOUNDATION CHAIR

Alex Hanway  
889 Artdale Drive  
White Lake, MI 48383  
313-402-8916

#### INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHERS FORUM CHAIR

Thea Hoekman  
216 Southwoods Avenue  
Fremont, MI 49412  
231-924-1504

#### COMMISSIONED COMPOSER CHAIR

Charles Aschbrenner  
324 East 16th Street  
Holland, MI 49423  
616-396-4282

#### MTNA COLLEGE FACULTY FORUM REPRESENTATIVE

David Abbott  
412 S. Clinton Street  
Albion, MI 49224  
517-629-2950

#### COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION CHAIR

Barbara Collins  
4430 W. Water St.  
Port Huron, MI 48060  
810-982-4133

#### HISTORIAN

Mary S. Vander Linde  
1100 Fountain View Circle #1  
Holland, MI 49423  
616-396-5379

## ADVERTISING FEES

Full Page \$140.00

2/3 Page \$120.00

1/2 Page \$95.00

1/4 Page \$70.00

Less than  
1/4 Page \$60.00

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

## Change of Address

for

**World-Renowned**

**MMTA Treasurer**

**Diana Spitnale Miller**

3352 W. River Dr.  
Gladwin, MI 48624-9730

ph. 989-426-2644

Email remains the same!

[diana@ddmiller.net](mailto:diana@ddmiller.net)

## DEADLINE

FOR THE MMT IS

AUGUST 1

FOR THE

SEPTEMBER ISSUE

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](mailto:cheryl@cheryls-music-studio.com)

~ or mail to: ~

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

Hello Everyone,

I have some news from the MMTA Concerto Competition. Our Senior High MMTA Concerto Competition Winner Heather Shen has gone on to win the Michigan Youth Arts Festival Concerto Competition, sponsored by MSBOA. She will perform with the Youth Arts Festival Orchestra on May 13, 2011.

Congratulations from MMTA to Heather, and to her teacher Logan Skelton from the University of Michigan!

Respectfully,

Patricia Lobbestael, MMTA Concerto Chair

**State Piano & Voice Finals**  
**Michigan State University, East Lansing**  
**May 7th, 2011**

**Piano: Intermediate Division**

Charles Aschbrenner & Adam Clark, Adjudicators

First Place: Isabelle Lian, student of Izabella Vilensky  
Second Place: Heather Gu, student of Mary Siciliano  
Third Place: Joseph Mutone, student of Catherine Rollin  
Honorable Mentions:

- Rachel Mei Lanting, student of Annie Leong
- Beverly Fu, student of Wei-Qin Claire Tang

**Piano: Junior Division**

Kelley Benson & John Ellis, Adjudicators

First Place: Yuanzhe Zhong, student of Mary Siciliano  
Second Place: Caleb Lei, student of Mary Siciliano  
Third Place: Lucy Gao, student of Wei-Qin Claire Tang  
Honorable Mentions:

- Shannon Lin, student of Izabella Vilensky
- Ting Ting Chang, student of Izabella Vilensky
- Rachel Epperly, student of Jeanne Hanley

**Piano: Senior Division**

Panayis Lyras & Louis Nagel, Adjudicators

First Place: Sherman Scott, student of Catherine Rollin  
Second Place: Kangling Gu, student of Catherine Rollin  
Third Place: Carolyn Zhang, student of Catherine Rollin  
Honorable Mentions:

- Catherine Chang, student of Mary Siciliano
- Kathy Young, student of Catherine Rollin
- Michael Li, student of Ida Leshchinskaya

**Voice**

Julia De Rosa & Mark Gary, Adjudicators

First Place: Noelle Parlette, student of Kathleen Merrill Leach  
Second Place: Elizabeth Swaynie, student of Julia Ellis  
Third Place: Elizabeth Clutts and Ellie Munoz, students of Julia Ellis

## **126th MMTA State Conference**

### **October 16 - October 18, 2011**

Dear MMTA Members,

Preparations for the 126th MMTA Conference are in full gear. The conference opens on Sunday, October 16 at 1:00 p.m. (on-site registration beginning at noon), and continues through noon on Tuesday, October 18 at the Radisson Hotel Lansing at the Capitol, 111 N. Grand Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48933. Local host for this event is the Capitol Area Music Teachers Association, whose members are busy with the many behind-the-scenes details of conference planning.

This year's Conference Artist is Douglas Humpherys, one of the most respected and sought-after artist-teachers in his generation (see p.5 for bio and picture). I had the pleasure of observing him teaching a master class for young pianists when we were adjudicating together in Seattle a few years ago; the class has remained in my memory and he came immediately to mind as I began to plan my first conference. In addition to his recital and master class, he will present a session entitled "Notation = Character: Using the Details of Notation to Develop Personal Expressive Qualities in Performances of Classical Repertoire", using selected works by Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven. Our Conference Clinician is Christopher Azzara (see p.5), a pianist, arranger, author, and educator whose research and publications are concerned with encouraging meaningful relationships among listening, creating, improvising, reading, composing, and analyzing music. Christopher will inspire and challenge you as he provides practical new ways to integrate musical skills and content in our teaching.

Of course the conference will also feature MMTA/MTNA student winners in concert, the MMTA commissioned composition, and various break-out sessions. New this year will be a session presented by selected college music students hosted by Dr. Adam Clark, MMTA's student chapters coordinator. Proposals have been submitted and are currently being reviewed by a committee of our members. I've had a peek at the proposals, and am already anticipating the need for a larger room for this session!

The registration forms for the conference and for the conference hotel are on p.6 and p.7. Also please be aware you can register for the conference quite easily on our website, at [michiganmusicteachers.org/conference.php](http://michiganmusicteachers.org/conference.php). Be sure as well to check the website for a more complete listing of the conference schedule. I expect to have posted the complete schedule by the time you receive this newsletter.

In addition to these motivating sessions and outstanding concerts, our MMTA Conference gives the opportunity to connect and share ideas with many colleagues from across Michigan. For extending those visits, the conference hotel is located in beautiful downtown Lansing, near many restaurants and shopping areas. Valet parking at the hotel is convenient and complimentary.

I look forward to seeing you in Lansing in October!

Sincerely,

Garik Pedersen  
MMTA Vice President



**Professor Douglas Humpherys, Conference Artist**  
**Chair, Piano Department**  
**Eastman School of Music**

Douglas Humpherys was the Gold Medalist at the inaugural Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition. Since then, his performance career has taken him across Asia, Europe, North America, and South America. During recent years, he has performed solo concerts in many of the major cities of Asia, including Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul, and Tokyo. In Europe, he has concertized in the cities of Berlin, Hamburg, Moscow, Novgorod, Prague, Venice, and Dublin, with additional concert engagements in Germany, the Czech Republic, Montenegro, and Serbia.

In high demand as a teacher, he has taught literally hundreds of master classes at universities, conservatories, music academies, and festivals throughout the world. In addition, he has presented lectures to the European Piano Teachers' Association, the Music Teachers' National Association, the World Conference on Piano Pedagogy, and the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy.

A frequent adjudicator, he has served on the jury of the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition twelve times, and has also adjudicated the Cleveland International Piano Competition, the Rachmaninoff International Young Artists' Piano Competition in Novgorod, Russia, the Chinese 2005 National Competition in Beijing, the PTNA National Piano Competition in Tokyo, the Hilton Head International Piano Competition, and the Bösendorfer International Piano Competition. His experience in this regard led him to create and direct the Eastman Young Artists' International Piano Competition, which is held biennially in Rochester, New York.

Mr. Humpherys completed graduate degrees at the Juilliard School (MM) and the Eastman School of Music (DMA). In recent years, he completed appointments as Visiting Professor of Piano at the University of Michigan and at Yonsei University in Korea. In 2010 he was a guest-artist teacher at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. He has recorded a wide variety of repertoire on compact disc, and has been featured in live broadcasts of performances on affiliates of PBS Television and National Public Radio. Mr. Humpherys is listed on the Artist Roster of Steinway and Sons.



**Professor Christopher Azzara, Conference Clinician**  
**Chair, Music Education**  
**Eastman School of Music**

Pianist, arranger, author, and educator, Christopher Azzara has made important contributions to advancing the understanding of creativity and improvisation in the music learning process. An innovator in the area of music teaching and learning, Dr. Azzara is Professor and Chair of Music Education and Affiliate Faculty of Jazz Studies and Contemporary Media at the Eastman School of Music. Teaching and performing internationally, he is the author of numerous articles, arrangements, and books, including *Developing Musicianship Through Improvisation*, *Creativity In Improvisation*, and *Jump Right In: The Instrumental Series (GIA)*.

His research and publications are concerned with meaningful relationships among listening, creating, improvising, reading, composing, and analyzing music in vocal and instrumental settings. Dr. Azzara's work has appeared in journals such as the *Journal of Research in Music Education*, the *Music Educators Journal*, *Early Childhood Connections*, and in *The New Handbook of Research on Music Teaching and Learning (MENC/Oxford)*. He performs as a soloist and in various ensembles, including the Chris Azzara Quartet, and has played on and produced many studio and educational recordings.

In Rochester, he performs with free-lance musicians, members of the Eastman School of Music Faculty, and members of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. An active teacher and clinician, he has presented and performed extensively throughout the United States, and in Canada, Germany, France, Lithuania, Poland, and Japan. He has presented clinics and workshops in a variety of settings, including the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and leading music schools in this country and abroad.

Christopher Azzara is a native of Virginia and attended public schools in Fairfax County. After receiving his Bachelor of Music degree from George Mason University, he taught instrumental music in the Fairfax County Public Schools and performed as a pianist in the Washington, D.C. area. He later received a Master of Music and a Ph.D. in Music Education from the Eastman School of Music. Prior to joining the Eastman faculty, Dr. Azzara was a professor at The Hartt School of Music, Dance, and Theatre of the University of Hartford, CT.



**MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**  
**126<sup>th</sup> Annual State Conference**  
**October 16, 17, and 18, 2011 ~ Lansing, Michigan**  
**CONFERENCE AND MEAL REGISTRATION**  
(note online registration also available-  
<http://www.michiganmusicteachers.org/conference.php>)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEES:**

Advance Conference Registration: MMTA Member  
(registration after October 6 - \$ 65.00) \$ 60.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Advance Conference Registration: non-MMTA Member  
(registration after October 6 - \$ 75.00) \$ 70.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Registration: MMTA Member's spouse \$ 35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Student Registration Waived \_\_\_\_\_

**MEAL RESERVATIONS:**

Monday Evening Banquet: \$ 28.00 \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Pecan Chicken: Pecan, Mustard Crusted Chicken Breast, Leek Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable Medley, Madeira Jus

\_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Chicken Breast: Spicy Couscous, Fennel-Aopple Marmalade, Glazed Carrots, Cumin Jus

\_\_\_\_\_ Atlantic Salmon: Roasted with Wild Mushroom and Fingerling Potato Ragout, Green Beans, Vegetable Coulis

\_\_\_\_\_ Tricolored Tortellini: Tricolored Tortellini sautéed with Fresh Spinach in Marinara Sauce, Asparagus

Entrées include Market Salad, Assorted Bread Basket and Sweet Creamery Butter, Dessert, and Freshly Brewed Starbucks\* Coffee and Decaffeinated Coffee and Selection of Bigelow Teas.

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONFERENCE AND MEAL ADVANCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 6, 2011**

Please mail this registration form and check (payable to MMTA) to:  
Diana Spitnale Miller, MMTA Treasurer, 3352 W. River Dr., Gladwin, MI 48624-9730  
For more information, contact: Garik Pedersen, MMTA Vice President and Conference Chairman  
Phone (734) 487-1427 Email: [gpedersen@emich.edu](mailto:gpedersen@emich.edu)

**Michigan Music Teachers Association  
126<sup>th</sup> State Conference  
October 16 –18, 2011**



**RADISSON HOTEL LANSING**

Radisson Hotel Lansing at the Capitol  
111 N. Grand Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48933

**Directions:** From 496 west, take exit 7A to Grand Ave. Hotel is on the left.

**Check-in:** Reserved rooms are available by 4:00 p.m. on the day of check-in. Baggage storage available at the front desk.

**Reservation Information**

- **To receive group rate, you must identify yourself as a Michigan Music Teachers Association participant when calling to make your reservation.**
- Room reservations received after 9/15/11 will be subject to availability and higher room rate.
- **To Reserve Room, call** Radisson reservations at 1-800-333-3333 or call the hotel directly at 517-482-0188. Reservations may also be made by logging on to the web address at [www.radisson.com/lansingmi](http://www.radisson.com/lansingmi). Use the **Promotional Code: MMTA11** to receive the discounted group rate.
- **Radisson Hotel Lansing at the Capitol is a 100% non-smoking facility**

**Group: Michigan Music Teachers Association - October 16- 18, 2011**

- Please Reserve: \_\_\_\_\_ Rooms for \_\_\_\_\_ # of people **(Credit Card or Advanced Deposit required)**
- Request room with: King Sleep Number/Sofabed \_\_\_\_ Two Double Sleep Number Beds \_\_\_\_ Rollaway \_\_\_\_

Name:	<b>Rates</b>		
Address:	Single: 89.00	Double: 89.00	
Phone:	Triple 89.00	Quad: 89.00	
City	State:	Zip:	Plus state & local taxes, 13%
Will arrive:	Day	Date	Total per night: \$100.57
Will depart:	Day	Date	
Indicate payment type:	Credit Card	Check	Money order
Credit card type, number and expiration:			
Signature of card holder:			

## **New MMTA Historian**

I am the newly appointed historian for MMTA. Consequently I have recently received the scrapbooks showing the history of MMTA since 1980. I need the help of the membership to update the years since 2004 as there are very few articles, pictures, and programs since then. I am hoping some of you might have some articles for the book so there will not be a gap in the information.

Specific items needed:

Conference programs from years 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2008

Pictures from years 2004 to date of presentations to members for Teachers of the Year, Certification, banquet groups, or any items of interest pertaining to the history of the organization.

If you have anything you could send to me, I would appreciate it. Please let me know and we can make arrangements for you to get it to me. I would appreciate your identifying persons pictured and the occasion. I am in the 2010-2011 MMTA Directory with address, email address and telephone number. (Directories of previous years are incorrect.)

Thank you for your help. This organization belongs to all of us and its history should be documented for posterity to view.

Mary S. Vander Linde, NCTM  
MMTA Historian

## **Teacher Education Corner**

We all use humor in our lessons. Here are a few ideas I use and I'm always looking for more. For the new student who gets upset when he/she makes a mistake I laugh and say "aren't mistakes silly!". Then for the students who deliberately start making mistakes I never say that again. If Mark omits beats of silence I ask him to smile at me during the rests. He never leaves out that beat again. When Suzie can't play one hand detached and the other legato at the same time I ask her to scratch her nose while listening to the legato sound of the other hand. When Tommy can't remember a certain spot in his recital piece we play a card game. Each starting spot is assigned a number and we use a deck of cards to randomly play each spot. Students enjoy the card game while learning to start at different places and practice the tricky spots. One of my goals at every lesson is to get a smile from my students. They understand that we are laughing together as we share the learning process. Happy music making to all.

Sara Carriere  
Teacher Education Chair

## **Singing notes...**

"All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today" Indian Proverb

It is always an exciting experience when we have the opportunity to see something come full circle. If we garden...what delight to see the first green shoots emerge through the soil, germinating from seeds so carefully planted and watered. As those tender seedlings grow we continue the nurturing process by making sure there is adequate care and nutrients, and we continue to watch and encourage the growth of those delicate seedlings into strong and healthy plants. Anticipation grows as the plants begin to develop buds that will open into beautiful flowers, followed by the development of seeds that carries the potential of multiples of seedlings into the future.

We as teachers are much like gardeners as we encourage and nurture our students and watch them blossom into young musicians, ever developing their skills, broadening their knowledge, and growing in their love of music.

Last year we were fortunate to see two former students who had participated in the SAT Voice program come full circle and return as judges for the State Voice Finals. Both students had continued on with their education, each earning both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in vocal music. When invited to judge, they were eager and excited about being able to return as adjudicators ...they wanted to be able to contribute back to the SAT Voice program that they felt had helped and given them so much. This year another former student was invited to return to judge, but unfortunately she had to cancel because our Finals date conflicted with a rehearsal for an opera in which she will be performing. She, too, wanted to give back to the program that she felt had contributed to her successes in her advanced vocal studies, and was disappointed when the conflict arose.

The feedback from these wonderful young professionals has strengthened my resolve and personal commitment to the Vocal SAT program...to guarantee that it will continue, grow and become stronger...to continue to encourage local chapters to welcome the voice students to their testing site and to give them the same warm reception that they extend to piano students, allowing for the potential of marvelous opportunities for voice students to grow and flourish.

I would love to have you share your thoughts and ideas about how we might encourage the continued growth and development of the Voice SAT program. How can you make a difference? Would you be willing to share some of your very precious time to help with nurturing this program by serving on a committee (much could be done via e-mail) to search out ways to engage voice teachers across the state? How exciting it would be to bring new teachers into our wonderful MMTA organization from around the state!!!

Will you join with me in planting the seeds and nurturing those fragile young seedlings to become strong young plants that will be able to produce the beautiful flowering voices of tomorrow?

Elaine Yanz  
SAT Voice Chair  
(517) 623-6083  
yanze@fnwusers.com

**NEW IDEA! EASY TO USE! FUN!**

## **STEPS TO TECHNICAL SUCCESS IN PIANO MASTERY**

by **Cynthia E. Robertson N.C.T.M.**

*a step by step approach to learning scales,  
chords, cadences and arpeggios*



- lesson plans are done
- review is built in
- lots of details
- reward is built in
- motivation is built in
- use with any method
- seven books in the series

check us out at: [www.pianostepstosuccess.com](http://www.pianostepstosuccess.com)

### **MTNA Student Competitions Changes**

MTNA has made some changes for the 2011–2012 MTNA Student Competitions. The ages for Senior Piano Duet have been extended, as MTNA will now allow students age 11–18, as of January 1, 2012, with at least one student age 15–18. Also, the Chamber Music Competition will now feature two tracks—string and wind. The track will be determined by the majority of instruments that comprise each ensemble. Piano will count as a stringed instrument. The national finals for the 2011–2012 MTNA Student Competitions will take place March 24–28, 2012, at the MTNA National Conference in New York, New York. The application deadline is 12 MIDNIGHT, September 13, 2011. For more information, visit [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org). The MTNA Competitions Committee has compiled additional resources to make MTNA members more aware of this major component of our professional organization. Visit the competitions section of the MTNA website at [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org) for a series of brief communications to explain, explore and guide teachers and students.

### **MTNA General Liability Insurance**

Recital and competition season is just around the corner. Are you covered? Whether you are a local association getting ready for a competition at a nearby university or an independent music teacher getting ready for your spring recital at a local church, you need to be covered by general liability insurance. MTNA offers a blanket policy for local and state-sponsored events. The process is simple—all you have to do is visit the MTNA website, click the right-hand submission form link, complete and submit the form. If you are an independent music teacher hosting your student recital outside of your home, be sure to check with the venue to find out if you need your own general liability insurance. This coverage can be purchased through your local insurance agent. If you already have general liability insurance for your studio, then a quick phone call to your agent, transferring temporary coverage to the new venue, is all that is needed.

### **I AM INTERESTED IN THE MMTA CERTIFICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

***Make Check for \$5.00 Payable to MMTA***

Send to:

DEBRA CULVER  
2635 PERRY LAKE ROAD  
ORTONVILLE, MI 48462  
(248) 793-3060  
[culverpianostudio@gmail.com](mailto:culverpianostudio@gmail.com)



The Akropolis Reed Quintet at the MTNA Winners' Concert  
 Left to Right: Matthew Landry, saxophone; Timothy Gocklin, oboe; Ryan Reynolds, bassoon; Kari Dion, clarinet; Andrew Koepp, bass clarinet (Univ. of Michigan, coached by Jeffrey Lyman)

**Penny's Pictures**  
 from the  
**2011 MTNA Conference**  
 in  
**Milwaukee, WI**  
 [with additional photos posted on our website]



(UofM graduate) Jessica Johnson, Randall and Nancy Faber, (former MMTA President) Joann Smith, and Penny Draper



...a chance meeting in the hallway: Mary Siciliano, Betsy McCabe, Gerardo Ascheri and Penny Draper