

Michigan Music Teacher

**PUBLICATION OF
THE MICHIGAN
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION**

*Affiliated with the Music Teachers
National Association*

Dear MMTA Members,

Writing to you in November and I'm still basking in the afterglow of the 126th MMTA Conference...what a noteworthy event! MMTA especially thanks Vice President Gary Pedersen for his creative thinking and careful attention to the many details involved in conference preparations. Best of all, we have Gary for yet another year as vice president, and I'm already looking forward to attending his next "creation," namely the 127th MMTA Conference, to be hosted by the Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild. Do fill out the online form emailed to all MMTA members with suggestions for future conferences, or print it out and mail it in so that our membership's "dream" conference can become a reality.

I would also like to thank my "home" chapter, the Capital Area Music Teachers Association, for hosting this year's conference, with special thanks to our visionary conference co-chairs, Gerardo Ascheri and Elaine Yanz, along with fellow committee members Amber Redoutey and Gail Lytle Lira. Those of you who have served as local MMTA conference chairs are well aware of the amount of organizational and volunteer hours that are required of chapter members in order to host a conference, and we are deeply grateful for that generous gift of time.

At the conference, clinician Christopher Azzara's in-depth sessions on improvisation were informative and invited participation, with each session building on the last, a mini-course, so to speak. Conference artist Douglas Humpherys' concert

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performance was exquisite, and his master class reflections left me wishing for more time to listen and learn from his musical insights.

Conference recitals and concerts are always highlights, and this year was no exception. How wonderful to hear our talented Michigan SAT and Concerto Competition Winners, and MI MTNA student and Young Artist Winners. We can be so proud of the level of teaching in the state of Michigan amongst our MMTA colleagues. Likewise, we can be proud of our Michigan composers. MMTA commissioned composer Daniel Knaggs is a Michigan native with a music degree from the University of Michigan. His "Streams for String Quartet," premiered at the conference, is a descriptive composition, depicting, in Daniel's words, the "sprays, droplets and mist...rippling and glistening splashes of color" that are heard in the composition (it's obvious that Daniel also has a talent for written descriptions).

The local artists' recital, "Scherzi senza complicazione," aptly fulfilled the requirements of light-hearted humor in music, presented by Michigan State University faculty artists Richard Fracker, tenor; Melanie Helton, soprano; Joseph Lulloff, saxophone; and Derek Polischuk, piano; along with Olivet faculty member Julia DeRosa, soprano; Takis Pizanis, piano; with a finale by the Michigan State Klezmerim, namely Will Cicola, clarinet; Ben Fuhrman, violin; Dilek Engin, viola; Kayla Cicola, tsimbl; and Tim Patterson, bass.

A new feature at this year's conference, conceived by Gary Pedersen and organized by Adam Clark, MMTA Student Chapters Coordinator, was the inclusion of selected presentations by students from Eastern Michigan University, Michigan State University, and the University of Michigan. How refreshing it was to hear our collegiate pedagogy students describe their research projects. We thank them, and we are also appreciative for the support and guidance of their advisors in this endeavor.

President's Letter cont. p.3

NOTE Information regarding submission of articles and ads may be found on page 2.

Please send all copy to the editor by the due date.

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

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~ or mail to: ~

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

President's Letter, cont. from p.1

Thank you as well to members who participated in the SAT Breakout Session at the conference, namely, Jill Christian, Annie Leong, Eric Van De Vort, Adrienne Wiley and Patricia Willwerth; and to Debra Culver in leading the certification breakout session. Past President Adrienne Wiley's session on "Choosing Repertoire for SAT: Beyond Clementi, Op. 36, No. 1" (and yes, I am teaching all three movements this year) was packed with interesting pieces interspersed with Adrienne's wonderful sense of humor.

At the MMTA Banquet, the following Teachers of the Year were recognized: Darlene Ebersole by the Livonia Area Piano Teachers Forum; Debra Culver by the Metropolitan Detroit Musicians League, and Mary Vander Linde by the Holland Piano Teachers Forum. These teachers were given the highest honor in recognition of service by their colleagues. And last, but not least, MMTA's 2011 Distinguished Service Award was presented to Eric Van De Vort, a colleague I've come to know well through the emails that he forwards to me on a daily basis regarding the business of running MMTA. Eric has worked diligently and tirelessly as webmaster to make our organization more efficient and informative. His keen wit and clear thinking are particularly valued, in short, he is an MMTA treasure (OK Eric, I can hear you chuckling, but it's true)!

On a sad note, MMTA has lost member Jean Hull, who died on November 17 from the complications of Alzheimer's disease. Jean was indefatigable in her service to MMTA, and for me, a consummate teacher and mentor, not once but twice, as I was her student, and later sent my daughters to study with her. In the last issue of the MMT I wrote about Jean and other MMTA colleagues who have served as models for me. I am especially grateful now that I visited Jean in October. I gave her a rose and a copy of the MMT article, reading the highlighted paragraph aloud to her. At that visit she retained her usual graciousness despite the severity of her condition. So often in the field of teaching, those we reach might not have occasion to acknowledge the influence...in this instance, I was fortunate to be able to do so.

As November rolls into December and the year's activities come to a close, my best wishes for the coming holiday season, and may the new year bring all of us continued musical growth and success in our professional endeavors.

Sincerely,

Penny Draper
MMTA President

Message to Local Presidents (and all members)

Subject: Hard Copies of the MMT

Motion from the last MMTA board meeting:

Members will be given the option to receive a hard copy of the MMT. (Barb Collins moved/Thea Hoekman seconded) Motion passed.

Please consult the members of your local association to determine if at this point in time there remain any members who would like to receive a hard copy of each MMT. For about a year and a half now, the MMT hasn't been mailed to anyone, and this has been saving our organization a lot of money; but this system only works if the appropriate "infrastructure" exists in our local associations to print out hard copies for all members who do not use email or who for some other reason wish to receive one. It was decided at this recent meeting that the *June MMT only* will be mailed to all members, having important conference information as it does, and so it is essential then that members who do not use email have access to the other three issues of the year.

2011 MMTA CONFERENCE



**MTNA and MMTA Winners' Recital
Sunday, October 16, 2011**

From Our Vice President

Dear MMTA Members,

Thank you to all who made our 126th State Conference so successful!

We are now on our way to planning an even bigger and better event in 2012. The location is Ann Arbor, our hosts are the Ann Arbor Piano Teachers Guild, and the dates are October 21-23, 2012. Most of you know that A2 is a wonderful place to visit any time of the year, so begin planning now for next fall. We are currently negotiating with venues and presenters - watch your next MMT for more information.

In the meantime, please complete the post-conference evaluation for all members of MMTA. As you will see from the form, virtually every aspect of the conference (dates, length, format, cost, schedule, etc.) is "on the table," and we are listening to our members who have not attended our conferences, to find out what we can do to bring you in, as well as those who attend, to keep you coming. Click on this link,

<http://www.michiganmusicteachers.org/conferenceSurvey.php>,

to complete the survey online. There is also the option to download a hard copy of the survey for those members who prefer to mail in their response. Thank you to many of you who have already responded. I look forward to reporting the results in the March MMT.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous new year,

Gary

Garik Pedersen
MMTA Vice President

2011 MTNA Michigan State Competitions

MTNA Competitions Coordinator: Lia Jensen-Abbott

Junior Competitions

Piano:

Winner: Heather Gu (Mary Siciliano)
Alternate: Steven Cheng (Faye Mao)
Honorable Mentions:
Demi Yang (Faye Mao)
Katherine Lee (Faye Mao)
Jennifer Zhang (Faye Mao)
Elizabeth Xiong (Catherine Rollin)

MTNA Junior Competitions Chair: Gail Lytle Lira

Senior Competitions

Piano Solo:

Winner: Jiyuan Zhang (Thomas Lymenstull)
Alternate: Ricardo Acosta (Michael Coonrod)
Honorable Mentions:
Vivian Anderson (Logan Skelton)
Chao jun Yang (Michael Coonrod)
ZiQing Huang (Faye Mao)

Woodwinds:

Winner: Jordan Lulloff, saxophone (Joseph Lulloff)
Alternate: Jeffrey Allardyce, saxophone (Jonathan Nichol)
Honorable Mention:
Jacob Hewitt, saxophone (Jonathan Nichol)

Brass:

Representative: James Long, euphonium (Kenneth Kroesche)

Strings:

Representative: Deen Adzemovic, violin (Solomia Soroka)

Voice:

Representative: Marina Kondo, soprano (Shinko Kondo)

MTNA Senior Competitions Chair: Lia Jensen-Abbott

Young Artist Competitions

Brass:

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

Piano:

Winner: Jeannette Fang (Logan Skelton)
Alternate: Hsun Chia Lee (Louis Nagel)
Adjudicators: Tom Lymenstull
Alexandra Mascolo-David
Giuseppe Lupis

MTNA Young Artist Competitions Chair: Arvi Sinka

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2011 MMTA Distinguished Service Award

Eric Van De Vort, recipient

Eric Van De Vort began studying piano in his native state, California, at age 10. During his teen years piano playing took second fiddle, so to speak, to his interest in surfing the beaches of Southern California. There was some conflict of interest in being outside on a surfboard, or inside on the keyboard.

Then another conflict entered his life. When he was 20 years old, a calling came that he could not ignore! The U.S. Government called him into the Army, and then in a stroke of weird karma, sent him to Vietnam in his new role as a Pianist in a Marching Band. The Army, struggling to outdo itself, decided to give Specialist 4th Class Van De Vort a pair of cymbals to help pacify the natives in Vietnam. He did see one piano while in Vietnam, in an old recording studio in the city of Hue. Eric's time in Vietnam was split between playing in the 101st Division Army Band, flying in helicopters from pillar to post, and performing other military duties such as guard duty, patrols, and K.P. After 10 months of 'performances' in Vietnam, he was released back into California, where he decided the piano was calling him to stay indoors.

At this point, Eric began to study with Earls Voorhies in Southern California, and finished his Bachelor of Music in piano performance at California State University at Fullerton. His experience in the Army was valuable in two respects. The G.I bill paid for part of his college education, and his experiences in Vietnam left him a bit anti-social ... so he was able to dedicate himself to the piano from 5 - 12 (!) hours a day. He was rewarded with a scholarship to UC Fullerton, and an introduction to the world of classic piano repertoire from a great teacher. At this point, we can say practicing and performing on the piano was the life raft that brought him back into the 'civilized' world.

Moving to Michigan in 1972, Eric attended the UM School of Music. He studied with Charles Fisher and Bob Hord. Living and teaching in Ann Arbor since that time, he has enjoyed the musical life of Ann Arbor, and the beauty of Michigan. As an Independent Piano Teacher, he has had a studio in Ann Arbor since his grad school days. He has enjoyed belonging to the MTNA since 1970, and has been a member of MMTA since the early 70's.

As MMTA President (1980-1984), Eric met many piano teachers across the state and nation. As a result of meeting other teachers, he was invited to judge in local, state, national, and international piano competitions. He was also invited to teach piano master classes for various groups of teachers and students. He particularly enjoys teaching pre-college student master classes. His present class of students includes ages from 7 to retired adults, an eclectic mix.

Eric is now back on the Board of MMTA as Technology Chair, essentially managing the MMTA website. Since his first Mac in the early 1980's, he has tried to keep current with developments in computer technology and its uses for managing and sorting data. Early interest in surfing the beaches of California has now turned to interest in surfing the web on the internet.

MTNA

MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

UNIVERSITY OF
MICHIGAN
Collegiate Chapter

Prof. John Ellis
ADVISOR

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Jovanni-Rey de Pedro
PRESIDENT

To the Members of Michigan Music Teachers Association,

Jani Ann Parsons
VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings from Ann Arbor!

Sonya Schumann
TREASURER

On behalf of the University of Michigan's MTNA Collegiate Chapter and our Faculty Advisor, Dr. John Ellis, I am excited to invite you to the 2012 Piano Pedagogy Symposium featuring MTNA Collegiate Chapters! This event, which will be held at U-M's School of Music, Theatre and Dance from January 21-22, is a brainchild of last year's MTNA National Conference where several chapters expressed a passion about creating bridges of communication and sharing of research between members.

Christina Liu
SECRETARY

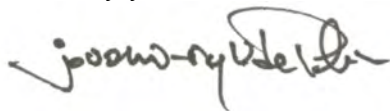
Our goal in this inaugural meeting is to promote the current research and achievements of collegiate chapters throughout the country by showcasing them in presentations and poster sessions. Additionally, students in our Piano Pedagogy Laboratory Program (PPLP) will perform for faculty advisors in attendance who wish to give a short teaching demonstration.

John Boonenberg
Ammon Bratt
Christine Choi
Britny Clark
Gjergji Gaqi
Brian Keng-Lun Hsu
Hya-Jin Hwang
Lynelle James
Han Byul Jang
Han Cheol Kang
Do Yeon Kim
Ji-Hye Kim
Mi Hyun Kim
Moon Kyoung Kim
Faith Loewe
Hayeon Park
Peter Seajong Shin
MEMBERS

Although focused around MTNA Collegiate Chapters, the weekend is open to everyone. With the generous support of the Carnegie Hall/Royal Conservatory Achievement Program, all events and meals are free of charge for registered participants. Detailed information and registration can be found at our Symposium website at www.ummtna.wordpress.com. Please note that registration deadline is Friday, January 6, 2012.

We hope that you can join us for this historic event, and thank you in advance for your support!

Sincerely yours,



Jovanni-Rey V. de Pedro
President, MTNA Collegiate Chapter
The University of Michigan
jdepedro@umich.edu

SAT Handbook Revision

FOREWORD (1998 Student Achievement Testing Handbook)

The Student Achievement Testing Handbook offers the teacher of applied music an organized and logical sequence of material which will provide the student with a well-rounded understanding of music from his or her first days of lessons through high school. The handbook is not an exhaustive list of topics a teacher might choose to cover during those years, nor does it dictate any specific way of teaching the materials. Rather, it is an opportunity for every teacher to adapt the outlined subjects to his or her own teaching style and situation.

Continuing in this tradition, the SAT Handbook Revision Committee is dedicated to reviewing our current handbook to examine level requirements and maintain or change what seems beneficial. We feel honored to be a part of this project and ask that each MMTA member feel free to express your ideas with a committee member so that our work may reflect a statewide consensus.

A few of the highlights from our State Convention meeting:

- * Open the program to adults
- * Desire to keep this program accessible for all students – not just outstanding high achievers
- * Include some functional harmony as part of the Theory test
- * Including in the Technique test scales played with different articulation, dynamics, etc.
- * Introduction of rhythmic and melodic dictation at earlier levels

Committee Members:

Gail Davis Barnes, chairperson	Pat Lobbestael
Gerardo Ascheri	Sheryl Iott
Barbara Collins	Diana Munch
Donlea Dommer	Paula Richardson
Beatrice Ellis	Mary Vander Linde
Thea Hoekman	George Widiger
Maria Lonchyna-Lisowsky	Eric Van De Vort

Our next meeting will be January 22, 2012.

Teacher Education Corner

At the conference I was excited about how technology can be used in our teaching. I had a great conversation with a colleague at the Fall MMTA conference who said that her students bring their ipads to lessons in order to record passages or whole lessons. My students don't seem to own ipads so I use a flipcam to video the correct way to play a passage and then put it on my Google page site for them to study. They don't seem to listen to the CDs that come with the book, but they are watching and listening to my videos. Now I have my studio calendar on my Google page site so hopefully parents won't forget the next studio class. I have begun using an old-fashioned tape recorder to record a student's missed note when they tell me they played it correctly. The audio is better quality than the flipcam and they don't argue with the recording. Does anyone use the service Pandora for listening to music? Does anyone use the applications of metronome, tuning, or recording that can be found for iphones? We would love to read about your success with technology in our next newsletter. Stayed tuned!

Sara Carriere
Teacher Education Chair

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