

# Michigan Music Teacher

PUBLICATION OF  
THE MICHIGAN  
MUSIC TEACHERS  
ASSOCIATION

*Affiliated with Music Teachers National Assn.*

Vol. LIV No. 4 June 2008

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members,

Greetings and best wishes to all of you as we enter the summer season. We wish you safe travel if you vacation or have commitments away from home, great success if you are planning a special summer project, and well-earned time for rest and relaxation. Thank you again for sending your local chapter newsletters and announcements. I have enjoyed reading about the great ideas each local chapter has used this season!

Please note we have several changes in membership of our Board Members. Congratulations and welcome to Gerardo Ascheri (Capital Area MTA)

Piano Handbook/Testing Committee Chair, Amy Dykhouse (Grand Traverse MTA) SAT Auditions Chair, Arvi Sinka (Metropolitan Detroit Musicians League MTA) MTNA Collegiate and Chamber Music Competition Chair.

Congratulations to the students and their teachers that qualified for participation in the Student Achievement Testing Semi-Finals, April 19<sup>th</sup>, and Finals, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Your diligent efforts to reach this level of accomplishment do not go un-noticed! Our appreciation goes to Penny Draper and Amy Dykhouse, for their organizational skills, time, and nurturing extended to our accomplished students.

This year we have had the privilege of partnering with the Birmingham-Bloomfield Orchestra and Evola Music Centers to award our Senior Piano Concerto Winner, J. Bennett (teacher, Logan Skelton) an opportunity to perform with the orchestra on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. The concert was held at Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Mr. Bennett performed Rachmaninoff Concerto No. 1, First Movement. This concert was very well attended and most inspiring.

Great News! We have been invited to partner again in 2009! This event was to be available every two years, but I am happy to announce the change by the BBSO Board to make this award available again next year - the invitation was very well accepted by the MMTA Board in April! Competition Date – Feb. 1, 2009 – Performance Date – May 10, 2009.

Twenty MMTA members attended the

MTNA Conference in Denver, Colorado March 29<sup>th</sup> – April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The enlightening workshops, presentations, and concerts were enjoyed by all. One of the highlights was the presentation of the MTNA Fellow status awarded to Eileen Keel, which was accepted by her daughter. A very moving ceremony, especially to those who knew Eileen.

Barbara Collins, our MMTA 2007 Distinguished Service Award Recipient, was presented and recognized as our representative to receive an "Educator of the Year Award" at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival held at Western Michigan University. Each member organization of the Michigan Youth Arts Council was invited to name one of their members as a recipient of this award presented on May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Festival.

Our appreciation goes to Gerardo Ascheri for organizing the master class event that took place at the Youth Arts Festival. This is one of the ways MMTA participates at this event.

Have a wonderful, musical summer!!

*"Music is in the air, you simply take in as much as you want!"*

*Attributed to Edward Elgar*

Sincerely,

Isabelle Tulk, 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

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Submit materials to: [MMTAnewsletter@aol.com](mailto:MMTAnewsletter@aol.com)

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

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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.



## DEADLINE

FOR THE

MMT IS AUGUST 1

FOR 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, (810) 385-9888



## Notes from the Vice President's Desk.....

Greetings MMTA members! It HAS been a while since you have heard from me last, and I have been doing a lot of thinking (my family usually groans largely at this, giving me, of course, a hard time), and planning (that my family acknowledges I am relatively good at!). At any rate, I have been hard at work planning the 2008 Conference. Most of my conference planning has been occurring at the prime times of my son's, Cameron, golf practice sessions. Yes, even during the winter season, one CAN practice golf indoors in a golf dome, no less. Granted, I was the only person there that did not carry clubs: I brandished my handy-dandy note-pads, file folders, and assorted conference information in a not-so-very-fashionable bag that screamed out that I was NOT golfer, but instead some kind of teacher-nerd and Golf Mom. So, would you like to hear about the conference?

I am so excited and pleased to showcase at the 2008 Conference MTNA's President Gail Berenson! She will be presenting three sessions: "Strategies for Handling Performance Anxiety;" "An Injury-Preventative Prescription: Healthy Practice Strategies;" and "The Art

of Communication: Nurturing Resourceful and Spirited Students." We will also have the privilege of hearing William Westney as well (we are negotiating his sessions, thus they will appear in the September newsletter). Other presenters will include Maria Holian who will provide a session on "The Anatomical Basis of Performance." This will feature an in-depth look at the major joints and muscle groups involved in a performance situation. There is one more session that is "under construction" right now, so I have to decline to say anything further on it. (cliff-hanger . . .)

The Piano Teachers Forum of Grand Rapids is our conference host. The opening recital that they have planned will feature guest pianist Michael Coonrod. We are most excited about that! To follow that, the Gala Banquet and recital will feature Leon Harshenin with an evening of the piano music of Chopin in an intimate lecture-recital format.

DO mark your calendars for the 2008 Conference: October 12-14, 2008, at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids. Now, with the weather perking up, I can continue with my conference plans in an attractive, yet versatile lawn chair on real grass while I monitor my son's golf practice! See you all soon!

Warmly,  
Adrienne Wiley, Vice President

## Keys to Imagination

is your resource for studio and home technology including:

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MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
123rd Annual State Conference  
Grand Rapids, Michigan  
October 12, 13, 14, 2008

CONFERENCE AND MEAL REGISTRATION

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

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

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

REGISTRATION FEES:

Advance Registration - Full Conference, MMTA Member \$60.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
(registration after September 20 - \$ 65.00)

Advance Registration - Full Conference, non-MMTA Member \$70.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
(registration after September 20 - \$ 75.00)

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

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

Advance Half Day - MMTA Member - Circle Sunday or Tuesday \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
(registration after September 20 - \$40.00)

Advance Half Day - Non-MMTA Member - Circle Sunday or Tuesday \$40.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
(registration after September 20 - \$45.00)

Half Day, MMTA Member's spouse \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

MEAL RESERVATIONS:

The Gala Banquet will feature:

Chicken Piccata: sauteed breast of chicken with lemon, butter, \_\_\_\_\_  
garlic, caper and white wine sauce served over angel hair pasta

Or:

London Broil: served with burgundy and port wine sauce \_\_\_\_\_

Or:

Vegetarian selection (chef's suggestion) \_\_\_\_\_

All meals will be served with salad and conclude with a special dessert.

Price per meal: \$27.00 which includes tax and gratuity.

TOTAL FEES: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send your registration form to: Mildred Muller, 1835 Pine Bluff S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49508**

MMTA 2008 Conference  
 Hosted by the Piano Teachers Forum  
 of Grand Rapids  
 October 12-14, 2008  
 Crown Plaza Hotel  
 5700 28th Street S. E.  
 Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546

2008 MMTA Conference

October 12

8:30-9:30 a.m. Executive Board Meeting  
 9:30-11:00 a.m. Full Board Meeting  
 12:00 p.m. Registration Opens  
\*MMTA Board and Member Displays  
\*Vendor Exhibits Open  
 1:00 p.m. Conference Opening, President presides  
 1:15-2:15 p.m. Teacher Education Session  
 2:15 p.m. Break  
 2:30-3:15 p.m. SAT Breakout Session  
 3:15-4:00 p.m. Certification Breakout Session  
 4:00-4:15 p.m. MMTA Business Meeting I  
 4:30-5:30 p.m. MMT/MTNA Winner's Recital  
 6:00 p.m. Dinner on Your Own  
 SAT Handbook Dinner Meeting

Local Association Presidents Meeting  
 Certification Meeting  
 8:00 p.m. Piano Teachers Forum of Grand Rapids Hosted Recital: Michael Coonrod and the MMTA, Commissioned

October 13

7:30-9:00 a.m. Advisory Council Meeting  
 8:00 a.m. Registration Opens  
\*Exhibits Open  
 9:00 a.m. General Session: Guest Clinician: Gail Berenson  
 10:15 a.m. Break  
 10:30-11:45 General Session: Guest Clinician: Gail Berenson  
 11:45-1:00 p.m. Lunch on Your Own  
 1:00 p.m. General Session: Guest Clinician: Gail Berenson  
 2:30 p.m. Break  
 2:45-3:45 p.m. Special Session: Guest Speaker: Maria Holian  
 3:45 p.m. Break  
 4:00-5:00 p.m. MMTA IMTF Session  
 5:30 p.m. Cash Bar  
 6:00 p.m. Banquet  
 8:15 p.m. Concert: Leon Harshenin, pianist  
 9:30p.m. Reception



**MMTA PIANO AND VOICE FINALS**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 03, 2008**  
**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC**

Congratulations to the following MMTA Piano and Voice Final Winners! MMTA is justly proud of the incredibly polished and advanced levels of performance given by our state winners, and the association is likewise proud of the exceptional coaching and training so evident in these outstanding performances.

SENIOR DIVISION WINNERS

First Place: Dylan Perez (Student of Joan Conway)  
Second Place: Steven Chang (Student of Mary Siciliano)  
Third Place: Austin Lo (Student of Catherine Rollin)  
Honorable Mentions  
Cwen Homa (Student of Deborah Moriarty)  
Sera Bird (Student of Renee Robbins)  
Adjudicators: Donald Morelock and Leslie Tung

JUNIOR DIVISION WINNERS

First Place: Annie Xiao (Student of Catherine Rollin)  
Second Place: Michael Li (Student of Ida Leshchinskaya)  
Third Place: Arianna Quan (Student of Catherine Rollin)  
Honorable Mentions  
Alim Leung (Student of Mary Siciliano)  
Mingquan Ma (Student of Kelley Benson)  
Marissa Uchimura (Student of Jill Christian)  
Adjudicators: David Abbott and Marie-France LeFebvre

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION WINNERS

First Place: Elizabeth Xiong (Student of Catherine Rollin)  
Second Place: Yuanzhe Zhong (Student of Mary Siciliano)  
Third Place: Laura Huang (Student of Izabella Vilensky)  
Honorable Mentions  
Augusto Suarez (Student of Meghan Schaut)  
Benjamin Moy (Student of Izabella Vilensky)  
Jaehee Lee (Student of Catherine Rollin)  
Adjudicators: Sara Carriere and T.J. Lymentstull

VOICE FINALS

First Place: Grace Cichy (Student of Julia Ellis)  
Second Place: Katie Essian (Student of Lisa Keim)  
Third Place: Rachel Kallman (Student of Julia Ellis)  
Honorable Mention: Kayla Silverstein (Student of Julia Ellis)  
Adjudicators: Larissa Gleason-Clark and Marilyn Hastings





## *EILEEN KEEL*

*Fellow*

*Music Teachers National Association*

**Oct. 10, 1941 - March 26, 2007**

In recognition of her dedication and service to the Capital Area Music Teachers Association, Michigan Music Teachers Association and the Music Teachers National Association, Eileen Keel was named a Fellow posthumously by MTNA on September 20, 2007. Eileen was recognized at the Music Teachers National Association Conference in Denver, Colorado on March 31, 2008. Eileen's daughter, Shelly Keel, accepted her plaque and pin on her behalf. Eileen's name will be included on another plaque along with the 2008 Fellows that will be permanently displayed at MTNA headquarters. In addition, she will be included in an article featuring the 2008 Fellows in the American Music Teachers Journal.

Through the generosity of Eileen's husband, John, CAMTA was able to donate \$1,000.00 toward MTNA's Foundation Fund, the minimum amount needed to nominate a fellow. This contribution will assist in funding MTNA programs such as: Teacher Enrichment Grants, Local Association Grants and MTNA National Student Competition Awards. Additional contributions to the Eileen Keel Fellow Fund can be sent to: MTNA Foundation Fund, 441 Vine St. Suite 3100, Cincinnati, OH 45202. (Include on the memo line: Eileen Keel Fellow Fund.)



2008 MTNA CONFERENCE

Left to right: Gary Ingle, Executive Director, Shelly Keel,  
Gail Berenson, MTNA President Board of Directors

## The Music Teachers National Association Foundation

You may wonder, “just what is the MTNA Foundation, and what does it do?” When the Foundation was first established by MTNA in 1989, its primary purpose was simply to help defray transportation costs of regional division student winners to our annual National Convention.’

The mission has greatly expanded since then. The Foundation provides funding for grants to enable teachers to further musical study or research, in addition to awarding student achievement, commissioning composers, and supporting grants to local associations.

Each fall our Michigan Music Teachers Association (MMTA) conducts a raffle; all funds collected from the raffle go directly to the Foundation. This cash collected becomes our state’s sole annual contribution to the Foundation. The gifts we award at the banquet are all donated by vendors, teachers, and local associations. Our annual raffle becomes a celebration of the joy of giving to the cause.

So this year when asked to purchase raffle tickets, remember, you are a part of the generous gift of providing for the future well-being of our students, fellow teachers, and local associations.

There’s more to share, such as “Foundation Fellows”; I’ll save that for another time!

See you in October!!!

George Widiger, foundation chairperson

## **MMTA SAT Announcements**

**All teachers entering students in the 2009 SAT Program must have paid national and state dues by November 1, 2008. An exception will be made for new MMTA members. The MMTA Board of Directors has approved this membership deadline requirement.**

**In regard to the 2009 SAT Program, a committee has reviewed recent test writing procedures, and has instituted measures to insure the expected quality of the 2009 tests, including timely delivery to local chapters.**

**Penny Draper  
MMTA SAT Coordinator**



April 8, 2008

Dear Isabelle Tulk, President of MMTA, and MMTA Members:

The Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra wishes to thank you and the Michigan Music Teachers Association for partnering with us in supplying the venue & event for the 2008 BBSO Young Artist Competition. We truly believe that the BBSO Piano Contest for the Young Artist reached a new level of competitiveness with applicants from all over the state of Michigan.

This year's winner, J. Bennett (teacher - Logan Skelton), performed at the May 4<sup>th</sup> concert of the BBSO to a warm welcome from the audience and from fellow orchestra musicians. "It takes a cooperative effort of many to pull together a competition and a final performance and special thanks goes out to MMTA, Evola Music and BASF," stated Rich Tropea, BBSO Chairman.

The Symphony also wishes to thank our historical partners that have always been with the BBSO to make this competition a reality. Those partners are Jim Evola, President of Evola Music, for his above-and-beyond support and

for supplying the grand piano for the concert performance and Fran Hecklen, VP Community Relations at BASF, for supporting the Young Artist's Award. It is through partnerships that ideas can become real. It is through friendships that music can be passed on to new students and future audiences. And it's through competition that the best of the best shine through to have an opportunity to perform with a professional orchestra.

We look forward to our 2009 Young Piano Artist Competition in partnership with the Michigan Music Teachers Association. As soon as the competition dates are available, we'll post the information on our website and encourage even more young artists to take the chance to make music.

Thanks to all involved and may music and harmony be strongholds in your lives.

Sincerely,

Millicent Berry, Young Artist Competition, Chair

Carla Lamphere, Past BBSO President & Executive Director  
Currently, Grant Writer & Corporate Development



### I AM INTERESTED IN THE MMTA CERTIFICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

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

Send to:

SALLY LEWIS  
9766 LONDOLYN BLUFF  
TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49686  
PHONE: (231) 941-8938  
E-MAIL: lewistvc@charter.net





# MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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