

Michigan Music Teacher

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From the desk of

Adrienne Wiley, MMTA President

Dear MMTA Members,

It is my honor and pleasure to write to you as your new President! I am thrilled and excited to be here to serve you and our organization! I am sure there are many things to be learned in this position, and well, that is why I am here! I AM excited to take on the new challenges and learn from them! Thank you for your support!

Special Thanks and Recognition: Thank you to *Isabelle Tulk* for her leadership as President! We are excited to retain her on the Board as

Past President and value her insight and experience that she has brought to the Association. Thank you also to *Gerardo Ascheri*, Past President! Gerardo is stepping down from the Board for the meantime, but is still active and contributing to the Association as a whole. We appreciate his hard work and diligence as a board member! Thanks to *Elizabeth Baxter*, Secretary, who is also stepping off the board. She has provided us with meticulous notes for each and every meeting in such a timely manner! We will miss her, but look forward to her contributions to the Association in other venues. Thanks, and more thanks, to *Millie Muller*, Treasurer, for her numerous years of service to MMTA. She has, hands down, made MMTA a financially solid organization and has truly organized us well! We will miss her greatly, but understand that it is time for her to move into different directions. Thanks Millie!

Welcome our new Vice President, *Penny Draper*! She will be awesome and her wealth of experiences and roles for MMTA will serve us well in the next two years! We are looking forward to her joining the Board! We welcome to the MMTA Board *Diana Spitnale Miller* as the new Treasurer! She will still retain her position as Technology Chair (web-techie!) and we are excited to include her on the board. Welcome *Dianne Klinger* as well. She steps in as our new Secretary! I am sure she will fill the "Secretarial Shoes" with great success! We welcome her! And, just hot off today's e-mail from Penny Draper comes the news that *Debbie Beachnau* will assume the leadership

of the SAT Coordinator. Debbie has been a solid contributor to MMTA in various venues, and we look forward to her energy and contributions to this position.

Conference Highlights: As the outgoing Vice President, I would like to thank the Grand Rapids Piano Teachers Forum for all of their time, energy, and hard work in hosting this year's Conference—BRAVO! All of the members were great contributors and the Conference would not have been a success without their help! Thank you! Also, this year's Conference offered up a variety of venues to explore and think about. Thanks to Gail Berenson, Bill Westney, Maria Holian, Mary Siciliano, and the Suzuki Education Program of Midland. Our hard-at-work MMTA members contributed to the SAT and Certification Sessions as well—"go teams!" (oops! it is that time of year in my house . . .) Two different and unique concerts were presented that may have been "out of the box"—what an experience to hear and participate in! Thank you to everyone that came to learn, enjoy, meet other teachers, make new friends, and just came to support MMTA!

Cont'd on page 4



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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Dr. Stuart Foster, Editor, 1524 Columbine Dr., East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 351-0030

Submit materials to: MMTnewsletter@aol.com

MMTA Web Site: www.michiganmusicteachers.org

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

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

SECRETARY
Dianne Klinger
10770 Plains Hwy.
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827
517-663-1560

TREASURER
Diana Spitalne Miller
1148 Cadmus Dr.
Troy, MI 48085
248-828-9920

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Isabelle Tulk
4755 Ravinewood Dr.
Commerce Twp., MI 48382
248-685-2613

CERTIFICATION CHAIR
Nancy Welshman
6303 Surrey Street
Portage, MI 48084
269-323-7693

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Cheryl Cameron
5514 State Road
Fort Gratiot, MI 48059
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**LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS
COORDINATOR**
Cynthia Robertson
P. O. Box 360
Interlochen, MI 49643-0321
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**STUDENT CHAPTERS
COORDINATOR - TBA**

TEACHER EDUCATION CHAIR
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3911 Edmonton Ct.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
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110 N. Lauderdale Dr.
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PARLIAMENTARIAN
Christie Otter
14735 Richfield
Livonia, MI 48154
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SAT COORDINATOR
Deborah Beachnau
553 Pacific Avenue
Lansing, MI 48910
517-484-2296

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

TECHNOLOGY CHAIR
Diana Spitalne Miller
1148 Cadmus Dr.
Troy, MI 48085
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Amy Dykhouse
9970 W. Cadillac Road
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DEADLINE

FOR THE
MMT IS FEBRUARY 1
FOR MARCH
ISSUE

All materials must be
received by the due date.

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Send to

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

~ or mail to: ~

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

Letter of Appreciation

Submitted by – Isabelle Tulk



Greetings to all,

I thoroughly enjoyed serving as your president for the past two years!! I felt very honored that you entrusted me with this important responsibility.

I appreciate all the cooperation extended from everyone so many times: those of you who were able to say “YES” when asked to fill positions of chairman-ships or committees; the wonderful ideas offered by so many; the duties so diligently performed by those of you who have already served many years!

Many of you extended help without being asked – just saw a need and gave a helping hand – and your actions have not gone unnoticed. Each person is an important member of this organization - all help is needed, no job is “little” in importance.

A very special thank you is in order for the Local Association Presidents/Newsletter writers – I really enjoyed receiving your newsletters and announcements!! Helped me know what was going on throughout the state. I am very aware of how special each and every chapter is – large or small, you are all very active!

I am especially interested in the many different ideas you have regarding student recitals and activities. Some of these ideas were featured in the Local Association displays at the Fall Conference. As you progress through the year try to remember the good opportunity you have to display your chapter activities at the fall conference – such a nice way to share ideas!!

The third item in our “Purpose” as listed in the State Directory is, “To promote a closer professional fraternity.” How often I have felt that bond these past two years – many of you I know well, some of you are new “friends”, among you are people I had met long ago but have come to appreciate in new ways — I have enjoyed every minute!

Sincerely,

Isabelle Tulk



In Memoriam

Maryan F. Abramsohn

1912-2008

Member of

**Metropolitan Detroit Musicians League
Livonia Area Piano Teachers Forum**

In Memoriam

Lenore Pearl Lanterman

1912-2008

Member of

Flint Music Teachers Association

President's letter cont'd from
Page 1:

Positions Open: We have several positions on the MMTA Board that need warm bodies! I would like to invite any and all persons to contact me about these positions, and DO ask questions, too. Your presence in these positions is an honor for us, and your contributions to the Association and to the Board are essential! The following posts need bodies: Student Chapter Chair; SAT String Chair; MTNA Competitions Chair; MTNA Senior Performance Competitions Coordinator; and MTNA College Faculty Representative.

Reflections: I write this to you prior to the elections, a most-talked-about subject everywhere today! My 12-year old's class at school has talked about them and even "voted" in class, and I am hearing much discussion from the college students as well. I guess that is a good thing and at the very least, people ARE talking about things.

As I write this to you I am, believe it or not, sitting at the golf course again! Yes, Cameron is out practicing as much as the weather permits before we have to practice indoors during the winter. This winter we will continue to address the fundamentals of golf: swing, stance, ball placement, alignment, etc., even in an indoor setting that is, admittedly, not as gorgeous as being outside in the warm sunshine. We are also undergoing a drastic change, and accepting the change as we go. It really bears a lot of thought, and pondering what the brain is all about, and because of this change,

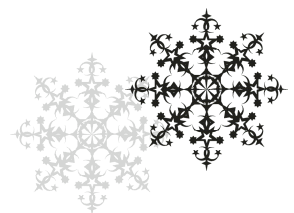
we have been researching hemisphere development, dominance of hands, and more. It has caused more reflection on my part for my teaching and playing as well. So, here is the news and change that we are now working with. Cameron started golfing at the age of two (plastic clubs—safe choice!). He watched a fair amount of the golf channel even then, and the first time he picked up his clubs, he hit from the LEFT side. We never changed this, nor did any of his coaches, because it looked so natural, and after reading all the brain-development material, most experts tell you NOT to change the dominance of hands if things are "going well". Over the course of time, we have invested in all sizes of left-handed clubs when he has outgrown the previous set. The past two years, however, he has had difficulty "seeing" the ball placement and the alignment (with respect to a target). We have struggled with this for two years While he had great success this summer, it was apparent at the end of the summer, it was just that, "the end." He still could not "see" from the left. We have a fabulous coach (LPGA) who has been talking with her other pros across the country about what has been happening and not working from the left side. A few weeks ago his coach suggested that he try out a club for a right-handed golfer and just see if he could actually hit the ball. Well, you might guess it, he didn't miss the ball, his swing was good, alignment, ball placement, target Oh my goodness! We saw the video of the left-hand version and the new right-hand version and now, yes now, we are changing to being right handed.

We suspect that in his early years of watching the Golf Channel, he saw and mirrored from the right-handed side; thus when hitting left-handed, he was mirroring the golfers he saw on TV in a backwards sort of way. Watching Cameron hit from the right side IS different. However, it still looks unbelievably natural, as if he always was a right-handed golfer. Cameron actually is right-handed, but there have been two sports that he has always (until now) played left-handed: golf and baseball. We are supporting him 100% in this endeavor and his coach believes that he has "it" to make it work! What a year for us!

So, I leave you with that lengthy (sorry) bit of information that I still continue to ponder today. From this recent development my reflections also take me back to graduate school when I injured my right hand (over-practice!) and had to switch to left-handed playing for 6 months. Through this process of seeing things from a different side of the piano, literally, and with one hand, I had a fantastic experience that has transferred to playing with two hands, and the end result is that my left is stronger than it was before that ever happened! We think that Cameron's transfer to right-handed golf will make him a stronger golfer in the long run! We will wait and see!

Best to everyone! Warmly,

Adrienne



MTNA Competitions

The Michigan MTNA Competitions were held at Michigan State University, on Sunday, November 9, 2008. Thanks for all the hard work on the students' and teachers' part in preparation for this event! Thanks, too, for our judges who spent the day listening to some very good playing! A huge thank you to our coordinators: Derek Polischuk, Junior, and Arvi Sinki, Young Artist. (Adrienne Wiley, Senior Interim Coordinator)

MTNA Junior Piano:

Judges: Lia Jensen-Abbott, Albion College; Audrajean Heydenburg, Spring Arbor College; and Zhihua Tang, Central Michigan University

Winner: Wayne Shu, student of Faye Mayo

Alternate: Catherine Chang, student of Mary Siciliano

Honorable Mentions: Kangling Gu, Annie Xiao, and Elizabeth Xiong, students of Catherine Rollin; and Michelle Liu, student of Faye Mayo

MTNA Senior Piano Duet:

Representative: Wei Rong and Shi Shi, students of TJ Lymenstull

MTNA Senior Strings:

Representative: Ken Kubota, student of Anthony Elliott

MTNA Senior Woodwind:

Representative: Zuri Elrington, student of Keith Gamble

MTNA Senior Piano:

Judges: Michael Boyd, University of Toledo; Laura Melton, Bowling Green State University; and Garik Pedersen, Eastern Michigan University

Winner: Allen Yuan, student of Arthur Greene

Alternate: Yesse Kim, student of Logan Skelton

Honorable Mentions: Christin Wu, student of Logan Skelton; Paige Li and Tristan Savella, students of TJ Lymenstull

MTNA Young Artist Brass:

Judge: Curtis Olson, Michigan State University

Winner: Nicholas Adragna, student of Kenneth Kroesche

Alternate: Eric Oleksiak, student of Kenneth Kroesche

Honorable Mention: Andrew Eden, student of Kenneth Kroesche

MTNA Young Artist Woodwind:

Judges: Bill King, Jessica Price, Michigan State University; and Bobby Streng, Albion College

Winner: Julia Neal, student of Caroline Hartic

Alternate: Matthew Tracey, student of John Nichol

Honorable Mention: Gary June, student of Arthur Campbell

MTNA Young Artist Chamber:

Judge: Joseph Lulloff, Michigan State University

Winner: Crescent Saxophone Quartet, Central Michigan University: Patrick Booth, Matthew Tracey, Kyle Landrey, and Jason Townsend. Coach: John Nichol

Alternate: Huron Saxophone Quartet, Eastern Michigan University: Christopher Kuhn, Bradley Fagniarz, Nicholas Councilor, and Michael Sobolak. Coach: Max Plank

Honorable Mention: Spectrum Saxophone Quartet, Central Michigan University: Alexandria Surnic, Kendra McKindles, Jordan Vanhemert, and John Yuhaszpratt. Coach: John Nichol

MTNA Young Artist Piano:

Judges: Robert Satterlee, Bowling Green State University; Pauline Martin, David Abbott, Albion College

Winner: Siyi Fang, student of Logan Skelton

Alternate: Julia Siciliano, student of Logan Skelton

Honorable Mention: Stijn De Cock, student of Logan Skelton

2009 MMTA Conference

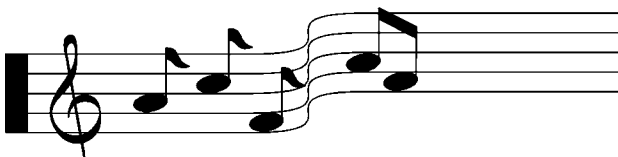
Dear MMTA Members,

Planning for the 124th MMTA Conference is now in progress! Please mark your calendars and reserve Sunday, October 11-Tuesday, October 13 for attending the 2009 conference in Bay City. For this event MMTA has booked the Doubletree Hotel, located downtown on the beautiful Saginaw River. Hospitality at the Doubletree includes being served a warm chocolate chip cookie upon arrival. Hotel amenities include a tropical pool and whirlpool room with river views. Outside the hotel guests can stroll the river walk leading to waterfront parks, or explore over 100 specialty shops and eateries within a short walk of the hotel.

Local co-hosts for the 2009 conference are the Bay Area Music Teachers Association and the Midland Music Teachers Association, with Beth Cook and Perri Harper serving as co-chairs, respectively.

At this early stage in conference planning any suggestions concerning possible clinicians, topics and programs are especially welcome. Please feel free to contact me via email (draperpe@msu.edu) or phone (517-351-4632) with ideas. I am looking forward to planning our 124th gathering!

Sincerely,
Penny Draper
MMTA Vice President



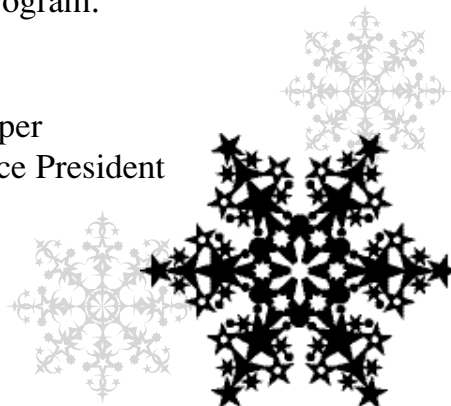
SAT Announcements

A reminder to teachers who participate in Student Achievement Testing. Please consult your handbook often to become familiar with the requirements of the SAT levels. For general guidelines of the various testing areas, see pp. 9-14.

A question that was raised at the SAT Breakout Session at the MMTA Conference regarding technique fingerings is clarified on p. 11, #4. "Some teachers prefer to teach scale and arpeggio fingerings other than the "traditional" methods. The test answer sheets use Hanon fingerings, so it is requested that the student tell the examiner if he/she plans to use alternate fingers. The teacher's preference should be respected." Hopefully this clarifies some of the "fingering" issues discussed at the session.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the MMTA Auditions Chair, and this past year as the MMTA SAT Coordinator. Future questions and concerns should be addressed to Debbie Beachnau, who has just been appointed MMTA SAT Coordinator. She has served as the local CAMTA SAT Coordinator, and in that capacity used her considerable organizational skills to restructure CAMTA's SAT program. She will be an efficient, organized coordinator who strongly believes in the benefits of the SAT program.

Sincerely,
Penny Draper
MMTA Vice President



Memories of the MMTA 123rd Annual State Conference
 October 12 - 14, 2008, Grand Rapids, Michigan



President Adrienne Wiley, Immediate
 Past President Isabelle Tulk, Conference
 Artist Leon Harshenin



Teachers of the Year:
 Wilma Swartz, Rochelle Goldman, Judith Wade,
 Linda Wotring Cuneo, Judy Vander Ark



Newly Certified Teachers:
 Ruth Fry, Debra Culver, Maria Holian



The new Executive Gang of Six (aka the EGOS):
 Christie Otter, Diana Miller, Adrienne Wiley,
 Isabelle Tulk, Penny Draper, Dianne Klinger



Isabelle and her happy workers:
 (seated from left) Mildred Muller, Diana Miller,
 Judy Vander Ark



Remarkably
 happy banqueteers:
 Maria Holian,
 Christina Dragone,
 Elizabeth Baxter,
 and
 Janice Derian

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Cheryl A. Cameron, MMTA Membership Chair

5514 State Road

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