

Michigan Music Teacher

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From the desk of

Adrienne Wiley

Greetings MMTA Members!

I have “the look.” You know, eyes open, “looking” aware . . . But really, for the past several minutes I have been thinking a lot about my students, my job, teaching, home, family The list of things could go on, and for the most part, I am still thinking . . . My thoughts, however, are abruptly interrupted by screams from parents next to me . . . “Go Mason! Make that shot!” or “How could you pass that ball so poorly!!!!?” or “Stupid Ref! That’s not a foul!” Middle-school basketball (Cameron plays basketball during the off-season of golf!). The list of expletives and/or comments contin-

ues on from both sides of the court: the parents on one side, the coaches on the other.

I am forced to sit and listen to the tirade of comments (although I am doing my best to block them out), mostly negative, but some positive, and this offers up a chance for me to reflect upon how our profession is so different, and thankfully so! Musical performances are treated quite differently. Can you imagine sitting in a performance where the parents, and even the teachers, are yelling out comments like “You should have played a B-flat there!” or “No, that’s the wrong fingering—I told you how many times to fix that??!!!” or “No, not the first ending—take the SECOND ending!” or even “How could you . . . !?” When the performance is over, it is done and you can’t take it back. My point(s): once we send our students out there to play, they are on their own. Our teaching, coaching, nurturing, motivating, and instilling confidence will pervade through their performance even without us saying anything out loud. We will never be able to provide a play-by-play account of our inner feelings out loud (like at sports events), but that is what makes our profession so credible and unique!



After Cameron’s game was over (I don’t remember if his team won or lost), the coach went on and on about how poor the playing was, not following directions given by coaches, not doing things correctly, etc. Maybe I am too much of a musician, but isn’t there anything positive to be said?!? I again recalled an incident that happened fairly recently: I attended a student recital, not too long ago, which was just very musical, a few memory slips, but overall featured fine playing and musicianship. I was a fly on the wall when the teacher spoke with the student following the program. The teacher’s comments were positive! Things like he “noticed” how the wealth of dynamics contributed to the character of the piece, or he “noticed” the depth of tonal control in the Chopin! That is just a little sample of some of the wonderful things that this teacher communicated to his student, and I was so pleased to be hearing this! Positive comments CAN go a long way! So, I don’t think we will be able to change the sports venue, but we can continue to “be” our profession well! There are, by the way, only two more tournaments that I will have to attend. Ear plugs will be packed!

NEW BOARD MEMBER:

Welcome David Abbott, Albion College, as our new MTNA Faculty Forum Representative. David is just getting his feet wet with the job, so stay tuned to future issues of the MMT. Also welcome his wife, Lia Jensen Abbott, Albion College, who is the new MTNA Senior Competitions Coordinator and Chair of the Michigan MTNA Competitions. What a great couple to have on board!

Con’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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Submit Ads to the MMT
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to MMTA. Fees are for one
issue only.



DEADLINE

FOR THE
MMT IS MAY 1

FOR JUNE

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

~ or mail to: ~

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

East Central Division Competitions Report 2009

The East Central Division Competitions were held January 16-18, 2009, at Oberlin Conservatory. The results are listed below. Congratulations to all participants!

Junior:

Piano:

Winner: Zhang Brook, Ohio
Teacher: Nina Polonsky
Alternate: Kate Liu, Illinois
Teacher: Micah Yui
Honorable Mention: Wayne Shu, Michigan
Teacher: Faye Mayo

Strings:

Winner: Austin Huntington, cello, Indiana
Teacher: Richard Hirschl
Alternate: Laura Park, violin, Illinois
Teacher: Almita Vamos
Honorable Mention: Hannah Moses, cello, Ohio
Teacher: Richard Weiss

Woodwinds:

Winner: Christine Murphy, flute, Illinois
Teacher: Hideko Amano

Senior:

Piano Duet:

Winner: Wei Shi and Rong Shi, Michigan
Teacher/Coach: TJ Lymenstull
Alternate: Chelsea Peng and Ellen Chuang, Ohio
Teacher/Coach: Christina Choy

Piano:

Winner: Brian Chang, Illinois
Teacher: James Giles
Alternate: Allen Yuan, Michigan
Teacher: Arthur Greene

Strings:

Winner: Emma Bobbs, cello, Ohio
Teacher: Melissa Kraut
Alternate: Thomas Huntington, violin, Indiana
Teacher: Shmuel Ashkenasi
Honorable Mention: Jia Rong, violin, Illinois
Teacher: Julieta Mihai
Honorable Mention: Ken Kubota, cello, Michigan
Teacher: Anthony Elliott

Voice:

Winner: Gabrielle Haigh, soprano, Ohio
Teacher: Marla Berg

Woodwinds:

Winner: Jennifer Zhou, flute, Ohio
Teacher: Beth Owen
Alternate: Ryan Zerna, flute, Illinois
Teacher: Hideko Amano

Young Artist:

Brass:

Winner: Nicholas Andragna, tuba, Michigan
Teacher: Kenneth

Kroesche

Alternate: Mariko MacKinnon, tuba, Indiana
Teacher: Daniel Perantoni

Piano:

Winner: Ka Man Ng, Wisconsin
Teacher: Christopher Taylor
Alternate: Mijail Tumanov, Indiana
Teacher: Ray Kilburn
Honorable Mention: Siyi Fang, Michigan
Teacher: Logan Skelton

Strings:

Winner: Javier Escalera, violin, Illinois
Teacher: Julieta Mihai

Voice:

Winner: Carl Frank, baritone, Illinois
Teacher: Caroline Smith

Alternate: Emily Holsclaw, soprano, Ohio

Teacher: Barbara Rondelli-Perry
Honorable Mention: Steven Linville, tenor, Indiana
Woodwinds:
Winner: Noa Even, saxophone, Illinois
Teacher: Debra Richtmeyer
Alternate: Spencer Prewitt, clarinet, Ohio
Teacher: Kevin Schempf

Chamber Music:

Winner: Hi-Def Saxophone Quartet, Illinois
Coach/Teacher: Debra Richtmeyer
Alternate: Indiana University Saxophone Quartet, Indiana
Coach/Teacher: Otis Murphy

Composition:

Elementary:

Winner: Katherine Plier, Wisconsin
Teacher: Kathy Dix
Honorable Mention: Kathryn Burrell, Ohio
Teacher: Amy Immerman
Honorable Mention: Danni Hu, Illinois
Teacher: Richard Zhang

Junior:

Winner: Steven Franklin, Illinois
Teacher: Alexander Djordjevic
Honorable Mention: Tenzing Mangat, Ohio
Teacher: Amy Immerman

Senior:

Winner: David Mamedov, Ohio
Teacher: Luba Fedorov
Honorable Mention: Jeffrey Sabol, Illinois
Teacher: Ron Surace

Young Artist:

Representative: Mihye Kim, Illinois
Teacher: Kyounglai Kim

President's letter cont'd from Page 1:

NEWSY ITEMS: Beginning in the next issue, we will be featuring a "Teaching Tips" corner edited by Patricia Willwerth. This is open to any and all MMTA members to contribute teaching tips that have been successful in your studios. Please look for this announcement in another segment of this MMT newsletter. Thanks to Pat for doing this!

Also: we will have a "Comment Corner," which is running in this issue. This is an open forum for MMTA members to contribute commentary relating to teaching, studio management, teaching and/or parent issues, etc. Featured in this issue is the commentary provided by Robert Buckhoe, who teaches up north. We appreciate his willingness to contribute these comments in this issue. Thanks Robert.

MEET THE PEOPLE: Beginning in this issue you will have a chance to get to know the MMTA Board Members. We see their names in print, but often don't really know what their day jobs are, let alone what they contribute to MMTA! In this newsletter you will get to know Christie Otter, Parliamentarian; Kelly Yoakam, Chair of Non-Competitive Activities; Jennifer Drake, Awards Chair; and Dianne Klinger, our new MMTA Secretary. Thanks ladies for contributing!

CONCERTO COMPETITION: Thanks to Deborah Moriarty for chairing this event. Please scout this out in the MMT for the results.

EAST CENTRAL DIVISION COMPETITIONS: Congratulations to all of the Michigan entrants! The results are posted here in the MMT and DO notice that Michigan was represented well.

MTNA NATIONAL CONFERENCE: This year's conference will be in Atlanta, Georgia, from March 28 through April 1. The East Central Division, of which we are part, will host its Division Meeting on Sunday, March 29, from 5:00-6:00 p.m. This is an open meeting and all are encouraged to come. The East Central Division will also host a reception just for us, but that is, for the moment, up in the air. When more specific information becomes available, this will be posted on the website.

For the moment, I think this might be enough to convey! I am honored to be in touch with you again and look forward to future newsletters to impart more of the inner workings of MMTA.

Stay warm, look for green grass (maybe brown), and forge on!

Warmly,
Adrienne Wiley, MMTA President

MTNA COMPETITION CHANGES:

MMTA Membership,

Please note the following changes that have been made and will appear in the 2009-2010 MTNA Competition Guidelines (These were discussed, voted on, and approved at the December, 2008 meeting).

2009-2010 Competition Changes:

1. Junior Brass competition has been discontinued.
2. The piano concerto requirement for the Senior and Young Artist levels has been discontinued.
3. The performance times have been modified to fit the performance requirements:
 - a. **Junior:** all students have twenty (20) minutes of performance time.
 - b. **Senior:**
State level: twenty-five (25) minutes for brass, piano, piano duet, string, woodwind. Voice will have twenty (20) minutes. Division/National levels: thirty (30) minutes for brass, piano, piano duet, string, woodwind. Voice will have twenty (20) minutes.

c. **Young Artist:**

State level: thirty (30) minutes for all categories. Division/National levels: forty (40) minutes for brass, piano, string, woodwind. Voice will have thirty-five (35) minutes.

d. **Chamber Music:**

State level: thirty (30) minutes. Division/National levels: forty (40) minutes.

4. Accompanist fees have been adjusted:

Junior: \$80.00 for forty-five (45) minutes rehearsal and performance (no charge).

Senior Instrumental : \$150.00 for sixty (60) minutes rehearsal and performance.

Senior Voice: \$90.00 for forty (40) minutes rehearsal and performance.

Young Artist Instrumental: \$175.00 for sixty (60) minutes rehearsal and performance.

Young Artist Instrumental: \$200.00 for ninety (90) minutes rehearsal and performance.

Young Artist Voice: \$175.00 for sixty (60) minutes rehearsal and performance.

COMMENT CORNER:

Our guest writer is Robert Buchkoe! Read and enjoy!

Recently our local schools were cancelled for two days in a row because of the cold. In this case the actual temperature was around zero, but the wind chill was around twenty below. When I went to school such cancellations were unheard of. I remember kids with 2nd-degree frostbite waiting outside the school building for the doors to open promptly at eight. Nobody got sued back then.

But today, if the buses couldn't see more than two feet in front of them because of blizzard conditions the schools MIGHT have been called off. But now, with the legally careful atmosphere of the state, schools are now closed down for the cold - so that the students can all go skiing!

Yes, it's not too cold to ski. There's never bad enough conditions for the kids to actually stay inside-just not go to school!

In my parent letter, which I distribute at the beginning of the year, I clearly state that "on snow days you can still have 20 lessons, but use your judgment, but call me if you AREN'T coming-I am home regardless."

So what happens on "snow days?" I usually find myself waiting around to see who shows up. In the event that a parent ACTUALLY READ the parent letter in September, they MIGHT think to call me.

Beyond that, the students who live in the neighboring towns (7-12 miles away) usually show up without question and the ones who live three blocks away stay home! Of course, if you live in one of those end-of-the-world Nordic towns, you are used to driving to everything, regardless of the weather.

Then there is hockey. People who live near the arctic circle like me know that hockey is as much a part of life as going to school and paying taxes. Yes, there are professional teams in California, Texas, and Florida, but even to those people hockey is somewhat a novelty sport. Because you are part of a team you can't miss practice or games. It is much more important than piano, dinner, or doing your homework. And there is

more than one league. There are different leagues for different age groups. The younger they are, the later they must have their "ice time." I have one middle-school student who often has to practice with his team from 10:00 p.m. until 11:30 p.m.—and he gets all "A's" in school. What he doesn't get is any sleep! His school even excuses the hockey students from the first hour or so in the morning after a late-night practice so they can sleep in!

I have nothing against sports or the health benefits they offer, but hockey, like boxing, is designed to hasten the early demise of the participants! The same sleepless student came in this week with a huge temporary bandage on his index finger from getting hit by a hockey puck. The cast would come soon after.

Hockey is also detrimental to the family finances. The kids outgrow their uniforms every one or two years and they have to pay for ice time. If the kid is on a "travel hockey" team your family life is pretty much over. Almost every weekend the parents must drive their child to the out-of-town games. They usually leave on a Friday and come back Saturday at midnight or Sunday sometime. They have to stay in motels and eat in restaurants. If they have two kids on travel teams the parents have to split up and take each kid to their game site. They also have to take out a second mortgage on their home - a practice that used to be reserved for paying for one's kid's college education!

Where do piano lessons fit in with hockey? The simple answer is the same place as the family home life. In other words, almost non-existent. The only other people with as much clout as hockey coaches are dance instructors-but fortunately, few kids are involved with both simultaneously-though it does happen.

I may have digressed, but our "sub-zero" temperatures have contributed to a winter-sports-oriented culture and we are made of strong stuff because of it. Years ago my cousin moved to San Antonio with her husband and they got a whole inch of snow! The town was paralyzed. In Marquette, Michigan if we didn't get an inch people would say "it didn't snow today."

Cont'd on page 8

“People Profiles”

Dear MMTA Readers,

There are many of our membership who willingly serve on the Board; however, most of us do not come in daily contact with them, nor do we know and/or realize what exactly it is that they do for our membership! I have invited several members from our Board to write a small segment about who they are, what they do, and what their responsibilities are for MMTA at large. Not only will this assist me in getting to know everyone better, but I hope that it will also provide an opportunity for you to hear about what they do for all of us in many ways! Read on and enjoy.

Warmly,
Adrienne Wiley
MMTA President



Dianne Klinger, MMTA Secretary

When I was in kindergarten Hazel Kowalk took me as a piano student. I think of her often as I practice and I have the framed drawings of twelve composers that hung in her studio hanging in mine now and some books from her music library, all handed down to me through a mutual friend.

At the time my two children started piano lessons with Miss Kowalk, I became interested in furthering my piano studies. I had more free time and was practicing diligently and became Miss Kowalk's adult student. She worked with me (and encouraged me to teach piano) until she stopped teaching due to poor health. She then suggested I study with June Huyser, and June has been my teacher and mentor ever since.

Through the years I have attended a multitude of workshops, lectures, master classes, conferences and concerts. A member of CAMTA since 1985, I've worked as CAMTA's Recording Secretary for two and a half terms - a total of five years.

Church music has been a huge part of my life, playing several instruments and coordinating special music presentations. Other interests include sewing and gardening and I recently started taking a watercolor painting class.

I'm learning as I go along about the responsibilities of being MMTA Secretary and look forward to working with all of you.

Jennifer Drake, Awards Chair

Hello from your Awards Chair! I have been serving in this position since Fall 2006. My job is fairly straightforward. I order all (and ship some) of those trophies, ribbons, and certificates that your students receive for participating in MMTA events. My busiest time of the year is when I do my part to keep the SAT machine running smoothly by putting about 4,000 certificates and seals in the mail to local chapters. By attending MMTA board meetings, I have learned a lot about how our organization works. Particularly, I have realized how many volunteer hours are graciously given by many members to help MMTA thrive. My hometown is Kalamazoo where I have a private studio of 17 students. I also enjoy teaching a few of the non-major piano students each quarter at my alma mater, Kalamazoo College. My family includes my husband Hugh and 2 sons, Owen age 8 and Ellis age 5. Teaching and taking care of my family takes up most of my time, but when I get the chance I love to cross-country ski, bike ride, and attend many of the great concerts and recitals that take place in Kalamazoo.

Kelly Yoakam, Chair of Non-Competitive Activities

As chair of the non-competitive activities, Kelly distributes information and forms for the Ensemble Festivals conducted around the state. She also collects entry fees and expense reports from the festivals.

The Ensemble Festival is a wonderful opportunity for students to perform in a supportive non-competitive venue. Although this is not a competition, there are adjudicators who evaluate and encourage the students by means of objective critiques. Each student who participates receives a ribbon and a sense of accomplishment.

There must be two or more musicians to participate. Only one member of the ensemble must be a student of an MMTA member. The other member(s) may be family members or friends. There have been several events that were comprised of family members who enjoyed the family time in preparation for the event. The musicians may perform at any level, from beginning to advanced.

Kelly holds a masters degree in musicology. She is a harpist who teaches and performs in the Lansing area.

Cont'd on page 7

MMTA 2009 Concerto Competition Winners
Sunday, February 1, 2009

Deborah Moriarty, Chairperson

We appreciate the expertise of our judges:

Elementary and Senior:
Panayis Lyras and George Vatchnadze

Junior:
Zana Gandelsman and Kiyomi Sugimura

Elementary:

Winner: Ting Ting Chang: Mozart, Concerto in A Major, K. 488: I
Student of: Izabella Vilensky

Second Place: Heather Gu: Mozart, Concerto in B-flat Major, K. 450: III
Student of: Mary Siciliano

Third Place: Yuanzhe Zhong: Kabalevsky, Concerto in D Major: III
Student of: Mary Siciliano

Junior:

Winner: Jason Gong: Gershwin, Rhapsody in Blue
Student of: Catherine Rollin

Second Place: Heather Shen: Mendelssohn, Concerto in G Minor: III
Student of: Izabella Vilensky

Third Place: Catherine Chang: Saint-Saens, Concerto in G Minor: I
Student of: Mary Siciliano

Honorable Mentions:

Lauren Tu: Prokofiev, Concerto No. 3: I
Student of: Sueanne Metz

Kangling Gu: Muczynski, Concerto No. 1, op. 7: II, III
Student of: Catherine Rollin

Senior:

Winner: Yesse Kim: Prokofiev, Concerto No. 1
Student of: Logan Skelton

Second Place: Alexandra Zetye: Rachmaninoff, Concerto in C Minor: I
Student of: Joel Schoenhals

Third Place: Allen Yuan: Beethoven, Concerto in E-flat Major: I
Student of: Arthur Greene

Honorable Mention: Cwen Homa: Rachmaninoff, Concerto No. 2: III
Student of: Deborah Moriarty

Kelly Yoakam, Chair of Non-Competitive Activities

Cont'd from page 6

She has recorded two CDs: "Lost in Time" and "Winds of Change", and has regularly contributed program notes to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, published in their Performance: The Magazine of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. In addition to her musical interests, Kelly teaches Tai Chi at Lansing Community College and Mindful Movements Physical Therapy. She is one of four Americans to be certified in Withof Duchess Bobbin Lace. Two of her lace pieces have been published in Europe: one in a Dutch text, the other *in a* Belgian journal (2009). She participated in the Michigan Traditional Arts program as a master lacemaker and had a lace piece commissioned by the MSU Museum in 2005.

I think that about sums it up (except for the 2-year-old grandson who sings on pitch!)

Editor's Note:

In a close vote, the first MMT Editor's People Profiles Discretionary Award goes to... Kelly Yoakam, for being a master lacemaker (!), and specifically for being one of only four Americans certified in Withof Duchess Bobbin Lace. How cool. Having failed that particular certification seven times in a row - which by the way has left me with very mixed feelings toward that Duchess Bobbin, who I mention in passing never once took my calls - I have a pretty good idea how difficult it is to achieve. I'm okay with it, though, since I've always preferred the greater subtlety and elegance of the continuous bobbin laces, anyway. But I digress. Particularly Binche, at which I'm quite adept. But my point is, Go Kelly!

COMMENT CORNER

cont'd from page 5

A local songwriter said it best when he said "we measure rain in inches, but we measure snow in feet."

If we get at least three feet of snow and the wind is 40 mph., we MIGHT close our schools!

Our winters are long, but the old saying "Upper Michigan has two seasons: Winter and the Fourth of July" is just a slight exaggeration!

Hope you enjoyed this,

Robert Buchkoe
President, MMTA
Great Lakes Chapter

ATTENTION MEMBERS: If you are interested in providing commentary of sorts, please send these via e-mail to Adrienne Wiley. Entries will be reviewed and selected for the next MMT. Deadline for submissions: May 1, 2009.

SAT Competitions Reminder

Greetings Teachers,
Please make a note of the following dates, deadlines, and locations for 2009 Semi-Finals and State Finals:

SEMI-FINALS: April 18, 2009; DEADLINE: April 1, 2009

Central Division: Central Michigan University
Music Building, Mount Pleasant
Contact: Wendy Wan-Hsing Chu,
e-mail: wendywchu@yahoo.com

Eastern Division: Madonna University, Livonia
Contact: Carol Levy, e-mail: caahl@yahoo.com

Western Division: Grand Valley State University,
Grand Rapids
Contact: Jeanne Hanley, e-mail:
jeanne.hanley@gmail.com

FINALS: May 2, 2009
Contact: Amy Dykhouse,
e-mail: amysivory@yahoo.com
Michigan State University Community Music
School, at 541B Timberlane, East Lansing

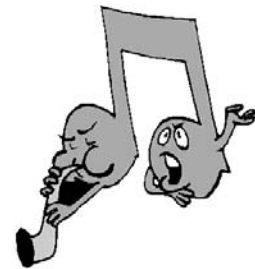
Amy Dykhouse, SAT Auditions Chair

MMTA Technology Position Open:

Diana Spitnale Miller is currently our Technology Chair and coordinates our state web-site. Diana is, however, our state treasurer, and according to our by-laws, she is not able to hold two positions simultaneously, thus we are searching for a person who has the skills and enthusiasm to take on this position.

Please contact me, Adrienne Wiley, if you are interested in this position. DO contact Diana personally so that she can also provide insight into what you might be doing.

We need to replace Diana ASAP! Thanks!



Teaching Tips:

If you are interested in sending your most recent, or tried-and-true teaching tips to be published in the MMT, please send these along to:

Patricia Willwerth

Deadline for submissions is: April 15, 2009

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Renée Robbins, 2005 – 07 president of the AAAPTG

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Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Instrument _____

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