

Michigan Music Teacher

**PUBLICATION OF
THE MICHIGAN
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION**

*Affiliated with the Music Teachers
National Association*

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From the desk of

Adrienne Wiley, President

Spring is finally here... It seemed to take FOREVER to get here, too! I wondered when the trees would finally look like trees – you know, with real leaves and all, not little wooden branches that speak of winter... Accompanying the total package of spring, besides the sunshine and warmer temperatures, is a tendency of and by most students to look out the window more, lose concentration on whatever they are working on, and wear summer clothes (less clothes!). These are just a few possibilities that might occur when the weather gets warmer. I am glad, however, that my semester at CMU is over (so I don't have to put up with the above issues!). Final exams: done. Grades: done. Sounds like there is nothing left to do . . . WRONG! This

is when the fun begins! I have already prepared my course syllabi for the fall, and am now working on several projects related to these classes as well as assembling class plans. I also now have more uninterrupted time to practice, read, garden, well, and of course: wash golf clothes, get snacks ready for golf... Cook pre-18-hole meals... Yes, it is that time of year again. More to follow...

In the last newsletter I mentioned that I was planning on heading to Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the National Conference. I did, but alone. Alas, the plane flights were too expensive to fly all three of us, plus one set of golf clubs. I arrived in Albuquerque on Friday, March 19, only to awake the next day to 39-degree weather and snow! Go figure! I guess the University of New Mexico had so much snow that morning that they had to close their campus! It probably was a good thing that my family did not come: Cameron would have been really bummed with more snow, and no golf (and the temperatures were at an all-time low for that time of year – rather unusual). At any rate, the Conference was great! I was honored to be asked to judge the MTNA Senior Piano Competitions on Sunday, March 21. The playing was outstanding and it was fun to hear all these young people play. I also made the rounds to hear our Michigan entrants perform in all of the MTNA competitions. They played very well, and our state should be tickled that we had so many entries! (Check out the results on these later in this edition.) I attended many sessions and of course, met up with friends from other states, and my very best friend from my “old days” at the University of Kansas. It was great fun. The plane ride to and from was quite uneventful (I didn't get bumped by a cello this time), so my trip was pretty much stress-free.

Our association has been busy with SAT's at the local level, Semi-Finals, and most recently, Finals. The new Aural Awareness CD's were used by many of the local associations this past spring in the local SAT auditions. Thanks to the SAT Piano Handbook Committee and Gerardo, and the SAT Coordinator, Debbie, and George Widiger, who made all of the CD's for us in the state! (and everyone else who helped!) The Certification Committee is conducting its testing the weekend of May 15. The MMTA Board met April 25, and will convene again on July 23. We are all working hard to redefine what we are doing, and I greatly appreciate the work of every board member! Thanks so much!

Penny is finalizing our state conference – please put those dates on your calendar, and plan your studio teaching around that. It should be awesome!

I recently had the pleasure of attending the Michigan Youth Arts Festival in Kalamazoo and gave a few opening words regarding MMTA's Educator of the Year Award given to Christie Otter (read more on that, too). What a wonderful event! Congratulations, Christie!

And now for summer! Our lives still revolve a bit around golf. Cameron has been accepted into the Crystal Mountain Junior Elite program and has been participating in weekend “camps” with the pros/coaches there. Scott and Cameron pack off every Friday and go up to Crystal, where Cameron and other junior golfers receive instruction and analysis for their swing (we're not talking dance here!), chipping, putting, and general play. Then of course, when the day is done, he is out playing again.

cont. on p.9

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

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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 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
~ or mail to: ~
Cheryl Cameron, 5514 State Road, Fort Gratiot, MI 48059

125th MMTA State Conference

October 17 - October 19, 2010

Dear MMTA Members,

Preparations for the 125th MMTA Conference are in full gear. The conference opens on Sunday, October 17 at 1:00 p.m. (on-site registration beginning at noon), and continues through noon on Tuesday, October 19 at the Detroit Novi Sheraton (21111 Haggerty Rd., Novi). Local host for this event is the Livonia Area Piano Teachers Forum, whose members are busy with the many behind-the-scenes details of conference planning. This year's conference clinician is Martha F. Hilley, and the conference artist is pianist Leon Bates. Other presenters include Brian Chung, Senior Vice President of Kawai Music, MMTA member Diana Munch, and Glenna Sprague, director of the Oakton Six Piano Ensemble (see pp. 5-6 for conference biographies).

The conference opens on Sunday afternoon with a session by Martha on "Theory and Improvisation – the pb&j of music." Continuing with this theme, Brian Chung presents "Improvisation for the Classically Trained Pianist," and the afternoon's events conclude with an Honors Concert featuring MMTA/MTNA student winners. The evening concert features the MMTA commissioned composition by composer Eric Guinivan, and piano ensemble music performed by Michigan artists Kazimierz Brzozowski, Roy Coloma, Tomoko and Yuki Mack, Kathy Ranus, Julia and Mary Siciliano, Pamela Slomka, and Pamela Colen Tucker.

Monday morning sessions begin with a student master class conducted by Leon Bates, followed with a session by Martha Hilley on functional skills, including sight reading, keyboard theory, harmonization, transposition, improvisation and composition. The afternoon opens with a performance by the Oakton Six, a student piano ensemble directed by Glenna Sprague from Oakton College in Illinois. Following their performance, Martha presents a session on "Tips for incorporating Technology into your Studio." Break-out SAT sessions for piano and voice follow, and the last break-out sessions are on certification, as well as a new "Meet and Share" session for college music students hosted by Dr. Adam Clark, Assistant Professor of Music at Hope College and MMTA's new student chapters coordinator. The evening begins with the MMTA Gala Banquet, followed by the Gala Concert featuring pianist Leon Bates.

Tuesday's sessions include a pianoforte presentation by MMTA member Diana Munch on "Rethinking Piano Performance Traditions," followed by Martha Hilley's session, "Elementary to Intermediate – repertoire to inspire both you and your students."

In addition to these motivating sessions and outstanding concerts, our MMTA Conference gives the opportunity to visit with many colleagues from, quite literally, the far corners of the state. For extending those visits, the conference hotel is located near many restaurants and shopping areas. So plan on attending our quasiquicentennial conference! It promises to be an invigorating event, propelling us forward in the new teaching season with inspiring performances and fresh ideas for repertoire; for incorporating technology in the studio; and with suggestions and insight for teaching the elements of music. Please join fellow MMTA members at the 125th MMTA Conference – it promises to be a noteworthy event!

Sincerely,

Penny Draper, MMTA Vice President

MMTA 2010 Conference Schedule
Sunday, Oct. 17-Tuesday, Oct. 19

Day	Time	Session	Clinician
Sunday	8:30-9:30 a.m.	MMTA Executive Board Meeting	Dr. Adrienne Wiley, MMTA President
	9:30-11:00 a.m.	MMTA Full Board Meeting	Dr. Adrienne Wiley, MMTA President
	12:00 noon	Registration opens	
	1:00-1:15 p.m.	MMTA Conference Greeting	Dr. Adrienne Wiley, MMTA President
	1:15-2:30 p.m.	Theory and Improvisation - the pb&j of music	Martha F. Hilley, Conference Clinician
	2:30-2:45 p.m.	BREAK	
	2:45-4:00 p.m.	Improvisation for the Classically Trained Pianist	Brian Chung, Sen. VP of Kawai Amer. Corp.
	4:00-4:15 p.m.	MMTA Business Meeting I: Treasurer's Report	Diana Spitnale Miller, MMTA Treasurer
	4:15-4:30 p.m.	BREAK	
	4:30-5:45 p.m.	MMTA/MTNA Winner's Recital	Amy Dykhouse, MMTA Auditions Chair
	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Dinner on your own	
	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Local Associations Dinner Meeting	Cynthia Robertson, Local Assoc. Chair
	6:00-7:30 p.m.	SAT Piano Handbook Committee Dinner Meeting	Dr. Gerardo Ascheri, SAT Piano Chair
	8:00 p.m.	Concert - feat. the Commissioned Composition & Piano Ensembles	Eric Guinivan, Commissioned Composer Detroit area piano ensembles Host: Livonia Area Piano Teachers Forum
9:30 p.m.	Concert Reception		
Monday	7:30-9:00 a.m.	SAT Local Chairpersons' Breakfast Meeting	Deborah Beachnau, SAT Coordinator
	9:00-10:15 a.m.	Livonia Area Students' Piano Master Class	Leon Bates, Conference Artist
	10:15-10:30 a.m.	BREAK	
	10:30-11:30 a.m.	Functional Skills are important to everyone	Martha F. Hilley, Conference Clinician
	11:30-1:00 p.m.	Lunch on your own	
	11:30-1:00 p.m.	Certification Committee Lunch	Debra Culver, Certification Chair
	1:00-1:45 p.m.	Oakton Six	Glenna Sprague, Oakton Six Director
	1:45-3:00 p.m.	Tips for incorporating technology in your studio	Martha F. Hilley, Conference Clinician
	3:00-3:15 p.m.	BREAK	
	3:15-4:15 p.m.	SAT Break-out Sessions: Piano	Deborah Beachnau, SAT Coordinator
	3:15-4:15 p.m.	SAT Break-out Sessions: Voice	Elaine Yanz, SAT Voice Chair
	4:15-5:00 p.m.	Certification Session	Debra Culver, Certification Chair
	4:15-5:00 p.m.	Meet and Share: MMTA Student College Chapters	Dr. Adam Clark, Student Chapters Chair
	5:00-5:30	BREAK	
	5:30-6:00 p.m.	Cash Bar	
	6:00-7:45 p.m.	Gala Banquet	
8:00 p.m.	Gala Concert	Leon Bates, Conference Artist	
9:30 p.m.	Reception: Steinway Gallery of Detroit		
Tuesday	7:30-9:00 a.m.	Advisory Council Meeting	Dr. Adrienne Wiley, MMTA President
	9:00-10:00 a.m.	Rethinking Piano Performance Traditions	Diana Munch, Livonia Area PTF member
	10:00-10:15 a.m.	MMTA Business Meeting II	Dr. Adrienne Wiley, MMTA President
	10:15-10:30 a.m.	BREAK	
	10:30-11:45 a.m.	Elementary to Intermediate: repertoire to inspire both you and your students	Martha F. Hilley, Conference Clinician
	11:45-12:00 noon	MMTA Conference Wrap-up	

Martha F. Hilley, Conference Clinician

Martha Hilley joined the faculty of The University of Texas at Austin School of Music in 1982 as Coordinator of Group Piano. She has been active in workshops, conferences, and seminars on the international, national, state and local levels.

Hilley's abilities as a teacher have been recognized through the Texas Excellence Teaching Award, Dad's Association Centennial Fellowship, the William Blunk Endowed Professorship, and induction into The University of Texas Academy of Distinguished Teachers. She has received the Orpheus Award presented by Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. TMTA named her Outstanding Collegiate Teacher and she was also the first MTNA Foundation Fellow for the state of Texas. Hilley received the Distinguished Service Award at the 2008 MTNA National Conference.

Professor Hilley's articles have been in *Clavier*, *Piano Quarterly*, and *Keyboard Companion*. She is co-author of two college piano texts: [Piano for the Developing Musician](#) and [Piano for Pleasure](#), which were the first to embrace digital sequencer technology through disks furnished to teachers and the first to provide dedicated educational web sites with tutorials, downloadable pdf files and instructional mp3 files. Hilley is currently working on a version of both web sites for the iPad.



Leon Bates, Conference Artist

As one of America's leading pianists, Leon Bates has earned for himself a place on the international concert circuit. His performance schedule includes dates across the United States, in Canada, Italy, France, Austria, Ireland, England, as well as Africa. He is invited to perform on the major concert stages around the world and audiences and critics find his musical spirit to possess all the elements of greatness.

Mr. Bates has performed with many of the major U.S. symphonies such as the Philadelphia Orchestra, Cleveland Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Detroit Symphony, and the Boston Symphony, among others.

In Europe, he has performed with the Vienna Symphony, the Basel Symphony, the Radio-Orchestra of Dublin, the Strasbourg Symphony, Orchestra Sinfonica dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Czech National Symphony Orchestra, Malmo Symphony of Sweden and more. Whether in recital or as a soloist with orchestra, his praises are enumerated in many different languages—but they are all in agreement on one point: Leon Bates is a major artist and one of America's best.



Brian Chung, Guest Clinician

Brian Chung is Senior Vice President and General Manager of Kawai America Corporation. He is a two-term president of the Piano Manufacturers Association International, and recipient of the 2010 MTNA Distinguished Service Award. He is co-author of *Improvisation at the Piano* (Alfred Publishing 2007) and the *Recreational Music Making Handbook* -- and author of *Expressions of Faith: Eight Inventive Explorations of Classic Hymns*.

Mr. Chung has an undergraduate degree in Business Administration from the University of Michigan, where he combined his musical and business interests. After several years as a professional musician and independent piano teacher, he continued his business education by completing a Master of Management Degree at the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University. His business pursuits eventually led him to Kawai America Corporation, where he has spent the past 21 years.

With a diverse career that includes experience as a performer, arranger, teacher, author, conference speaker and music industry executive, Mr. Chung is devoted to the cause of advancing music participation across America.



Oakton Six Piano Ensemble, Glenna Sprague, Conductor

Founded in 1980 by conductor Glenna Sprague, Professor and Coordinator of Music at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines, Illinois, the Oakton Six Piano Ensemble is a performance group comprised of adult students who are chosen through a highly selective audition process. The group performs repertoire from the classical, ragtime, and popular periods that is transcribed for the six pianos by Professor Sprague. The rich, layered sound of the Oakton Six Piano Ensemble is comparable to that of an orchestra, with each member playing a different part of a composition as the melody transfers from pianist to pianist. Critics hail the Six Piano Ensemble as “extraordinary”, “unique”, “musical” and “innovative”.

This past year, the ensemble featured the premiere performance of *Oakton Toccata*, an original composition written for the group by the renowned composer, Robert Vandall, and published by Alfred Publishing Company. The group has recently released a CD, *Oakton Six Piano Ensemble: Live in Concert II*.



An active performer, clinician, and adjudicator in the Chicago area, Glenna Sprague is Professor and Coordinator of Music at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines, Illinois, where she teaches piano, class piano and the Six Piano Ensemble. Ms. Sprague has been published in *Keyboard Companion* and *American Music Teacher*. Professor Sprague is a magna cum laude graduate of the Conservatory of Music at Capital University, and received her Master of Music in piano performance from Ohio University, where she studied with Gail Berenson.

Diana Munch, Guest Clinician

Diana Munch is a pianist, harpsichordist, and fortepianist who has accompanied singers, instrumentalists, chamber music ensembles and choral groups in Michigan and on European tours. She was on staff at Wayne State University for seven years as Accompanist for the Music Department. She is a State-Certified Piano Teacher through the Michigan Music Teachers Association, and has taught piano lessons for over 40 years. She is also the Director of Music at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington. She currently studies fortepiano and harpsichord with Penelope Crawford.

In 2006, she helped to form Michigan Baroque, a group whose mission is to serve Michigan with lively and insightful performances on period instruments, and to introduce historically-informed practices to a new audience. Recent early music performances include An Evening in Naples, An Evening of English Music, Music of the German Baroque on the Academy of Early Music's concert series, and A Fortepiano Duet and Song Concert.



Eric Guinivan, Commissioned Composer

Eric Guinivan's music has been performed across the United States, as well as in France, Japan, Greece, and Estonia. His compositions have received several awards and honors, including the 2010 and 2007 BMI Student Composer Awards and the 2008 ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Awards. He has received commissions from the New York Youth Symphony, the Lotte Lehmann Foundation, and the Delaware Youth Symphony Orchestra. In March 2010 Eric received the Presser Foundation's Presser Music Award, a \$10,500 grant that will fund a Los Angeles Percussion Quartet West coast tour featuring his music in 2011. Eric will make his Carnegie Hall debut in May 2011, premiering a new original work as soloist with the New York Youth Symphony.

Active in music education, Eric is currently a graduate teaching fellow at the University of Southern California, where he is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree and teaches music theory and aural skills. Since beginning study at Indiana University in 2002, he has taught high school wind ensembles and percussion ensembles in Indiana and Delaware, and has written and arranged music for several high school wind ensembles in Indiana, Delaware, and North Carolina.





MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
125th Annual State Conference
October 17, 18, and 19, 2010 ~ Novi, Michigan

CONFERENCE AND MEAL REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

REGISTRATION FEES (check appropriate categories):

Advance Conference Registration: MMTA Member
(registration after October 10 - \$ 65.00) \$ 60.00 _____

Advance Conference Registration: non-MMTA Member
(registration after October 10 - \$ 75.00) \$ 70.00 _____

Registration: MMTA Member's spouse \$ 35.00 _____

Student Registration Waived _____

GALA BANQUET RESERVATIONS:

Monday Evening Gala Banquet: \$ 28.00 _____

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

_____ London Broil with Bordelaise Sauce

_____ Cherry Chicken

_____ Broiled Whitefish

All Entrées accompanied with garden salad (ranch and Italian dressings), seasonal vegetables, mashed potatoes, rolls and butter, chef's selection of dessert, and coffee, decaf or tea.

TOTAL ENCLOSED (payable to MMTA): _____

CONFERENCE AND MEAL ADVANCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 10

Please mail this registration form and check to:
Diana Spitnale Miller, MMTA Treasurer, 1148 Cadmus Dr., Troy, MI 48085

For more information, contact: Penny Draper, MMTA Vice President and Conference Chairman
Phone (517) 351-4632 Email: draperpe@msu.edu

**Michigan Music Teachers Association
125th State Conference
October 17 –19, 2010**

**Sheraton Detroit Novi
21111 Haggerty Road
Novi, MI 48375
United States
Phone: (248) 349-4000
Fax: (248) 349-4302**



Check-in: Reserved rooms are available after 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 17th. Baggage storage available at check-in.

Reservation Information

To Reserve Room: call 248-349-4897 or visit: <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/musicteachers>

- **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 10/10/10 will be subject to availability and higher room rate.
- To reserve room, please call (248) 349-4897, or Fax form: (248) 349-4302, or mail perforated portion to hotel at above address in care of . Reservations must be guaranteed with deposit or major credit card.

NOTE: Please confirm (1-248-349-4897) mailed or faxed reservations.

Group: Michigan Music Teachers Association - October 17- 19, 2010

- Please Reserve: _____ Rooms for _____ # of people **(Credit Card or Advanced Deposit required)**
- Request room with: King Bed ____ Two Queen Beds ____ Smoking ____ Non-smoking ____

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

(President's letter, cont. from p.1)

Attending this camp has been a really interesting experience for all of us, and we learn new things along the way. Cameron is rather observant (and has BIG ears when you really don't want him to . . .) and between Cameron and Scott, they have come home to make some interesting comments. To sum it up, the next few sentences can draw a direct parallel to our profession of teaching and practice, so here goes. All of the students who attend the camp are given specific exercises and practice routines to be used on a daily basis. Cameron has mentioned that several of the students simply state that they don't do any of the exercises at home, nor follow the practice routines. (The exercises are called "PST's" – whatever that means!) Some students have stated that they just come up to get ideas on their swing, but go home and do whatever feels right, or return to their former way of swinging the club(s). Cameron has a good friend whom he has often played against in prior tournaments, and this friend says he doesn't do anything that the instructors have given him – he just isn't interested. (Keep in mind that these mini-camps are not cheap. This particular parent, of the complaining student, is financially well-heeled...) There are a few other students Cameron has met who also don't do what they are given. They practice however they want, IF they even practice! (Some just go out and play.) I find it intriguing that the pros would go to great lengths to give each student a detailed outline of what to practice and when, and HOW to do it. Even more so, that they are giving them the state-of-the-art exercises generated for each student! The whole new system of the swing is being engineered, literally, by Chris Welch – one of the top golf "teachers" in the country who works with all the pros. What an opportunity to be involved in this, and if the students really did all of the exercises and practice plans, how much farther along could they be?

It is sad that some of these parents are quite content to pay for services that their child/young adult doesn't even use. They don't practice what they are given . . . and the pros spend each session re-teaching what they just did the week before. Does anyone else deal with this each week in your private teaching? I know that I have...

So, that is life for the moment. Cameron is out right now getting in two hours of practice on a school night, and then we will play the Par 3 to work on his short game (he plays, I keep score and get in a good walk!) I wish you all a great summer of relaxation, reading, practicing, new adventures, or travel! Be safe!

Warmly,

Adrienne

Michigan Music Teacher

State Piano & Voice Finals Michigan State University, East Lansing May 8th, 2010

Piano

Intermediate Division

First Place: Liya Jin, student of Leong
Second Place: Annie Zhao, student of Tang
Third Place: Shannon Lin, student of Vilensky
Honorable Mention:

Heather Gu, student of Siciliano
Nolan Feeny, student of Polischuk

Adjudicators: Lia Jensen-Abbott & Guisepe Lupis

Junior Division

First Place: Moshe Benson, student of Leshchinskaya
Second Place: Stephanie Pestana, student of Slenk
Third Place: Elizabeth Yanoschik, student of Slenk
Honorable Mention:

Rebecca Luppe, student of Uchimura
Nathan Lwo, student of Vilensky
Brianna Feng, student of Rollin

Adjudicators: Kelley Benson & Gerardo Ascheri

Senior Division

First Place: Annie Xiao, student of Rollin
Second Place: Michael Li, student of Leshchinskaya
Third Place: Jason Gong, student of Rollin
Honorable Mention:

Scott Sherman, student of Rollin
Kangling Gu, student of Rollin
Heather Shen, student of Vilensky

Adjudicators: Larisa Simington & Charles Aschbrenner

Voice

First Place: Kayla Silverstein, student of Ellis
Second Place: Elizabeth Swaynie, student of Ellis
Third Place: Julia Adams, student of Ellis

Adjudicators: David Steely & Bethany Bickel

MTNA National Competitions 2009-2010

Michigan Results

Senior Division:

Piano:

Student: Steven Chang, third place
Teacher: Mary Siciliano

Woodwind:

Student: Jordan Lulloff, third place
Teacher: Joseph Lulloff

Collegiate Division:

Piano:

Student: Julia Siciliano, second place
Teacher: Logan Skelton

Michigan Music Teachers Educator of the Year Award

This year's award goes to Christie Otter. Congratulations, Christie! Christie was recognized for this honor on Friday, May 14, at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival in Kalamazoo. Her commitment and dedication to MMTA is outstanding! She is an excellent teacher and musician. Lastly, Christie is a guiding light for the MMTA Board: her service as Parliamentarian is true dedication! She may be quiet in all of our meetings, but she is taking in everything that we are doing, mentally consulting the Robert's Rules of Order, and searching our bylaws when necessary. She keeps us on task, and without her we would not operate as professionally as we do. Thank you, Christie, for all that you do for your students, and for MMTA!

Please read on for Christie's bio, as it appeared in the MYAF program:

From a very early age, Christie Otter knew her life's work had to be in the arts. Her earliest years were spent in preparation and performance in the areas of piano, voice, theater, and communications. Her early teaching years were spent in public education, where she directed choirs, coached debate, and directed plays.

Eventually, she focused her attention on her first love—piano. Not only did she establish a private piano studio, she was able to continue post-graduate work in jazz studies. She has served as adjunct faculty at Oakland County Community College while maintaining her private studio. Christie has had the thrill of watching her students earn degrees in music with specialties in theory, composition, conducting and performance.

The best thing about her career, she claims, is that "I can't wait for the week to begin. I love to see what the students bring. It's a game. I love helping students discover the many facets and elements of a composition, as well as helping them find the ways to express and describe them. There's never a boring minute, especially with those students who are discovering spontaneous composition (improvisation)."



JAZZ AGE?

In the twenties that's what they called it. Now of course, the new term for this time is the Computer Age. I remember when computers first came out and they were sold as a 'time saver'. At that time, I was putting things on 3 x 5 note cards and keeping manila file folders in a metal file cabinet. So I jumped into this computer thing not terribly happy about now having to make TWO files of important information. Especially after my computer crashed the first time... which made me realize the importance of backing up. So did the computer really save me time? I don't think so.

However, what the computer DOES help me with is communication throughout the state. With just a click of the mouse, I can 'talk' to our local presidents as well as the speakers on the Speakers Bureau list in an instant (although living in Interlochen and northern Michigan, my signal strength can be debatable!).

The Speakers Bureau list is being updated. I know that my local association presidents rely on this list to set the programs for the upcoming year. It is a fabulous showcase for just who we are and what we represent in the state of Michigan. On the list we have speakers who have topics from jazz, classical, tensions, relaxation, repertoire, technique, and of course master classes. The list is quite varied!

I would like to say a heartfelt THANK YOU to the outgoing presidents of a few of our local associations. The outgoing presidents are: Heidi Cowan, Debra Culver, Cynthia Bristol, Jacqueline Rhodes and Melanae Clark. Here is a 'pat on the back' for a job well done. Thanx!

And now here is a WELCOME to the new presidents: Jeanette Faber, Diana Miller, Joyce Stehouwer, Barb Collins and Debra Culver. Thanks for stepping up to the plate! I'll see you online.

Cindi Robertson
Local Association Chairperson



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TEACHER EDUCATION CORNER

Welcome to the Teacher Education Corner. This is a new feature of our newsletter. We will share insights into how to deal with students who repeatedly forget their books or who never read the assignment during the week. Or perhaps how to handle parents who don't understand the need for their child to have a consistent time at the piano every day, or who always seem to have a scheduling conflict. We can help each other with tips on when and how to teach scales 2 against 3, for example.

What I would like to share this month is another way to use the metronome. I find that playing with the metronome on beats 2 and 4 (weak beats or off beats) is far more mentally challenging than when it is on beats 1 and 3 (the strong beats). Probably you have already used this practice strategy. If so, we would love to hear how it worked for you and for your students. Please email me your thoughts on this subject and/or send me questions you would like to pose to our membership in the next newsletter. Send emails to carrieres@comcast.net. I am excited about where this 'little corner' could take us!

Sara Carriere
Teacher Education Chair

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