

# Michigan Music Teacher

**PUBLICATION OF  
THE MICHIGAN MUSIC  
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

*Affiliated with the Music Teachers  
National Association*

Vol. LXI No. 1 September 2014

## President's Letter

Dear Members,

Greetings from Taiwan! Actually, by the time you read this I will be back in Michigan and facing-with excitement tempered only by jetlag-the beginning of another year of teaching. In the midst of a grueling travel/teaching/performance schedule here, I am thinking about the paradoxes in the life of the artist-teacher: at the same time our students invigorate and exhaust us, they keep us young and make us old, they amaze us with their deep and arcane observations . . .as well as by the blank stare they give us when we ask them where their music is! Never a dull moment!

Taiwan is a small nation, with many piano students: in my travels I have met several teachers who teach over one hundred students! As far as I can tell, there are no associations of like-minded professionals who meet to exchange ideas, bring in presenters, and mentor new members. Students and teachers feel isolated and are very grateful to receive feedback, through an interpreter, from an American pianist. We in Michigan Music Teachers Association are very fortunate indeed to have so many opportunities for professional growth! Let's each do our part to maintain and nurture this wonderful resource for the benefit of

our profession and our students.

You may remember that our June issue was the last for MMT editor Stuart Foster, who has moved to Missouri. With this issue we welcome new editor Alisha Snyder, a member and current president of the Piano Teachers Forum of Grand Rapids. Please note the new address for submissions in the masthead and watch for subtle changes as Alisha makes her contribution to our newsletter. We welcome contributions from our local associations and news about MMTA members. Please note that each issue contains a notice of the deadline for the next one.

Another new addition to the MMTA Board is Giuseppe Lupis, who is replacing Pat Lobbestael as chair of the MMTA Concerto Competition. Giuseppe is on the piano faculty at Grand Valley State University, and is a very capable and gracious contributor to MMTA. If you haven't worked with him yet, you're in for a pleasure! Welcome, Giuseppe.

The big news in the current issue is the 129<sup>th</sup> State Conference at The Henry Hotel in Dearborn. Vice President (and President-elect) Gail Lytle Lira has put together a not-to-be-missed event, headlined by Conference Artist Panayis Lyras and clinician Dennis Alexander. Our local hosts, the Metropolitan Detroit Musicians League, are planning to welcome us in grand style, including a Sunday night concert that will include performances by pianist Pauline Martin and violinist Aaron Berofsky. Read on for news about other contributions by our wonderful students and colleagues. The Henry is a lovely, extremely accessible, and convenient location, with luxurious accommodations. Be sure to reserve your room now-the conference rate offers a significant savings!

There is a notice in this issue about a state dues increase beginning in the 2015-16 membership year. An ad hoc finance committee from the Executive Board spent many hours in June examining the budget item by item, recommending some cost-saving measures and adjustments in fee structures that make our student ac-

President's Letter cont. on p. 3

**MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHER**  
 OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
**MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**  
 AFFILIATED WITH THE  
**MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

Alisha Snyder, Editor, 2061 Jefferson Drive SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Submit materials to: [alisha.snyder@gmail.com](mailto:alisha.snyder@gmail.com); 616-425-7619

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

**PRESIDENT**  
 Garik Pedersen  
 8766 Sleepy Hollow Drive  
 Saline, MI 48176  
 734-429-3439

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
 Gail Lytle Lira  
 131 Oakland Drive  
 East Lansing, MI 48823  
 517-351-8402

**SECRETARY**  
 Dorothy Vogel  
 405 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Traverse City, MI 49684-3145  
 231-947-1700

**TREASURER**  
 Diana Spitale Miller  
 3352 W. River Drive  
 Gladwin, MI 48624-9730  
 989-426-2644

**PAST PRESIDENT**  
 Dr. Penny Draper  
 513 Woodland Drive  
 East Lansing, MI 48823  
 517-351-4632 / 517-489-8785

**PARLIAMENTARIAN**  
 Christie Otter  
 14735 Richfield  
 Livonia, MI 48154  
 734-464-3319 / 734-765-1770

**CERTIFICATION CHAIR**  
 Maria Holian  
 1785 Gloucester  
 Plymouth, MI 48170  
 734-354-6517

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**  
 Lester Castellana  
 7164 Palmer Street  
 Dexter, MI 48130  
 734-864-2686

**LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS AND  
 INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHERS  
 FORUM CHAIR**  
 Jeanne Hanley Thelen  
 20335 Whitby Drive  
 Livonia, MI 48152  
 616-334-8864

**COLLEGIATE CHAPTERS  
 COORDINATOR**  
 Dr. Adrienne Wiley  
 4007 Washington  
 Midland, MI 48642  
 989-837-0903

**TEACHER EDUCATION CHAIR**  
 Sara Carriere  
 3911 Edmonton Court  
 Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
 734-665-3322

**AWARDS CHAIR**  
 Jennifer Drake  
 110 N. Lauderdale Drive  
 Kalamazoo, MI 49006-4346  
 269-373-4971

**TECHNOLOGY CHAIR**  
 Eric Van De Vort  
 712 Sunset Road  
 Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
 734-883-9490

**SAT COORDINATOR**  
 Diana Munch  
 22720 Nancy Avenue  
 Southfield, MI 48033  
 248-356-1274

**SAT PIANO HANDBOOK CHAIR**  
 Dr. Gerardo C. Ascheri  
 2200 Groesbeck Avenue  
 Lansing, MI 48912-3449  
 517-485-1363

**SAT AUDITIONS CHAIR**  
 Margarete Thomsen  
 8765 Eastham Drive  
 Canton, MI 48187  
 734-451-9678

**SAT STRINGS CHAIR**  
 [vacant]

**SAT VOICE CHAIR**  
 Miho Segal  
 2306 Seminole Drive  
 Okemos, MI 48864  
 517-70-8358

**SAT WOODWINDS CHAIR**  
 Keith Gamble  
 19415 Waltham  
 Detroit, MI 48205  
 313-527-0733

**MTNA COMPETITIONS  
 COORDINATOR**  
 Lia Jensen-Abbott  
 412 S. Clinton Street  
 Albion, MI 49224  
 517-629-2950

**MTNA YOUNG ARTIST PIANO  
 COMPETITION CHAIR**  
 Dr. Penny Draper  
 513 Woodland Drive  
 East Lansing, MI 48823  
 517-351-4632 / 517-507-1538

**MTNA YOUNG ARTIST CHAMBER  
 MUSIC COMPETITION CHAIR**  
 Dr. Penny Draper  
 513 Woodland Drive  
 East Lansing, MI 48823  
 517-351-4632 / 517-507-1538

**MTNA SENIOR COMPETITIONS  
 CHAIR**  
 Lia Jensen-Abbott  
 412 S. Clinton Street  
 Albion, MI 49224  
 517-629-2950

**MTNA JUNIOR COMPETITIONS  
 CHAIR**  
 Laurie Marshall  
 4021 Ravina Terrace  
 St. Joseph, MI 49085-9655  
 269-428-7060 or 269-277-9091 (cell)

**MTNA COMPOSITION COMPETITION  
 CHAIR**  
 Mary Ann Anschutz  
 5404 Sunset Drive  
 Midland, MI 48640  
 989-631-6833

**MMTA CONCERTO COMPETITION  
 CHAIR**  
 Giuseppe Lupis  
 2601 Brooklyn Avenue SE  
 Grand Rapids, MI 49507  
 616-248-1580

**NON-COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES**  
 Jackie Willert  
 383 Ricoma Beach Road  
 Bay City, MI 48706-1117  
 989-684-5159

**MTNA FOUNDATION CHAIR**  
 Jordan Brett  
 290 Park Green Drive  
 Lake Orion, MI 48362

**COMMISSIONED COMPOSER CHAIR**  
 Charles Aschbrenner  
 324 East 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Holland, MI 49423  
 616-396-4282

**MTNA COLLEGE FACULTY FORUM  
 REPRESENTATIVE**  
 David Abbott  
 412 S. Clinton Street  
 Albion, MI 49224  
 517-629-2950

**AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY  
 CHAIR**  
 Barbara Collins  
 4430 W. Water Street  
 Port Huron, MI 48060  
 810-982-4133

**HISTORIAN**  
 Mary S. Vander Linde  
 1100 Fountain View Circle #1  
 Holland, MI 49423  
 616-396-5379

**ADVERTISING FEES**

Full page \$140

2/3 page \$120

1/2 page \$95

1/4 page \$70

Less than  
 1/4 page \$60

Submit ads to the MMT editor  
 with a check payable to MMTA.  
 Fees are for one issue only.

**DEADLINE**

FOR THE

DECEMBER 2014

MMT:

NOVEMBER 15

All materials must be  
 received by this date

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR E-MAIL**

Send to

Lester Castellana, Membership Chair: [lestercastellana@gmail.com](mailto:lestercastellana@gmail.com)

~ or mail to: ~

Lester Castellana, 7164 Palmer St., Dexter, MI 48130

## Presidents' Letter cont. from pg 1

tivities and conference self-sustaining. Even so, we expect to dig into savings (as we have for the past few years) to meet our expenses. On the basis of this committee's report, both the executive and the full board of MMTA approved this increase in July. We want our members to know that we carefully consider even a modest increase in our state dues.

This is my last letter to you as your president. It has been a privilege and an honor; I am very grateful to the membership, and especially the terrific leadership team, for your support during the past two years. I remain impressed by the efforts and achievements of our members, dedicated professionals who work selflessly to fulfill our mission: to advance the value of music study and music making while supporting the careers and professionalism of teachers of music. As your representative and on your behalf I have traveled coast to coast both in our state and in our nation (yes, literally-New York City to Los Angeles!) and have been present as we received two national awards. These have been good years for us and good years for me. But it has been that way for almost 130 good years, and it will continue into the next biennium under the leadership of Gail Lytle Lira.

Yours,

Gary

蓋瑞克 (Garik) 彼德森 (Pedersen)

MMTA President

## Welcome to the 129th MMTA State Conference October 12th-14th, 2014, The Henry Hotel, Dearborn

Dear MMTA Members,

Conferences are a fantastic way to break up our usual hectic teaching and performing schedules and have a retreat with our colleagues. Sharing teaching ideas, comparing philosophies, and meeting new colleagues reinforces our passion for our profession and empowers us to learn new strategies to share with students of all ages. It's time to register for our 129<sup>th</sup> MMTA State Conference. The conference will be held in Dearborn at the lovely and recently remodeled Henry Hotel. From **October 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>** members will be able to hear presentations by inspiring clinicians, attend performances by competition winners, faculty members, and guests.

In this newsletter you will find a conference registration page, a hotel page, and a complete schedule of the conference. Register by **September 20<sup>th</sup>** to receive a great conference rate, a hotel room, and to allow MMTA and MDML a better chance to serve you.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Dearborn!

Sincerely,  
Gail Lytle Lira, MMTA Vice President

**MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**  
**129th Annual State Conference**  
**October 12, 13, and 14, 2014 ~ Dearborn, MI**

**CONFERENCE AND MEAL REGISTRATION**

(online registration at <http://www.michiganmusicteachers.org/conference.php>)

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

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

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

Local Association: \_\_\_\_\_ Certification: State National

**REGISTRATION FEES:**

**Advance Conference Registration: MMTA Member**

(registration after September 20 - \$ 80.00) \$ 65.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Advance Conference Registration: non-MMTA Member**

(registration after September 20 - \$ 90.00) \$ 75.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**One Session/One Day Registration** \$ 50.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration: MMTA Member's spouse**

(registration after September 20 - \$50.00) \$ 40.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**College Student Registration** \$ 10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Monday Night Concert: non-Registrant** \$ 20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**MEAL RESERVATIONS (Advance reservation only - not available after September 20):**

**Monday Evening Banquet, October 13** \$ 28.00 \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Flank Steak

\_\_\_\_\_ Herb Seared Chicken

\_\_\_\_\_ Panko Crusted Cod

\_\_\_\_\_ Penne Pasta with Marinara Sauce

\*Entrées come with Spinach Salad, Freshly Baked Rolls with Sweet Creamery Butter, Chef's Selection of Starch and Vegetable and Chocolate Cake with Freshly Brewed Coffee and Teas.

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONFERENCE AND MEAL ADVANCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 20, 2014**

Please mail this registration form and check (payable to MMTA) to:

Diana Spitnale Miller, MMTA Treasurer, 3352 W. River Dr., Gladwin, MI 48624-9730

For more information, contact: Gail Lytle Lira, MMTA Vice President and Conference Chairperson

Phone (517) 351-8402 [gail@gaillytlelira.com](mailto:gail@gaillytlelira.com)

**MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
129th Annual State Conference  
October 12-14, 2014**



**Fairlane Plaza, 300 Town Center Drive  
Dearborn, MI 48126  
1-313-441-2000**

The Henry, an Autograph Collection hotel in Dearborn, was voted the #1 Hotel in Michigan by U.S. News Best Hotels in the USA in 2013. The Henry provides an ideal location adjacent to Fairlane Town Center shopping mall and is less than 3 miles from The Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. The Automotive Hall of Fame, the Detroit Institute of the Arts, and the Detroit Science Center are all within a 10-mile radius of the hotel.

**Conference rate for Single or Double Rooms: \$100/night + taxes**

- This rate is only available until **SEPTEMBER 20**. Rates cannot be changed at check-in or at checkout.
- To receive this rate, you may call the hotel directly at **1-888-709-8081** and state that you are with the **MMTA 2014 Annual Conference**; or you can make your reservations online at [Book your group rate: Michigan Music Teachers Assn >>](#)
- Please note that there are some rooms available at the Henry Saturday night, October 11 for MMTA members arriving a day early.
- Check-in time is 3:00. Early check-in may be available for those who call the morning they are checking in. Baggage storage is available.

**Complimentary Parking is available to all hotel guests.**

## 2014 MMTA Conference-In-Detail

Sunday, October 12

**1:00-2:15 p.m. Opening Remarks: Dr. Garik Pedersen, MMTA President**

**General Session 1: MTNA Collegiate Chapter juried presentations, Adrienne Wiley, presiding.**

**"Mindful Meditation for Music Instructors" Central Michigan University MTNA Collegiate Chapter, Emily Bohnlein, President, and Rachel Rule, Vice President and**

**Jessie Grant DPT, CSCS, Conference Speaker, "Injury Prevention and Treatment of Musicians"**

*Musicians will discover how to prevent common injuries through warm-up, posture education, and awareness. In addition, common treatments of these injuries will be addressed.*

**2:15-2:30 p.m. Break**

**2:30- 3:45 p.m. General Session 2: Panayis Lyras, Conference Artist,**

**"The Piano Duo: History, literature, and performing techniques of music for four hands."**

**3:45-4:00 p.m. Business Meeting 1: President Dr. Garik Pedersen, presiding; Treasurer's Report, Diana Miller**

**4:00 – 4:15 p.m. Break**

**4:15 – 5:45 2014 General Session 3: Recital featuring winners of the MMTA Concerto and Student Achievement Testing competitions, Margerete Thomsen, presiding.**

**6:00-7:15 p.m. DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

**7:30 p.m. Gala concert featuring 2014 Commissioned Composer Andy Francis, pianist, Pauline Martin and violinist, Aaron Berofsky**

*Reception by MDML*

Monday, October 13

**8:00-8:50 a.m. Certification: A Professional Issue**

**9:00-9:45 a.m. General Session 4: SAT Handbook Revision: Introducing the New Handbook 1, Gail Davis-Barnes, presiding**

**9:45-10:00 a.m. Break**

**10:00 -11:30 a.m. General Session 5: Dennis Alexander, Conference Clinician,**

**"Teaching the Romantics to Young Pianists."**

*Students tend to love romantic style repertoire, but many of them have a difficult time achieving the necessary musical elements that create a convincing performance. This session explores techniques for solving musical and technical problems inherent in romantic repertoire for late elementary through intermediate level students.*

**11:45- 1:30 p.m. Lunch On Your Own**

**1:30- 3:00 p.m. General Session 6: IMTF Session Conference Clinician, Dennis Alexander, Jeanne Hanley Thelen, presiding.**

**"Repertoire that Motivates, Inspires, and Entertains!"**

*In this repertoire showcase, Dennis Alexander will share some of his favorite pieces at all levels that teachers will find perfect for recitals, competitions, festivals, or for just entertaining the grandparents on a Saturday night! New solos and duets, along with other "crowd pleasers" will be featured in this entertaining and motivational session! There will be a drawing at the end of the showcase for complimentary music packets.*

September 2014

**3:00 – 3:15 p.m. Break**

**3:15 – 4:00 p.m. General Session 7: Teacher Education Session Amy I-Lin Cheng, Chamber Music Master Class, Sara Carriere, presiding.**

**4:15- 5:15 p.m. General Session 8: MTNA Winners Recital, Lia Jensen-Abbott presiding.**

**5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Break**

**6:00 – 7:45 p.m. Gala Banquet**

**8:00 p.m. Gala Concert: Panayis Lyras, Conference Artist  
*Reception***

**Tuesday, October 14**

**9:00 – 10:00 General Session 9: SAT Handbook Revision: Discussion of the New Handbook 2, Gail Davis-Barnes, presiding.**

**10:00 – 10:20 a.m. Break/Hotel Check Out**

**10:25- 10:30 a.m. Business Meeting 2 Vote**

**10:30 – 12:00 noon General Session 10: Concert Artist, Panayis Lyras, Master Class of Advanced Students**

**12:00 noon Conference Wrap up**

Dear MMTA Members,

The MMTA Nominating Committee met this spring in order to develop a slate of officers for 2014-16. The following committee members met in person as well as via conference call: Charles Aschbrenner (excluded from the final vice president candidate discussion), Jill Christian, Barbara Collins, Penny Draper and Christie Otter.

MMTA members listed below have accepted the nominating committee's invitation to serve on the MMTA Executive Board and were approved by the MMTA Board at the July 19 meeting:

Gail Lytle Lira, President

Charles Aschbrenner, Vice President

Diana Spitnale Miller, Treasurer

Carol Conklin, Secretary

The slate will be presented at the conference business meeting for election and re-election, and the new officers will be installed at the end of the conference.

Respectfully submitted,  
Penny Draper, MMTA Past President

September 2014

## 2014 Conference Biographies

### Conference Artist Panayis Lyras

Winner of the Silver Medal in the 1981 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, Panayis Lyras has been seen and heard by millions of television viewers on PBS and the Arts and Entertainment Cable Network. He is also First Prize winner of the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition, the William Kapell International Piano Competition, and the Three Rivers Piano Competition, and Silver Medalist in the Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition in Israel.



Since his 1980 recital debut in the prestigious Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena, California, Mr. Lyras has performed solo recitals in Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and many other cities across North America, including Boston, Los Angeles, Cincinnati, Denver, Houston, Portland, Sarasota, Seattle, Toronto and Vancouver. His orchestral engagements have included performances with the Philadelphia and Minnesota Orchestras, the Buffalo and Rochester Philharmonic Orchestras, the Boston Pops, and the San Francisco, Dallas, Saint Louis, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, Baltimore, Phoenix, North Carolina, Florida, Fort Worth, Nashville, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Omaha, Sacramento, Utah, Hawaii, Honolulu and Pacific symphony orchestras. Internationally, Mr. Lyras has performed with the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the Orquesta Filarmonica de la UNAM in Mexico City, the Orquesta Filarmonica de Montevideo in Uruguay, the Jerusalem and Haifa Symphony Orchestras in Israel, the National and Capetown Symphony Orchestras in South Africa, and toured England and Taiwan.

Panayis Lyras has collaborated with such acclaimed chamber music ensembles as the Tokyo, Chilingirian, Audubon, Colorado, Concord and Orford String Quartets, and appeared at the Saratoga, Interlochen, Scotia, Breckenridge, Peninsula, Colorado and Mount Gretna Summer Festivals. In August 2004, he was appointed Artist-in-Residence and Professor of Piano at Michigan State University.

A native of Athens, Greece, Mr. Lyras received his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from The Juilliard School. He is a Steinway Artist, and has recorded for Varèse Sarabande and Pantheon.

### Conference Clinician Amy I-Lin Cheng



Born in Taiwan, pianist Amy I-Lin Cheng has appeared in concerts across the United States, in Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Taiwan, Brazil and Israel. Her live performances have been heard on WGBH, KCSC, WHYI, La Radio Suisse Romande-Espace 2, and NPR in Houston. As a recital soloist, Amy has performed at venues such as the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Merkin Concert Hall in New York City, Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall, and National Concert Hall in Taipei. An avid chamber musician, Amy has toured in the US with the American Chamber Players, Trio Solari, and frequently appears in Chamber Music summer festivals. Amy is the co-Artistic Director of the Brightmusic Society of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City. She has recorded chamber music for Centaur, Albany, and CDBaby labels.

A graduate of The Curtis Institute of Music (BM), Yale University School of Music (MM and Artist Diploma), and the New England Conservatory (DMA), Amy studied with Claude Frank, Wha-Kyung Byun and Rolf-Peter Wille. Amy has been on artist faculty at the Interharmony Music Festival, Quartz Mountain Music Festival and the Sewanee Summer Music Festival. Amy currently holds a Lecturer of Piano position at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance. In addition, Amy works with pre-college students at the Community School of Ann Arbor.



## Conference Clinician Dennis Alexander

Since his affiliation with Alfred Publishing Company in 1986 as a composer and clinician, Dennis Alexander has earned an international reputation as one of North America's most prolific and popular composers of educational piano music for students at all levels. Professor Alexander retired from his position at the University of Montana in May 1996 where he taught piano and piano pedagogy for 24 years. Upon moving to California, he taught privately in addition to serving on the faculties of Cal State Fullerton and Cal State Northridge. He currently lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico where he maintains an active composing and touring schedule for Alfred Publishing Company.



Professor Alexander is a native Kansan, having graduated from the University of Kansas where he was a student of Richard Reber. In 1972, he was invited to join the faculty at the University of Montana and served as piano department chair in addition to his teaching duties in applied piano, class piano and piano pedagogy. In 1987, he made his New York debut at Carnegie Recital Hall with violinist Walter Olivares and continues to be active as a soloist, accompanist and chamber musician. He has served as a collaborative artist for numerous internationally recognized soloists, instrumentalists, and chamber groups. A former president of the Montana State Music Teachers Association, he is a popular clinician at state and national music teachers conventions. In 2009, he was invited by MTNA to conduct the intermediate level master class at their national convention in Atlanta. Professor Alexander recently returned from judging a national piano competition in India called "Musiquest" and has toured twice to the Far East where he performed recitals and workshops in Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia, and South Korea.

Over the years, numerous organizations and state associations have commissioned him to write compositions. Many of his compositions are included in the National Federation of Music Study Clubs Festival required list and his music is being performed by students throughout the United States, Canada, South Africa, Australia, Asia, and Europe. One of Mr. Alexander's most significant contributions to the repertoire is "24 Character Preludes" in all major and minor keys which includes a CD with Dennis Alexander as soloist. He is also a co-author of an exciting and innovative piano method entitled "Alfred's Premier Piano Course". His latest collections, called "Just for Two" were recently released and consist of 4 collections of one piano/4 hand repertoire. Each book consists of duet arrangements of the most popular pieces from his "Just for You" series, a best seller. He was recently commissioned by MTNA to compose a chamber music work for piano, violin, and cello entitled "Dance Suite" and this work was premiered at the 2013 national conference in Anaheim, California. Mr. Alexander's personal website ([www.dennisalexander.com](http://www.dennisalexander.com)) has become a favorite with piano teachers and features recordings, videos, teaching tips, and much more!

## Conference Speaker Jessie Grant



Jessie Grant DPT, CSCS received her Bachelors of Science degree from Grand Valley State University in 2007. She successfully completed her Doctorate degree in Physical Therapy from GVSU in 2010. Since graduation, Jessie has been employed at Active Orthopedics Physical Therapy's Midland and Freeland locations where she has developed an excellent reputation as a skilled manual therapist with exceptional orthopedic knowledge.

Jessie has a strong interest in orthopedics and sports physical therapy. She has participated in numerous educational courses including Oakland University's Orthopedics Manual Physical Therapy continuing curriculum for the spine and extremities. She holds

national certification as a Functional Movement Screen (FMS) administrator and she is a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS).

## 2014 MMTA Distinguished Service Award

### Penny Draper, Recipient



Dr. Penny Draper, an MMTA certified teacher of piano, maintains a private piano studio, and also teaches piano at Emanuel Lutheran School in Lansing. She is a piano technician, having studied at MSU with Owen Jorgensen, and has tuned for the MSU College of Music at radio station WKAR, Kellogg Center, and Wharton Center for Performing Arts.

Penny is the director of an early music ensemble, The Renaissance Singers, a costumed-troupe that specializes in recreating choral music, instrumental music, and dance from the sixteenth century, performing in the mid-Michigan area and beyond. Performances, from Stratford, Ontario to Chicago, have included the Brunch with Bach series sponsored by WQRS Radio in Detroit, Meadowbrook Hall for the Detroit Chamber of Commerce, the 2003 Michigan Music Teachers Convention, the Michigan Festival, and Lansing Matinee Musicale. The singers present educational programs from pre-school through collegiate levels in the mid-Michigan area, participate in local fundraisers, and have produced a CD.

Penny's past choral activities include directing youth choirs and the bell choir at Plymouth Congregational Church in Lansing, serving as the choral director at HOPE Academy, and teaching high school and middle school choral music in the Williamston and East Lansing Public Schools. She toured Europe as the music director of Suitcase Theatre, a Lansing-based theatrical troupe of high school and college students, and again as a member of the MSVA Touring Choir, participating in the Llangollen *International Musical Eisteddfod*.

Piano studies for Penny began in the second grade with Patricia Waters, and continued in middle school and high school with MMTA's Jean Hull. A highlight during high school was summer study at Interlochen as a Lansing Matinee Musicale scholarship winner. Penny was also awarded a music tuition scholarship at MSU, where she studied with David Renner, earning B.A. degrees in applied piano pedagogy, cum laude, and choral education, cum laude. While at MSU, she served as the accompanist for the State Singers. Returning to MSU for graduate study she earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in musicology. While completing dissertation research she was an adjunct faculty member at the University of Michigan-Flint, teaching music history during a faculty sabbatical and serving as accompanist for the Chorale under Director Mary Alice Stollak.

Currently, Penny is President of the Southwest District of MFMC, President-Elect of MFMC, as well as a past president of CAMTA and Lansing Matinee Musicale. She is a member of Sigma Alpha Iota, Pi Kappa Lambda, listed in the millennium edition of Marquis *Who's Who of American Women*, and in a number of subsequent Marquis *Who's Who* anthologies. She was selected as Teacher-of-the-Year in 2003 by the Capital Area Music Teachers Association, and as an International Musician of the Year by the International Biographical Centre in Cambridge, England.

## **Change in MMTA Dues for 2014-2015**

The Michigan Music Teachers Association Executive Committee and Board of Directors met in July. After reviewing the budget report, it was decided to raise the yearly dues for the organization by \$5. Dues have been the same for eleven years and expenses have gone up.

Starting in 2015 the state dues will be as follows: Active Members \$40, Seniors \$22.50, and Students \$15. A Senior member has attained 65 years of age and held membership in MMTA for ten years. A Student member is a full-time college student studying music and a member of an affiliated association.

Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) have been notified and the new amounts will be on the registrations that are available in the spring of 2015.

The budget for 2014-2015 will be voted on at the Fall Conference in Dearborn. It can be found on <http://www.michiganmusicteachers.org> under Member Resources at Member Documents. You will have to sign in and click on Financial Documents.

Diana Spitnale Miller  
Treasurer

## **Michigan Music Teachers Certification News**

Another year has passed during which we have taught many students. As we teach, our teaching skills develop and we see progress in our students. The certification process, whether state or national, is another way to develop teaching skills. I might add, that it takes courage to be willing to present our teaching skills to be evaluated by peers.

Let's congratulate the following teachers on their achievement! This year Sarah Apol from Wayland achieved her goal of state certification. A renewal of the standard certificate was granted to Debra Culver – Ortonville, Christina Dragone- Ferndale, and Jackie Vander Slik- Holland. New Emeritus at 4<sup>th</sup> renewal was granted to Cheryl Cameron – Fort Gratiot, Jane Greenfield – Alto, and Susan Tindall – Muskegon. Emeritus renewal was granted to Mary S. Bates – Ann Arbor. Emeritus to permanent certificate was granted to Barbara J. Collins – Port Huron and Georgia Kline – Schoolcraft. College faculty renewal was granted to Adrienne Wiley-Lippoldt – Midland and to Helen Marlais – Grand Rapids.

National certification was granted to Kristen Avila (2013)- Muskegon, and in 2014 to Suzanne Jordan – Ada, Sara Marie Aylesworth – Sterling Heights, and Christina Woodgate – Sault Ste Marie.

Plan to attend the banquet at the October state convention in Dearborn to greet these certified teachers and offer your congratulations.

Consider the possibility of developing teaching skills through certification. The State Certification Committee will offer a session at the conference explaining how to prepare for the state and national certification process, the components of the certification tests, and how to prepare the students for the audition. If you would like more information on certification, please contact Maria Holian, Certification Chairperson at 734-354-6517 or by email: [mholian@netzero.net](mailto:mholian@netzero.net).

## Did You Know?

### Mary Vander Linde, Historian

This is a little aside to our story of the history of MMTA. A few months ago, our MMT editor received an email from a retired professor of English and Modern Irish literature while teaching at universities in Ireland and British Columbia. His name is John Wilson Foster. He was writing a book about early bird protection conservation in America. He came across the name of H.B. Roney. Upon Googling this name, he discovered that Mr. Roney was affiliated with MMTA. He looked at our website and ultimately contacted our MMT editor, Stuart Foster, hoping he had some information about this Mr. Roney. As Stuart didn't know anything about him, he suggested he contact me, which he did. I checked the first page of our history and discovered an H. B. Roney was the first secretary of the newly founded MMTA board. When Professor Foster Googled HBR, several sites came up, including music composition sites along with the MMTA site. He discovered on the Library of Congress website, that Mr. Roney's compositions were listed in a book on Saginaw's contribution to American popular music. He also was listed as a member of East Saginaw's Game Protection Club.

Professor Henry B. Roney is credited with turning back Chief Petoskey's son and several hundred native Americans on the road to the nesting of the passenger pigeons they wished to annihilate. A Sheriff Ingalls, who spoke the native language, accompanied him.

Subsequently Mr. Wilson obtained a news article from the Muskegon Chronicle of 1957, datelined Oden, telling of the soon to be erected monument to the passenger pigeon. It quotes Eugene Petersen, then director of the Michigan Historical Commission, referring to Professor Henry B. Roney, as "Saginaw sportsman and violin teacher", who started a legislative move to stop the indiscriminate killing of pigeons after witnessing the great Oden slaughter in 1878."

This really grabbed me for a couple of reasons, other than Mr. Roney's role in MMTA! The first is that I am a native of Petoskey, and second, as a grade school pupil, I was told about the slaughter of passenger pigeons many times by my old art teacher, who had us drawing many activities of the native Americans. Believe me, the next time I travel to Petoskey, I shall make a trip to Oden to see the monument! (Trusting it is still there!)

Quoting from Professor Wilson – "This might give me only a sentence in my book, but I rather like the idea of the fellow who took on the pigeoners at the great Petoskey massacre of the passenger pigeons in 1878 being a composer and music teacher."

His book is entitled "Pilgrims of the Air" and is to be published August 19, 2014 in England. (London:Notting Hill Editions) It will also be available on Amazon.co.uk and Amazon.com. It may be available in the U.S. as well. Professor Wilson wants us to know that September 1, 2014 marks the centennial anniversary of the death of the last passenger pigeon!

And now we all know some other interesting facts about one of our founding musicians!

## Nagel, cont. from pg 14

much of what he (Haydn) was he owed to the older master. And Beethoven insisted that this new young student Karl Czerny go out and buy a copy of Die Warhe Art. With the hope that looking at his most important works will elevate his stature at this celebratory time, let me recommend the Six Prussian Sonatas from 1742, the Six Wurttemberg Sonatas from 1744, and the large collection of Sonatas Fantasies and Rondos "Für Kenner und Liebhaber" or roughly translated "For Connoisseurs and Amateurs". And specifically I would suggest looking at the third of the Prussian Sonatas, in E Major, with an exquisite slow movement, evocative of J.S. but thoroughly individual, in the rarely used tonality of c-sharp minor. This sonata, challenging but of less than excessive difficulty, is filled with the devices that personify C.P.E.: sudden changes of direction (the eighth measure of this e major work recalls the opening theme but in e minor and then wanders off in different directions before landing in the dominant). Interesting counterpoints and keyboard sonorities color the development, and the recap, (or reprise, as it is sometimes called) is considerably altered. The final movement is brilliant and filled with the unexpected. With the Wurttemberg set, I heartily recommend the first one in A Minor, a work I have had much pleasure in learning and performing. Its last movement is one jolly romp through mid- eighteenth century keyboard virtuosity and dynamic surprise. It has, for me, served well as a program opener, as could any of the others in this remarkable set. And from the Kenner und Liebhaber set, there is so much to choose from, I would simply encourage all pianists to spend some happy time reading this music. I am especially fond of the 1781 Rondo in E, which I have played often, a Rondo in E-flat from 1787 which clearly was known to Beethoven (compare to the Prometheus Variations and Eroica Symphony) and a charmer of an A major Rondo from 1783.

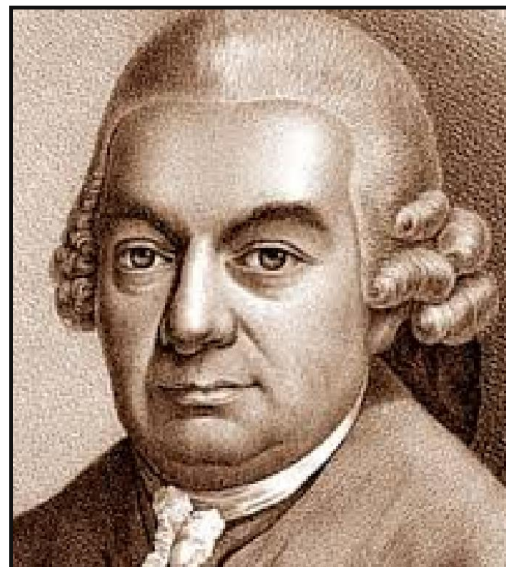
There is so much music! And so much beauty to discover. In closing this advocacy for a neglected great composer, let me stress the fact that among the long list of works that helped define a style and set music on a new path are some keyboard and choral works that could proudly take their place on today's concert and audition programs. It requires some browsing in a library and listening online to some performances; I assure you those efforts will reap rich rewards.

## District Ensemble Festivals Eliminated

After much thought, consideration and regret, the MMTA Board of Directors voted to eliminate the funding for our district ensemble festivals. When this non-competitive activity began many years back, there was much excitement and enthusiasm for this new recital venue. However in recent years, lack of interest and participation have questioned the continuation of these festivals. It will be up to our district chairpersons to decide whether they want to continue these festivals without state funding. Teachers and students alike will share fond memories of the joy of sharing music together which these festivals provided.

Jackie Willertz

State Ensemble Festival Chairperson



Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach

## Musical Musings

*Happy 300th Birthday to C.P.E. BACH*

by Louis Nagel

The Initials stand for Composer, Performer, Emancipator. And I would like to consider his work all too briefly in this musing. For this, as we all know, is the 300th anniversary of this great but neglected composer's birth. He deserves our attention.

1714 was actually a good year for composers. It witnessed the births of not only Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, but also the well-known composers Christoph Willibald Gluck, Niccolo Jommelli, Jean-Marie Leclair, and somewhat lesser names of Testeri, Siebenkas, and Homilius. If anyone knows the name Homilius without checking Wikipedia (as I did) I will treat you to a large cup of coffee! It was, however a somewhat strange time in music history. That period between the flowering and culminating work of the great Baroque triumvirate Bach, Handel, and Scarlatti (all born in the year 1685) and C.P.E.'s death in 1788 was restless and somewhat unfocused. Music styles changed from the often austere severity and complexity of the High Baroque (one does not put on the B-Minor Mass for pleasant background music, for example) to the far more tuneful and accessible classical works of the maturing Haydn, the soon-to-die-all-too-young Mozart and, yes, the charming, quirky and totally original compositions of C.P.E. himself. Indeed, shortly after his father died in 1750, if the name Bach was mentioned on the continent the reference was to the "Berlin" Bach, C.P.E., not J.S. In England, I must add, the name Bach referred to Johann Christian Bach. J.S. had begun his long descent into semi-oblivion.

Carl Philipp, a godson of no less a musician than Tellemann, was a student of his father, a thoroughly trained musician, and as was his father, interested in many disciplines. He was a brilliant keyboard player and probably one of the all-time great improvisors of music history. While preferring the clavichord, he was very much a force in validating the new kid on the block, the forte-piano. He was a prolific composer with over three hundred keyboard sonatas of substance, numerous flute concertos honoring his musically gifted employer, Frederick the Great, and many choral works. (Readers, please listen to his amazing Magnificat, taking no back seat to his father's own great composition of the same name.) He also earned a degree in law, something that was fairly common among composers and musicians at that time. He was friends with all his contemporary musician colleagues, and was on intimate terms with writers and philosophers such as Lessing and Moses Mendelssohn. He was something of a renaissance man almost while the Renaissance itself was still affecting art. And he was a great teacher, leaving behind a huge body of works valuable for their pedagogical impact, and of course the imposing *Versuch Die Wahre Art das Clavier zu Spielen*, (Essay on the True Art of Playing Keyboard Instruments). His use of "Empfindsamkeit"----the so-called "sensitive style", entered the musical world at a time when its beauties, surprises, and improvisational gestures resonated with audiences. It is said about him that although he was a practical, fun-loving and accessible man, when he improvised or performed his own music he entered a dream-like world; he and his listeners were completely transported from the mundane to the other-worldly. And he said famously in the treatise "A musician cannot move others unless he too is moved". Today we take such a statement for granted and can be critical of those performers who do not play with *Empfindsamkeit*, but then it was a new direction in music. Carl Phillip was its unquestioned champion.

Why he has fallen into the second tier of composers is something of a puzzle. It is true that his music lacks the sensual beauty of a Mozart, or the concise organization and developmental genius of a Haydn. Nor does it have the dramatic impact of a Beethoven. But all three of these men were deeply devoted to the treatise and compositions of C.P.E. Bach. Mozart said of him in an amazing quote, "He is the father, we are the children". Haydn assured his biographer Greisinger that he studied Carl Philipp's works assiduously and so

Nagel, cont. on pg 13