

Michigan Music Teacher

PUBLICATION OF
THE MICHIGAN MUSIC
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

*Affiliated with the Music Teachers
National Association*

Vol. LXII No. 3 March 2016

President's Letter

Dear MMTA Members,

It was December and Natalie, an eight year old beginner was preparing to perform in her first piano recital. At the final lesson after a strong, memorized performance, she said to me, "Should I use the music? I really haven't practiced the fortes and the lattes." Needless to say, I had to control my laughter! We are in one of our busiest seasons. Between performances, judging, volunteering, SAT days, auditions, and other competitions, it is truly a wonder that we survive.

MTNA East Central Division

Held at Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana, I had the privilege to attend the East Central Division meeting and competition on January 15-16. The Presidents from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin participated in meetings and worked the competitions. We heard beautifully, polished performances from students representing these five states. We are extremely fortunate and proud of our fine Michigan music educators and their extremely diligent and musical students. The Michigan winners will compete in the MTNA National Competition at the MTNA Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Congratulations to all Michigan students who competed in Goshen.

Chamber Music String

Winner: Koinonia Trio (Amy Cheng, coach)

Hye-jin Cho, Piano

Christine Li, Violin

Nathaniel Pierce, cello

Chamber Music Wind

Winner: Eero Quartet (Timothy McAllister, coach)

David Foley, Soprano Saxophone

Andrea Voulgaris, Alto Saxophone

Lisa Keeney, Tenor Saxophone

Brendan Kelly, Baritone Saxophone

Senior Performance Piano

Winner: Heather Gu (Logan Skelton)

Senior Performance Woodwind

Winner: Hunter O'Brien (Joanna White)

Senior Piano Duet

Winner: Joseph Mutone and David Mutone (Catherine Rollin)

Young Artist Performance Woodwind

Winner : Jonathan Hostottle, Saxophone (Timothy McAllister)

Young Artist Performance Piano

Alternate Hsiujung Hou (Christopher Harding)

Junior Performance Piano

Honorable Mention Shuheng Zhang (Logan Skelton)

President, 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; 616-425-7619
MMTA Website: www.michiganmusicteachers.org

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

VICE PRESIDENT
Charles Aschbrenner
324 East 16th Street
Holland, MI 49423
616-396-4282

SECRETARY
Carol Conklin
5250 Stapleton Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269-372-0701

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

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

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

CERTIFICATION CHAIR
Janice Derian
12612 Glenview Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170-3023
734-455-3103

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
Beatrice Ellis
1421 Glen Leven Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
734-327-9294

AWARDS CHAIR
Carol Ivkovich
1857 Dennison Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
517-262-6260

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
Wendy Zohar
2760 Gladstone Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734-741-8750

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

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

**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

MTNA FOUNDATION CHAIR
Jordan Brett
290 Park Green Drive
Lake Orion, MI 48362
248-568-3548

COMMISSIONED COMPOSER CHAIR
Dr. Silvia Roederer
2631 Parkwyn Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
269-344-8620

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

**AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY
CHAIR**
Michelle Mitchum
900 Jennings Avenue
Potoskey, MI 49770
231-347-4747

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
JUNE 2016

MMT:

May 15

All materials must be
received by this date

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR E-MAIL

Send to
Lester Castellana, Membership Chair: lestercastellana@gmail.com
~ or mail to: ~
Lester Castellana, 7164 Palmer St., Dexter, MI 48130

President, cont. from p. 1

2016 MTNA National Conference April 2 – 6, San Antonio, Texas

Emmanuel Ax, Time for Three, Seymour Bernstein and many others will be performing, leading master classes, and presenting innovative techniques useful to all members during this conference. Please let me know if you are attending (gail@gaillytlelira.com) and would like to dine with other Michigan members on Sunday, April 3, immediately following the East Central Division meeting. As an MMTA member, you are always invited to attend the ECD meeting.

MMTA welcomes **Carol Ivkovich** as the new MMTA Awards Chair. I would like to thank Jennifer Drake for her many faithful years of service to MMTA and for her graciousness in helping with the smooth transition to a new chair.

We also welcome the **Macomb Music Teachers Forum** to MMTA. An energetic and exciting new local association, MMTF is launching their first SAT day at Evola Music in Shelby Township this spring. Speaking of firsts, **Wendy Zohar**, MMTA Strings Chair, is holding a Strings SAT day on March 5th at Eastern Michigan University.

Persistence, teamwork and dedication, are three adjectives that come to mind as we persevere through our next couple of months of SAT testing, competitions and auditions. And as Natalie says, don't forget the fortes and the lattes!

Happy Teaching,



MMTA President

Important Upcoming Dates:

February 27-28, 2016 MMTA Concerto Competition, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, MI

April 2-6, 2016 MTNA National Conference, Hyatt Grand Hotel, San Antonio, TX

April 16, 2016 SAT Semi-Finals, West, Central, and East locations

May 1, 2016 Executive Committee and Board Meeting, Lansing, MI

May 7, 2016 SAT Finals, MSU, East Lansing, MI

October 9-11, 2016 131st MMTA State Conference, Midland, MI

Ensemble Festival: A Historical Background

The Ensemble Festival Program was started by Katherine Rice of Grand Rapids in 1988. The purpose was “to provide a performance experience for students on all levels which (1) is non-competitive in spirit and in fact; (2) encourages the study and performance of ensemble literature of various combinations; and (3) provides positive evaluation and encouragement for each participant by means of objective critiques by impartial professional adjudicators.” Every effort was to be made to establish a true “festival” atmosphere, celebratory and non-judgmental in nature, and as free from tension as possible.



The first festivals were held in 1989. Mrs. Rice chaired the state program for a couple years before moving on to edit the Michigan Music Teacher. Elizabeth Snedeker took over as chairman for two years. In 1993 Diana Spitnale Miller became chairman and continued until 2001 when she took over another position. However a chair was not found until 2003 so Miller continued to administer it. Kelly Yoakum served from 2003 – 2012. Jackie Willertz served from 2012 until 2014.

Originally the state was divided up into districts and local associations were assigned to a district.

The first districts were the Southeast: Ann Arbor, Detroit, Livonia, Flint, Port Huron, West Oakland; the West: Battle Creek, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo; Lake Michigan: Muskegon, Holland; the North: Central Michigan, Grand Traverse, Bay County, Saginaw, Midland, Capitol, Owosso; and the Upper Peninsula: Lake Superior, plus an affiliated MMTA Teachers in Escanaba, Marquette and elsewhere.

In the intervening years the districts have changed to fit the needs of the area. Some of the following comments are based on the recital programs available. The original districts may have had festivals in 1989 and 1990 but there are not programs for some. There are ribbons from 1989.

The Upper Peninsula held festivals from at least 1991 – 1996. The Great Lakes local was established during that time and held responsibility for the festival. It was again held in 1998 in the Escanaba area. Then it was felt that, since that area had been doing their own festivals for a number of years, they would follow the same format they had previously done. With the area so farflung, the program has not continued.

The North District began in 1991. It included a wide geographic area. Some locals felt it was too long a distance to travel. It became the North Central district in 1992 with the farther locals breaking away. It now includes Bay County, Flint, Midland.

In 1994 the Capital Area which included Lansing and Owosso began having a festival.

The Lake Michigan District probably began in 1989 and has continued strong. It was under the leadership of Mary Ann Hornik until 2000.

The West District began having festivals in 1989. Though only made up of three locals, participation was so heavy that it was felt something different had to be done. So in 1994 the District became “Southwest” and involved Battle Creek and Kalamazoo. Until this time Districts had included several locals. But in 1996 Grand Rapids began to have their own festival, and continue to do so until today. (2015)

At this time independent teachers across the state who had not affiliated with a local were encouraged to participate in a nearby festival if they desired.

The Southeast District held festivals from 1991-1993. Problems developed again because there were so many locals involved. Festivals discontinued.

Port Huron held their own affiliated festivals from 1996 – 1999. At this time they are sponsoring their own.

Originally the idea was to have all festivals at approximately the same time of the year – May. This worked for awhile but in some areas participation in Achievement testing and area recitals began to interfere. So Districts were released from that tradition. Some continue to happen in May but others occurred in the fall and winter. It has been left up to the district to plan how it fits for the local calendars.

The original ensemble festival plan was for piano participation only. The reasons were valid and continue in some areas today. But other areas wanted to expand; especially since the state association is trying to involve voice and other instrumental teachers in a larger way. So in 2000 it was agreed to let the district festivals expand to include other ensemble groups besides piano.

Like many programs, the ensemble festival idea originated with certain intents, has fluctuated in participation, and changed with the times. The idea of getting together to make music was the best reason of all to continue having ensemble festivals around the state.

However by 2014 only a few places were still having small Ensemble Festivals. The costs of the Festivals were not covered by the income generated so it was decided by the Executive Board and confirmed by the Board of Directors to stop sponsoring them and let the locals who wanted to run their own festivals.

Originally written in 2001; updated in 2015.

2016 MMTA State Conference in Midland

The 2016 MMTA State Conference will be held October 9-11, 2016, in Midland, MI.

The conference will be held at the beautiful H Hotel in downtown Midland, with rooms at \$109/night.

Pianos provided by James Reeder.

Featured Guest Artist is **Anne Schein**, noted pianist and teacher, and 2015 Festival Artist, MTNA National Conference, Las Vegas.

Continue to check the conference website as more details become available:
www.michiganmusicteachers.org/2016-conference-information

I look forward to seeing all of you at the 131st state conference!

Charles Aschbrenner, Vice President and Conference Planner



Dolce
Hotel & Conference Destination

Congratulations!

MTNA will recognize **LaVonne M. Harris** from Chelsea, Michigan for her 50 years of membership at the Annual Meeting of the 2016 MTNA National Conference in San Antonio on April 5. We thank LaVonne for her many years of membership to MMTA and MTNA.

SAT Revision Committee Update

The Handbook Revision Committee continues to have weekly phone conferences and they hope to release all SAT levels to the Executive Board by June 2016. Thank you to the committee members, Gail Davis Barnes, Chair, Gerardo Ascheri, Penny Draper, Pat Lobbestael, Maria Lonchyna-Lisowsky, Diana Munch, and Barbara Collins.

 My Music Staff | Compatible with:


THE *easiest* WAY TO MANAGE YOUR MUSIC TEACHING BUSINESS. TRY IT FREE FOR 30-DAYS

Streamline and automate your studio administration while eliminating paperwork and improving efficiency.

➔ Visit: www.mymusicstaff.com to get started.

\$12.95/mo
Unlimited Students
Unlimited Storage

Nagel, cont. from p. 8

Rather it comes from experience and devotion to a repertoire that always repays study no matter how many times one has performed the works in the past. And lastly, for the purposes of this column, I wanted NOT to applaud after any of the concerts, especially the last one. I wanted that mood he evoked to last and last. I did not want to chat with anyone after the programs were over preferring to live still in what was left of the musical world he created for me. I know I also speak for Julie, my lovely wife, who shares with me the understanding and appreciation of what took place on those Rackham and Hill stages. Together we experienced music making of a rare and beautiful kind and we are very thankful for the opportunity to have done so.

MMTA Concerto Competition Winners

February 27 and 28, 2016

DIVISION I (Grades 1-3)

1st Place	Aaron Wang	Teacher: Catherine Rollin
-----------	------------	---------------------------

DIVISION II (Grades 4-6)

1st Place	Johnathan Shi	Teacher: Marta Pietrzyk
-----------	---------------	-------------------------

2nd Place	Roger Wang	Teacher: Arthur Greene
-----------	------------	------------------------

3rd Place	Salem Wang	Teacher: Mary Siciliano
-----------	------------	-------------------------

DIVISION III (Grades 7-9)

1st Place	Claire Wan	Teacher: Logan Skelton
-----------	------------	------------------------

2nd Place	Jack Naglick	Teacher: Catherine Rollin
-----------	--------------	---------------------------

3rd Place	Catherina Lu	Teacher: Catherine Rollin
-----------	--------------	---------------------------

DIVISION IV (Grades 10-12)

1st Place	Tsung Wah Lian	Teacher: Michael Coonrod
-----------	----------------	--------------------------

2nd Place	Andrew Wu	Teacher: Marta Pietrzyk
-----------	-----------	-------------------------

3rd Place	Emily Foster	Teacher: Helen Marlais
-----------	--------------	------------------------

Honorable Mention	Maple Xu	Teacher: Faye Mao
-------------------	----------	-------------------

Musical Musings

What Do We Learn from Hearing Great Artists in Live Performance?

By Louis Nagel

I admit this is a somewhat unwieldy title. Recently we in Ann Arbor have been privileged to hear Sir Andras Schiff in a series of three concerts programming the final three sonatas each of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert. It is hard to believe that this man could top either his historic traversal of the Beethoven sonatas or his "Everestian" variations program of the Goldberg and Diabelli (and encore of Op. 111). Maybe "top" is a somewhat "commercial" term. All three of these performances set the bar for what great music making can be in the hands of a visionary performer.

But what exactly do we mean when we say "learn from the great artists"? Most people in Sir Andras' audiences are not going to replicate these gargantuan programs, and even the performers interspersed throughout the crowd will not likely want simply to imitate him. Is there a way that his special playing can relate to a young student, to a teacher, to an experienced performer and the layman who goes because listening to a live concert performance is a wonderful thing to do?



Sir Andras Schiff

The non-musician audience member will hear music of great beauty and often profundity. He/she may have as a child taking piano lessons played Mozart's delicious K.545. The ring of familiarity will possibly be tempered by the realization that in the hands and from the mind and soul of an artist, this is a wonderful miniature, a work that combines beauty with craftsmanship in a most pleasing way. That person will probably not care that the first movement recap of a sonata in C major starts in F Major, a fifth below the tonic and the textbooks (which had yet to be written) say you can't do that! Nor will that person care about the form of the second movement or the imitation at the fifth in the third movement. That for those who are sometimes regarded as a little pedantic perhaps!

Possibly the young student will appreciate far more than the following ---I hope so. Certainly that individual will be amazed at Sir Andras's prodigious memory and infallible technique. And that is fair----many students find those issues to be great problems in the preparation of their own performances.

The teacher hopefully will hear the enormous emotional range of this mainline repertoire: from the simplest music such as the aforementioned Mozart or the lovely and sadly obscure penultimate Haydn sonata in D Major, through the contrapuntally complex and demanding Mozart K. 576 and the orchestral Haydn E-flat to the profound last sonatas of Beethoven and Schubert. The teacher will appreciate this mainline repertoire as sublime and recognize that it has unfolded over long time spans and presents myriad interpretive difficulties, to be addressed rather than "solved"! Possibly the thought might occur to some of us in the profession of how truly difficult works like the Haydn C Major Sonata or the Beethoven Op. 109 really are. They should be considered advanced repertoire after a student has wrestled with other works of somewhat more accessibility----Haydn C Minor Sonata or Beethoven Pastorale, for example. (And those are by no means easy pieces!)

What did I think about from hearing Sir Andras play these three programs? For one thing, I felt how important space is in performing. No matter how fast the music needed to go, I heard IN BETWEEN EVERY NOTE. I heard how the music lived and breathed not only how it sounded. Schiff treats each composition as a life----a person made of notes might be a way to phrase it. And each work has its own space, and takes its own time and has its own personality. For another I was reminded of the intense concentration and focus needed to play a recital with that kind of integrity and presence. This cannot be taught, I don't believe.

Nagel, cont. on p. 7