

Michigan Music Teacher

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**PUBLICATION OF
THE MICHIGAN MUSIC
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

*Affiliated with the Music Teachers
National Association*
www.mtna.org
www.michiganmusicteachers.org

Vol. LXIII No. 1 September 2016

President's Letter

Dear MMTA Members,

My travels as MMTA President began in Cincinnati at the Summit as President-Elect in September of 2014. Meeting leaders from all 50 states, we also received a crash course on the FTC and everything that MTNA offers their leaders and members. In January of 2015, I traveled to Appleton, WI for the East Central Division meeting and competitions. A flight to Las Vegas to attend the 2015 MTNA Conference, followed by another Summit before driving to Goshen, IN for another ECD. I finished my travels with the fantastic 2016 San Antonio MTNA Conference. From all of these travels, I found that we are truly a fascinating, delightful, warm and remarkable group of musicians and educators.

Have you registered for the **131st State Conference October 9th – 11th** at the H Hotel in Midland? Vice President, Charles Aschbrenner has organized a truly inspiring, rejuvenating and enriching conference, that all of you will enjoy attending. With the wonderful hospitality of our local hosts, Midland Music Teachers Association, and Dr. Adrienne Wiley serving as local chair, members will come away empowered and motivated. Be sure to register and reserve your room before September 17th for a better rate. New this year, we will be honoring MMTA members of 50 or more years at the Monday evening banquet, October 10th. The banquet reservations must be made before September 17th.

Of course, it takes a village to serve our members and our students and we have a marvelous village. **Mary Vander Linde** has contributed many years of historical knowledge to MMTA and our newsletters. She approached me about retiring from the Historian position. **Miho Segal** has graciously accepted this new position on the board. We also welcome **Lisa Keim** to the MMTA Board as the new SAT Voice Chair.

The MMTA website is known by our MTNA colleagues as being a very fine website. Thank you to **Eric Van De Vort** for his continued patience and diligence in making the MMTA website accessible to all of our members. For many years, Eric has answered every e-mail concerning every imaginable facet of our organization while constantly updating our website design and content. We welcome **Yelena Wells** to the MMTA board as the new Technology Chair.

We all know **Margarete Thomsen** from her enduring devotion to the SAT program. As SAT Auditions Chair for the past seven years, Margarete has organized many SAT Finals making them truly a memorable event for our students. **Michelle Mitchum**, has kindly accepted this position as the new SAT Auditions Chair and I know she will bring her many talents to this position.

At the July Board meeting the Implementation Committee was formed consisting of **Sara Carrier, Jackie Vander Slik, Barbara DuRussell, Diana Munch** and myself. Currently this committee and other MMTA members are thoroughly perusing the document and testing our students in the new levels. Thank you to all MMTA members who are reviewing the new handbook, testing the new document and offering feedback. This is an ongoing process and the SAT New Revisions Committee, after researching other state documents, has spent many long hours meeting, working together (and on their own), proof reading, and testing, to provide our members with the best curriculum for our teachers and students to succeed. **Chair, Gail Davis-Barnes, Gerardo Ascheri, Pat Lobbestael, Maria Lonchyna-Lisowsky, Diana Munch, Penny Draper and Barbara Collins**, we appreciate your years of expertise, time, energy and devotion to this huge endeavor.

President, cont. on p. 3

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

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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. For multiple issue pricing, please contact the editor.

DEADLINE

FOR THE

DECEMBER 2016

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

~ or mail to: ~

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

President, cont. from p. 1

I have accepted with deep regret the resignation of our fine and charming Vice President, **Charles Aschbrenner**. Charles has served MMTA for many years and as Vice President for two years. He is resigning as of October 11, 2016 due to health concerns. According to our Bylaws, (Article VII Section 5) the Board of Directors shall appoint a President if our Vice President is unable to assume the Presidency. The Board of Directors has appointed **Dr. Adrienne Wiley** to become President on October 11, 2016. MMTA is extremely grateful to Dr. Wiley for being willing to serve as our MMTA President.

I have been honored to serve this outstanding organization as your President the last two years. MTNA has meant so much to me and has enriched my teaching over the last 30 plus years. My pre-college teacher, Louise Mahin, was actively involved in KMTA and GLMTA and I participated in a similar SAT program at the University of Louisville. While attending graduate school at the University of Illinois, I entered the MTNA competitions and my music professors encouraged membership in MTNA. Thank you for this incredible opportunity to work, serve and learn alongside the patient and creative board members of the Michigan Music Teachers Association.

Sincerely,



MMTA President

Important Upcoming Dates:

September 14, 3:00 pm	Deadline to register for MTNA Auditions
October 9-11	MMTA 131 st State Conference, H Hotel in Midland, MI
November 11-13	MTNA Auditions, Western Michigan University
January 15, 2017	ECD Competition and Meeting, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI
March 18 -22	MTNA National Conference, Baltimore, MD
April 22	SAT Semi-Finals
May 6	SAT Finals (voice, intermediate and junior piano), Michigan State University
May 18-20	SAT Senior Piano Finals, in conjunction with Michigan Youth Arts Festival, Western Michigan University (see article on page 14 for more information)

MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

131st Annual State Conference

October 9-11, 2016 ~ Midland, MI

CONFERENCE AND MEAL REGISTRATION (check the MMTA website for online registration)

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Local Association: _____ Certification: State National

REGISTRATION FEES:

Advance Conference Registration: MMTA Member

(registration after September 17—\$85) \$70.00 _____

Advance Conference Registration: non-MMTA Member

(registration after September 17—\$95) \$80.00 _____

One Session/One Day Registration \$55.00 _____

Registration: MMTA Member's spouse

(registration after September 17—\$50) \$40.00 _____

College Student Registration \$10.00 _____

Monday Night Concert: non-Registrant \$20.00 _____

MEAL RESERVATIONS (Advance reservations only—not available after September 17):

Monday Evening Banquet, October 10 \$28.00 _____

Please select one Banquet entrée. Tax and gratuity are included in the price.

_____ Grilled Flank Steak with Mushroom Sauce and Fried Onions

_____ Pan Seared Chicken Scaloppine with Provolone Cheese and Balsamic Chicken Au Jus

_____ Pasta Giardinera

* All entrees come with the H House Salad, Gourmet Rolls, Chef's Selection Starch and Vegetable, Chocolate Mousse, Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, & Iced Tea.

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

CONFERENCE AND MEAL ADVANCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 17, 2016

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 Charles Aschbrenner, MMTA Vice President and Conference Chairperson:

Phone: (616)396-4282; Email: aschbrenner@hope.edu

Anne Schein— MMTA 2016 Conference Artist

Considered one of the premier Chopin pianists of our time, and in the same league with Alicia de Larrocha, and Gina Bachauer, Ann Schein made her debut in Mexico City in 1957 and has since performed with major orchestras at elite concert halls all over the world. Schein was on the Peabody Conservatory faculty from 1980 to 2001 and was honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award at the school in 2012. Since 1984, she has been an artist-faculty member of the Aspen Music Festival and School. She has also served on the faculty of Indiana University and on the jury of the Irving S. Gilmore Keyboard Festival. Schein was recently featured in a book by Washington Post music critic Cecilia Hopkins Porter entitled *Five Lives In Music: Women Performers, Composers and Impresarios from the Baroque to the Present*. She continues to give lectures and master classes and has recently performed in Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore, Brazil and throughout the United States. She was the Conference Artist at the 2015 MTNA National Conference in Las Vegas where she performed works by Beethoven, Schumann, and Chopin which were received with spontaneous standing ovations.



Bradley Sowash— MMTA 2016 Conference Clinician

Bradley Sowash is a composer, creative pianist, multi-instrumentalist, recording artist, author, and educator specializing in improvisation. He has performed in every imaginable setting from living rooms, churches and jazz clubs to major concert venues both here and abroad for over thirty years. His broadcast credits include seven seasons of appearances on the PBS-TV series, *The Piano Guy*, and National Public Radio has aired selections from his nine CDs. He teaches master classes nationwide and co-founded with Leila Viss, 88 Creative Keys piano improvisation webinars and workshops for students and teachers in Denver, CO. The Neil A. Kjos Music Company publishes his widely acclaimed keyboard improvisation books and Augsburg Fortress Press has published several volumes of his hymn arrangements. He also writes a column about improvisation for *Clavier Companion*. Learn more at BradleySowash.com



Just 13 miles from MBS International Airport, the beautiful H Hotel (www.thehhotel.com) is in the heart of Midland. Their expert staff and state-of-the-art facilities make for a sophisticated environment conducive to a successful and enjoyable conference.



Dolce

Hotel & Conference Destination

M-20 heads East into Midland and after crossing the bridge a quick right on Main Street takes you directly to the H Hotel with ample complementary parking.

Conference rate for Single or Double Rooms: \$109/night + taxes. This rate is only available until SEPTEMBER 17. Rates cannot be changed at check-in or at check-out. To receive this rate, you may call the hotel directly at 1-866-611-5231 and state that you are with the MMTA 2016 Conference; or visit the event page on the MMTA website for reservation information for the hotel. Please note that there are some rooms available at the H Hotel Saturday night, October 8, for MMTA members arriving a day early. Check-in time is 3:00.

Conference 2016 Schedule

Sunday, October 9

8:30 E-Board Meeting

9:30 Full Board Meeting

12:00 Registration Opens; Poster Presentation Displays; Vendor Exhibits Open

1:00-5:00 NTCM Exam

1:00 2016 Conference Opening—Remarks

1:05 Session I—Bradley Sowash “Why Teaching Creativity is Important”

2:00 Break

2:15 Session II—Ann Schein “My Early Years with Mieczyslaw Munz”

3:00 Break

3:15 Session III—John Ellis “Bridges to Advanced Repertoire”

4:15 Business Meeting; Treasurer’s Report; Committee Reports

4:30 Session IV—MMTA Winners Recital

6:00 Dinner on Your Own; Local Associations Dinner Meeting

7:30 Session IV—Gala Concert Hosted by Midland Music Teachers Association

Commissioned Composer Premiere: Matthew Browne, DMA candidate, University of Michigan

9:00 Reception—Midland Music Teachers Association

Monday, October 10

7:30-9:00 Breakfast Meeting: Local SAT Chairs

8:00 Registration Opens; Vendor Exhibits Open

9:00 Session V—Bradley Sowash Showcase: “Creative Chords”

10:00 Break

10:15 Session VI—Master Class with TJ Lymenstall

11:30 Lunch on Your Own; Lunch Meeting: Certification Committee; Poster Presentations

1:00 Session VII—Bradley Sowash “Scalin’ the Chords”

2:00 Break

2:15 Session VIII—Casey Robards “Collaborative Piano”

3:15 Break

3:30 Session IX—MiJung Trepanier “The Logic of Piano Fingerings: 10 Unique Siblings of our Hands”

4:30 Session X—MTNA Winner’s Recital

5:45 Cash Bar Opens

6:15 Gala Dinner with Recognitions and Raffle

8:15 Session XI—Artist Piano Recital: Ann Schein

9:45 MMTA Reception

Tuesday, October 11

8:00 Breakfast Meeting: Advisory Council

8:00 Registration Opens; Vendor Exhibits Open

9:00 Session XII—Tracey Baetzel “Teaching Trumps Technology: The Artistry of Using Gadgets and Apps”

10:00 Business Meeting

10:05 Break/Hotel Checkout

10:30 Session XIII—Master Class: Ann Schein

12:00 Conference Wrap-Up

2016 MMTA Distinguished Service Award

Garik Pedersen, Recipient



Garik Pedersen has taught at Eastern Michigan University for 27 years. His studio, which has included students from many U.S. states and twelve other countries, has produced prizewinners in national and international—as well regional, state, and university competitions. A Steinway artist, Pedersen’s career has taken him to venues throughout the United States, Europe, Canada, Central and South America, Taiwan and the Philippine Islands. He has presented programs for the U.S. State Department, the National Federation of Music Clubs, Music Teachers National Association, the European Piano Teachers Association, Canadian Federation of Music Teachers Associations, the Royal Conservatory of Music and the College Music Society.

Gary joined MTNA in the 1970’s. He has served as an officer at the local and state levels, and has performed, presented or adjudicated at 10 state and 3 national conferences, as well as for numerous local associations. He has served MMTA in several capacities, most recently as Past President. He also served MTNA as a member of its Affiliate Grants Committee.

Dr. Pedersen studied piano with Wesley True at the University of Central Missouri, which awarded him its Distinguished Alumnus in Music in 2010, and with John Simms at the University of Iowa, where he received the DMA in 1986. Other major influences have been Gyorgy Sebok, Eugene Bossart, and Edwin E. Gordon.



Albion College

Music Department

Piano Festival and Competition October 26 – 30, 2016

Guest artists in recital:

Oct. 26 – 7:30 pm

Clayton Parr, Tenor

Lia Jensen-Abbott, Piano

Barry Snyder, Piano

Eastman School of Music



Oct. 27 – 7:30 pm

Valerie Tryon, Piano

International Concert Artist



Oct. 28 - Beginner and Ensemble Competition

Oct. 29 - Intermediate Competition

Oct. 30 - Advanced Competition

Cash prizes awarded in each category

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PIANO TEACHERS' FORUM OF GRAND RAPIDS PRESENTS

Dr. Alexandra Mascolo-David



Friday, November 11, 2016

Session 1 - 9:00 am

My Experience with the Taubman Approach to Piano Technique

Session 2 - 10:00 am

Performance Anxiety Management

Master class - 11:00 am

Women's City Club

254 Fulton St. E, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

\$20/adults, \$5/students

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September 2016

Bylaws Committee Report:

The 2016 Bylaws Committee was charged with revising the bylaws so that MMTA may qualify to apply for 501(c) (3) status as a tax-exempt, educational organization. State and local MTNA affiliates may apply for this status through MTNA's group exemption process. Among the advantages of 501(c)(3) status, affiliates can accept charitable contributions that will be tax deductible to the contributor. In addition, MMTA will be able to claim exemption from Michigan sales tax. Because these revisions change bylaws language pertaining to state certification, both the MMTA Board and the Bylaws Committee have worked closely with the MMTA Certification Committee throughout the revision process. The certification committee fully supports this revision.

2016 MMTA Bylaws Committee
Janice Derian
Christie Otter, Parliamentarian
Garik Pedersen, Past President and Chair

MICHIGAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA)

proposed BYLAWS changes

effective October 11, 2016

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership shall consist of seven (7) classes: Active, ~~Certified Active~~, Senior, Honorary Life, Non-resident, Associate and Student.

Section 2. An Active member shall be one who is actively engaged in the teaching of music in the State of Michigan and who has paid membership dues for the fiscal year in progress. Each active member shall be equally privileged with all other active members in voice and vote, the right to hold office, and the right to participate in all MMTA activities.

~~**Section 3.** A Certified Active member shall be one who has applied for and fulfilled all the requirement pertaining to certification as outlined by the Certification Committee. A certified active member must abide by the decisions of the Certification Committee. Each certified active member shall be equally privileged with all other active members in voice and vote, the right to hold office and the right to participate in all MMTA activities.~~

Revision: Eliminate Section 3 (change section numbers accordingly)

Section 4. A Senior member shall be one who has attained 70 years of age and has held membership in the Association for ten (10) years. A Senior Member qualifying for Active, ~~Certified Active~~ or Associate Member has the rights and privileges of each membership and shall pay a reduced membership fee.

Revision: Delete *Certified Active*

ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS

Section 9. A Nominating Committee shall be elected by the Board of Directors not less than six months prior to the Annual State Conference of each year and shall include ~~a member of the Certification Committee and~~ three (3) members-at-large of the Association, none of whom shall be candidates for an office in the election and each of whom shall reside in a different area of the state. The Nominating Committee shall nominate a candidate for each office and shall report that slate of nominees to the Board of Directors at the summer meeting. Additions to the slate may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be printed in the "Michigan Music Teacher" in the issue prior to the Annual State Conference.

Revision: Delete *a member of the Certification Committee and*

ARTICLE XI - COMMITTEES

Section 1. Chairpersons of Standing and special Committees, the Editor of the *MMT*, the Parliamentarian and the Historian, with the exception of the Chair of the Certification Committee, shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Committee. The normal term of office for Standing Committee chairpersons, unless otherwise stipulated in the committee's section, shall be three (3) year terms with reappointment for no more than two additional consecutive terms in any one position.

Section 2. General duties of all Standing Committee Chairpersons shall be to attend Board of Director meetings as requested by the Executive Committee and the Annual State Conference, to maintain current job descriptions, to submit a written report to the Secretary as requested by the Executive Committee, and to submit an annual written report at the time of the summer Board of Directors meeting.

Section 3. The Board of Directors may authorize the appointment by the President of such additional standing committees as rep-

resents the well-defined and continuing interests of the Association's membership.

Section 4. Special committees may be appointed by the President as needed.

Section 5. Meetings of the Standing and Special Committees are subject to the call of their respective chairpersons.

Section 6. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

Section 7. The Membership Committee shall keep an accurate record of the membership in all its classes and shall be responsible for the publication of the directory. The Membership Committee Chairperson shall receive an annual stipend to be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 8. The Local Associations Council consists of a Chairperson and the president of each local association. The duties of this council shall be to promote and direct the interests of local associations as they relate to the National State and other Local Associations.

~~**Section 9.** The Certification Committee shall consist of five (5) members) at least one (1) of whom shall be college faculty members. Certification Committee members shall be appointed by the Executive Committee from the list of Certified Active Members of the Association and in consultation with the Certification Chair. Members shall serve no more than three (3) full terms (9 years) in succession. Continuity of at least two (2) members will be maintained from one year to the next.~~

~~The Certification Committee shall meet at the Annual State Conference and elect from its membership of the preceding term a chairperson who shall serve for three (3) years. The chairperson shall be a Nationally Certified Teacher.~~

Revision: Replace with-

Section 9. The Certification Committee shall be responsible for matters related to national and/or state certification of teachers. They shall elect their own chair, who will be a voting member of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Upon recommendation of the Board of Directors, these Bylaws may be amended at the Annual State Conference by a two-thirds vote of the Active members and Certified Active members of MMTA present and voting. Written notice of the proposed amendment(s) must be submitted to the membership of MMTA at least four (4) weeks in advance of the business meeting.

Revision: Delete and Certified Active members

Dear MMTA Members,

The 2016 Nominating Committee consisted of Sarah Albright, Laurie Marshall, Dorothy Vogel, Adrienne Wiley, and Garik Pedersen, Past President and Chair.

We are pleased to offer the following slate of officers for the 2016-2018 biennium:

Lia Jensen-Abbott, Vice President and President-elect

Carol Conklin, Secretary

Diana Miller, Treasurer

As many of you already know, Charles Aschbrenner has announced that he will be unable to assume the presidency in October. The nominating committee strongly supports the decision to appoint Dr. Adrienne Wiley as our next president.

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,
Garik Pedersen, MMTA Past President

September 2016

In Remembrance of Wilma Jeanne Swartz-Zulauf

March 8, 1926 - July 6, 2016

The Greater Muskegon Music Teachers Association lost a beloved member this summer. Wilma Jeanne Swartz-Zulauf, age 90, passed away in Muskegon on July 6.

Wilma Jeanne received her Bachelor of Music Degree from the University of Oregon in 1948, and a Master Degree in Piano Performance at the University of Michigan in 1950, where she also met Allan Swartz. Married during the same year, they moved to Muskegon in 1951 where she opened her home piano studio, began raising a family of four children, and became a member of GMMTA. This began a wonderful professional association with MTNA, NFMC, MFMC, and our local association.

Wilma Jeanne was MMTA and MTNA certified. She held every office with GMMTA through the years, with a special note of being president from 1970-1972, and, 1989-1992. She was an advocate of becoming professionally certified and mentored many GMMTA members through the years to achieve this standard of excellence for teaching piano.

Wilma Jeanne had a remarkable dedication to GMMTA and piano teaching. She helped to organize GMMTA's 60th Anniversary with member Monica Joseph (deceased) in 1993, was an essential part of the hosting of the MMTA State Conference in Muskegon in 2000, and collaborated with Susan Tindall to write a GMMTA 75th anniversary history in 2008. Wilma Jeanne was well known to other MMTA local associations, especially the Piano Teachers' Forum of Grand Rapids, and the Holland Piano Teachers Forum.

Besides helping to establish the annual GMMTA Awards Recital in the mid-1970's, Wilma Jeanne saw the need to expand the monetary assistance for piano students to further their study. Co-founded with Monica Joseph, the Joseph-Wilson Music Scholarship Fund was established in 1996 at the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. Named in honor of Monica Joseph, and H. Dewey and Gladys Wilson, Wilma Jeanne's parents, this fund has provided financial assistance to the 1st and 2nd Place winners in four divisions of the GMMTA Awards Recital, as well as leaving a lasting legacy for the GMMTA teachers, students, and parents. Although each member of GMMTA has special and personal memories of Wilma Jeanne, it was her wisdom and enthusiasm for piano teaching that will remain in our memories. She faithfully attended MMTA fall conferences, judged events throughout the state, and consistently had students participate in the MMTA Student Achievement Tests, as well as the MFMC Jr. Festivals. Students were brought to high levels of performance under her instruction.

Allan Swartz passed away in 1996. Wilma Jeanne married Dr. Dwight J. Zulauf on June 26, 2011. She retired from teaching in 2014.

Hundreds of area piano students received instruction from the excellent teaching of Wilma Jeanne. Her love of teaching never diminished. She considered the study of music an important part of a well-rounded educational experience - one that carries over to every aspect of life. Her leadership, loyalty, and service to GMMTA and the Muskegon community, as well as her dedication to her students and their families will never be forgotten. Wilma Jeanne will remain an inspiration to all who knew her.

Cards of sympathy and remembering may be mailed to Dawn Swartz, 2241 Delaware Drive, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103. A memorial contribution to the Joseph-Wilson Fund may be mailed to The Community Foundation for Muskegon County, 425 W. Western Ave. Suite 200, Muskegon, MI 49440.

Wilma Jeanne is missed by all who knew her. May she rest in the loving embrace of her Lord and Savior.

Susan Rogalla Tindall
GMMTA Vice-president





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MMTA Certification Update

The State Certification committee has been busy reviewing our purpose, goals and processes. Interested in being certified? No more scrap book, five years of documentation and minimum points. If you are interested in State Certification, you will fill out an application, which includes details about your musical background, accomplishments as well as a mission statement. Upon receiving the application you can begin the certification process. All fees remain the same as well as the testing process. Typically teachers apply in the fall and the exam is mailed out in January. Your exam and presenting your student is completed in the spring.

State certified teachers being re-certified. The forms will be modified and you will continue to document your activity but there will not be any point system. You are on an honor system. Re-certification will continue to the age of 65 when emeritus status is earned. All fees will remain the same.

In our profession and organization we have many excellent instructors, with various backgrounds and credentials. The certification process fills needs of teachers in various ways. It can help provide self-validation and self-confidence. Regardless of your background, degree or no degree, 5 years of teaching or 25 years of teaching state certification is an opportunity for self-growth. It can revitalize and re-energize. It is educational and an opportunity to showcase your students. What you do with your state certification and how you leverage that in your studio is up to you. Often I am asked, "Can I earn more money?" or "what will I gain from certification?" Personally I think it is an opportunity for continued education, a chance to dive into your profession and continue the learning process. Hang your certificate in your studio; discuss the process with incoming parents. It is a rigorous exam that shows commitment and an interest in furthering your knowledge. You and your studio families will be proud of your hard work and accomplishments. For some the process is validating and is a way to continue their professional enrichment. It's not for everyone, but it can be a satisfying process and enriches each candidate in different ways.

If you are interested in state certification contact the chair, Janice Derian. Janice @ derian-toth.us. I am glad to answer any question you may have.

September 2016

MMTA SAT Senior Division Piano Finals Move to Michigan Youth Arts Festival

In October, 2015, after careful consideration and considering input from participating teachers, the MMTA Board of Directors voted to hold the SAT Senior Division Piano Finals at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival, beginning in May, 2017. All other SAT Finals (other instruments and voice, intermediate and junior divisions) will be unaffected by this change.

What is the MYAF? The Michigan Youth Arts Festival is a comprehensive arts spectacular, culminating a nine-month search for the finest artistic talent in Michigan high schools. More than 250,000 students across the state are involved in the adjudication process that results in nearly 1,000 being invited to participate in the annual three-day event, held in May. It is here that these exceptional students in the arts gather together to explore, celebrate and showcase their talent in multiple disciplines. The Festival hopes to foster this lifelong love of the arts through a showcase of individual talent and celebrating the talents of others.

Who controls the festival? MYA is an umbrella organization comprised of 16 Michigan arts education associations. MMTA is a charter member. Each member organization plans and funds its own part in the festival. MMTA has never been an active participant in the festival, although we were allowed for some years to enter our concerto competition winner in a competition sponsored by the Michigan State Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA). We are also invited to submit one performer for the opening gala concert and one member to receive Michigan's Touchstone Award for excellence in arts education.

What does it cost? Cost for the 3-day, 2-night festival is between \$200-250, including food and lodging at Western Michigan University. For now, MMTA is planning a one-day event, which would cost less than \$100. Most high school students who are invited attend the festival because of its high quality and prestige. A student who qualifies as an SAT finalist but does not attend the festival will still be allowed to compete at WMU during MYAF. Festival participants will have master class and performance opportunities during the festival.

How does this change benefit our students? The goal of the Student Achievement Program is to promote musical growth as well as motivation and recognition for our hardworking, talented students. Since MYA is recognized as Michigan's premiere event for high schools artists, this change adds an additional educational component to SAT finals and brings more recognition to our finalists from their peers. It provides something "extra" for our senior piano finalists, many of whom have already participated in SAT finals in previous years. Participants receive a medal, a sticker added to their high school diploma ("with distinction in the arts"). Although participation in the festival is not obligatory, we hope all our senior piano finalists will plan to accept the invitation!

Diana Munch, Student Achievement Testing Coordinator

Garik Pedersen, MMTA-MYAF Planning Committee Representative

Nagel, cont. from p. 16

est. Often they are asked by non-pianists, and the first one, and by far the most common is “how do you memorize all that music?” My answer is that music is a language, one which we speak through notes rather than words. We need to understand what it is we are playing, both technically and analytically in order to make it part of who we are as musical people. Repeated practice with open minds and ears is necessary for memorization. We learned to memorize with our minds, our ears, and our souls. Rarely do I talk about digital issues when answering that question, since I know people whose techniques are strong but whose ears and minds do not support the fingers.

Another question I am asked is who is my favorite composer? My honest answer is whichever one I am sharing with my listeners. Everyone who knows me is aware of my passion for Schubert and Bach. But if I am playing “Ce qu'a vu le vent d'ouest” of Debussy, then Claude is my favorite composer. If I am playing the Brahms Horn Trio, Johannes is my guest at home for an extended stay. And in the days when Beethoven's mighty Op. 106 filled the second half of my programs, you can be certain that Beethoven was my favorite composer. It is a bit frivolous, perhaps to pick a “number one fave” when so many great composers wrote such glorious music. Isn't Mendelssohn your favorite if you are listening to Elijah? He is certainly mine at that point!

How long do you practice is another popular query, and this one I take very seriously. I do not prescribe a specific amount of time. We all know when we have spent four hours at the piano and believe we have accomplished not one thing. And we have had the experience where we have gotten much done in forty-five minutes. It is HOW you practice not HOW LONG. It is how you focus on the task at hand and how you have come to understand the problem. Mental work is the key to successful practice, not clock time. Set realistic goals and do your focused best to honor them. And sometimes, darn it anyway, you will fail.

Finally, I am asked if I get nervous. In former days, I would glibly (and maybe insensitively) say “no”. And people would either not believe me or think I were some sort of freak. Today, the answer is that I do get nervous as I get older and still try to present repertoire that I have never before performed. It is harder to learn now than it was twenty—thirty years ago. And I have had more experiences that I would prefer had not happened! But the excitement remains even as my nerves have increased with my chronology. It is the most wonderful thing to walk out on a stage to deliver The "Italian Concerto", or "The Tempest Sonata", or "A Brahms Group". I think that if that joy ever leaves me, I will leave the stage altogether.

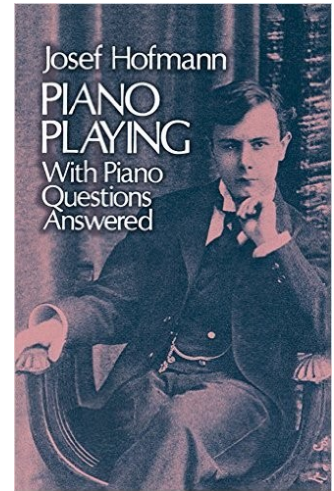
Returning to the Hofmann book in conclusion, I urge all of our readers to read it. It is utterly delightful to see what this great and legendary genius says to all of us as he considers questions we all have wondered about and perhaps have had to answer with our own students. I assure you it is well worth spending a small amount of money to spend a great amount of time with Mr. Hofmann and his interrogators.

Musical Musings

QUESTIONS

By Louis Nagel

There is a wonderful book put out some years ago by Dover: PIANO PLAYING WITH PIANO QUESTIONS ANSWERED by the great Josef Hofmann. It is an unusual volume in that it is a compilation of articles appearing in THE LADIES HOME JOURNAL written from 1909—1920 at the request of Mary Bok, wife of Edward Bok, editor of The Journal. These articles appeared in each publication for the magazine during these years, and were widely read and appreciated. Some of the questions will strike us as naive perhaps. But it was a critically important contribution by Hofmann, whom many felt was the greatest pianist of his time (including Josef Raieff, Julie's and my teacher during our Juilliard days). By way of brief introduction, in case the name is not familiar, Josef Hofmann was a legendary prodigy and later the only private student of Anton Rubinstein. He adored his teacher and his playing all his life and held him in awe even as he, Hofmann, enjoyed a huge and long career as pianist, composer and pedagogue at the Curtis Institute.



The book deals with a wide range of subjects: first there are essays on the piano and its player. Following are chapters dealing with general rules, correct touch and technic (coming from one who stressed above all a legato singing sound achieved with an unsurpassed technical command) the use of the pedal, “style”. The section ends with an essay of touching beauty on “How Rubinstein Taught Me To Play”. and a chapter of importance on ”Indispensables In Pianistic Success”. The second part of the book, much longer, deals with dozens of questions. Here are some sample questions—not his answers, however, as I hope you will rush out and get this short but great volume!

“Should I endeavor to improve my technique by trying difficult pieces?”

“Should my hand in playing scales be tilted toward the thumb or the little finger?” and “What is the correct position for the thumb?”

“How can I avoid fatigue?”

Several questions about pedal can be summed up with the one specific one “Please tell me how to use the pedal?”(!!!) I include those exclamation marks because asking that question is not unlike the famous Roman challenge to Rabbi Hillel: “Explain to me the Torah while you are standing on one foot” It is unlikely a comprehensive answer is forthcoming in a few pedagogical paragraphs!!!” Specifics about interpretive issues are treated, including phrasing and theory; I imagine you get the idea, and while not all the answers are satisfactory, the remarkable fact is that a man like Josef Hofmann dealt seriously and compassionately with these questions coming from what seem to be all levels of pianists. I have read this book over and over, underlined it in many spots, and recommend it to all of you.

I want to share with you a few questions I get from time to time when I perform or do classes. While not equating my knowledge with that of the master, nevertheless, I think you will find these questions of inter-

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