

From the desk of Beatrice Ellis, President

My chapter just completed its 2022 Student Achievement Testing. It has been particularly difficult and time consuming because of the hybrid system our chapter chose to implement this year with all tests on line except for in-person performance. The burden of the overall organization unfortunately rested upon the shoulders of too few dedicated members and exhaustion was palpable. As the grades were being tabulated, our SAT Chair was nevertheless already thinking about how to improve our operation next year. Despite the intense workload from October to March, and the many concerns, there was no doubt in her mind that there will be a “next year.” Driving home at the end of the day, after helping carrying materials, including footstools, carpet squares to help the little ones sit at the proper height, huge bins of office supplies, graded tests, signs, extra tables, I reflected on my involvement in this program.

Twenty years ago, from a private studio teacher’s perspective, I saw an opportunity to get feedback from other professionals and to be accountable for preparing my students. Years after years, with constructive feedback and seeing their efforts rewarded, my students progressed and gained confidence. How sweet and special it has been to watch young students as they discover their trophy for the first time and how amusing to realize that the older ones are still impressed when they receive a bigger trophy every other year.

I also viewed SAT as an opportunity to know my chapter colleagues better since many of them were present during planning meetings and testing days. I remember being delighted to hear one teacher tell the story of how she happened to become rehearsal pianist for a very famous dance company. I also learned a lot from the teachers who organized the event and I was always in awe of how well everything was run. Over the years, I started to become more curious about our Chapter’s umbrella organization, MMTA, learning about the history of SAT and how the program succeeded in raising the level of students across the state from its very beginning in 1975. It made me think that we only have 3 years to prepare for the celebration of the program’s 50th birthday! Being now at the head of MMTA, I understand better how such a program fits a larger purpose: it builds community, trust and progress; it embraces all kinds of teachers and students at any level of skills, from a six year old beginner to an accomplished high school senior or even adults who are up for a challenge; it promotes intergenerational exchange and mentorship; it requires commitment and dedication both from teachers and students.

Continued on pg. 3

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Send to:
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President's message, continued from pg. 1

Today, I learned from MTNA that our membership grew by 2.94% and that we reached up to 560 members at the end of February. This is great news because it signals that the pandemic is finally loosening its grip. I am certain that the quality of all our programs and competitions will keep attracting more members. It is not by chance that Michigan is well represented at the national level. It takes top notch teachers, highly motivated students and many hands on deck behind the scene. Let's all keep working together to continue raising awareness about how much MMTA and MTNA do for their members.

Our conference artist will be **Dr. Eric Zuber**, recently appointed as Assistant Professor of Piano at Michigan State University. Eric Zuber has established himself as a highly effective artist teacher as well as one of the leaders of a new generation of American pianism. During a period of just a few years, Dr. Zuber was a recipient of major prizes from twelve of the world's most prestigious international piano competitions including Arthur Rubinstein, Cleveland, Seoul, Sydney, Dublin, Hastings, Honens, and the Piano-e-Competition, and was named a Laureate of the American Pianist Association Classical Fellowship Awards. Dr. Zuber holds degrees from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University (B.M., A.D., D.M.A.), the Curtis Institute of Music (Diploma), and the Juilliard School (M.M). His major teachers have been Boris Slutsky, Leon Fleisher, Claude Frank, and Robert McDonald. Dr. Zuber's full bio can be found at the following address: <https://www.ericzuberpiano.com/>

Eric Zuber will present a recital and masterclass at our 2022 Conference in Kalamazoo, MI. You are in for a treat! Additional clinicians and programming will be planned in the next few months. I hope you will consider attending.

Derek Kealii Polischuk, MMTA Vice President





A Message from the MTNA Michigan Director of Competitions:

First, thank you for allowing me to serve as your MTNA Michigan Performance Competition Chair. 2021 - 2022 continues to be an exciting season for Michigan in the MTNA competition world!

Michigan has grown to be the third largest MTNA competition state with numbers just slightly behind many states with much larger memberships. In the Chamber Ensemble events, Michigan represented two of seven in Wind and two of seven in String at the National Finals winning First Place in Winds and Second and Third Places in Strings. Additionally, five National finalists and winners in solo events is just slightly behind Texas, MTNA largest membership and competition state! This is clearly a testament of your teaching and the hard work of your students.

However, it takes a team to host and execute this event. Please accept this invitation to join the MTNA Michigan team as we continue this important work and support of Michigan students and teachers.

Since beginning my term first as Junior Division Coordinator and then as Chair – nearly eleven competition seasons ago, I have had the privilege of working with you and your students striving to provide the best event possible. To me, it has always been about hosting the event at a centrally located university with outstanding and well-cared for instruments, hiring quality and experienced performance judges from in and out of state, a lottery to provide fair and equitable performance order, and a team of well-trained coordinators with like values. It is all about the students!

It has been an honor and privilege to work with the many bright and talented MTNA Michigan Coordinators throughout the years. We rose to the trials of the pandemic by methodically preparing a virtual event, using tech-savvy musicians to carefully screen entries for performance enhancements, and recruiting additional out of state judges as so many of you have adjudicated these same talented students at competitions, scholarships, awards, and state exams throughout their young careers. Leading an ethical team is critical for student success!

It is with this information that I share that I will serve as the Chair for the 2022 as my final season. I will continue to support the MTNA Michigan team in coming years as needed. However, it is very important we have a smooth transition to ensure the Michigan students and competition teachers are well cared for now and in the future.

I hope many of you will contact me directly so that we may work with our current coordinators to prepare for this season as well as future MTNA Performance and Composition Competitions. These are big jobs! However, this is an opportunity for you to try it first before committing. Please use this opportunity to explore the various positions and learn firsthand during the next season.

Thank you again, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Laurie M. Marshall



MTNA East Central Division Competitions Results (Michigan students and teachers)

East Central Junior Performance Piano

Alternate, Aaron Wang Catherine Rollin

East Central Junior Performance String

Alternate, Bhargava Kulkarni Amir Eldan

East Central Senior Composition

Winner, Jonah Cohen Mary Siciliano

East Central Senior Performance Brass

Rep, Roel Arazo David Zerkel

East Central Young Artist Composition

Rep, Michael Eaton David Biedenbender

East Central Young Artist Performance Brass

Alternate, Joseph Bickel David Zerkel

East Central Young Artist Performance Piano

Winner, Zhengyi Huang Logan Skelton

East Central Young Artist Performance String

Winner, Benjamin Deighton Amir Eldan

East Central Young Artist Performance Woodwind

Winner, Roberto Campa Timothy McAllister

Congratulations to the 2021-2022 MTNA National Performance Competition Winners and Finalists from Michigan.

Junior Division Composition

Second Place Jonah Cohen Mary Siciliano



Congratulations to the 2021-2022 MTNA National Performance Competition Winners and Finalists from Michigan

Senior Division Brass:

Third Place Roel Arazo David Zerkel, University of Michigan

Young Artist Piano:

Second Place Zhengyi Huang Logan Skelton, University of Michigan

Young Artist String:

Second Place Benjamin Deighton Amir Eldan, University of Michigan

Young Artist Woodwind:

Second Place Roberto Campa Timothy McAllister, University of Michigan

MTNA Chamber Ensemble String:

Second Place The Darcy Trio Amy I-Li Cheng, University of Michigan
Emily Hauer, violin
Andres Ayerbe, cello
Sarah Jin, piano

Third Place Clover Trio Derek Polischuk, Michigan State University
Yu Xin, violin
Mira Cheng, cello
Chang Li, piano

MTNA Chamber Ensemble Wind:

First Place Sound Session Joseph Lulloff, Michigan State University
Matthew Fox, soprano saxophone
Jacob Nance, alto saxophone
Jeffrey Allardyce, tenor saxophone
Tyler Young, baritone saxophone

Finalist Quartet Samod Joseph Lulloff, Michigan State University
Nathan Salazar, soprano saxophone
Kaylee Bernard, alto saxophone
Evan Harris, tenor saxophone
Emmet Harris, baritone saxophone



SAT AUDITIONS NEWS

Local SAT Chairs: please remember to download the transmittal fee form from the website and send to me two weeks prior to your testing date. If you have difficulty finding it on the website, email me, I'm happy to attach it to an email.

SAT Semifinals: the confirmed date of the semifinals for all districts is Saturday, April 23rd, 2022.

Eastern District location is University of Michigan School of Music

Central District location is Central Michigan University

Western District location is Ada Conservatory of Music

SAT Finals: the confirmed date and location for SAT finals is Saturday, May 7, 2022 at the Michigan State University Music School.

Michelle Mitchum

SAT Auditions Chairperson

MMTA Interactive Webinars

The inaugural season of MMTA Interactive Webinars seems to have been well-received! Hopefully, you've all been seeing emails come through about these events. Generally held on the first Friday of each month at 11:30am, these Zoom webinars strive to provide enjoyable, interactive professional development opportunities to our members across Michigan. We tend to have anywhere from 10-25 live attendees each time, with another 40-60 members watching the replay video afterwards.

Our upcoming April and May speakers, respectively, will be Christina Whitlock speaking on self-reflection and Dr. Lia Jensen Abbott sharing on the life and music of Florence Price. Please watch your email inbox for details and to register for both events.

As we approach the end of the school year, we are beginning to consider next year. Do MMTA members feel this has been a worthwhile new initiative for MMTA to support? Which topics/speakers would members love to see next year? If you can spare a few moments, please help us shape the next season by giving us your feedback via this form: <https://tally.so/r/n9AM4n>
We would so appreciate hearing from every one of you!

Joy Morin, MMTA Teacher Education Chair

Emily Suszko, MMTA Teacher Education Committee Member

Livonia Area Piano Teachers Forum, Doris Edwards, Is Celebrated and Remembered

Long time member, Doris Edwards, passed away February 1, 2022. Doris was a dedicated and active member of Livonia Area Piano Teachers Forum (LAPTF) for over 40 years. Hard working and determined, Doris supported the goals and objectives of MMTA to everyone's benefit which has had a rippling effect throughout our community.

Doris's name was listed in our first published LAPTF directory in 1977. Her contributions are exemplary:

- 1980 Publicity Committee
- 1991 Certification Committee
- 1997 Teacher of the Year; Vice-President
- 1999 President
- 2003 SAT co-chair
- 2005 Membership Committee
- 2008 Treasurer
- 2014 Teacher of the Year
- 2017 Distinguished Service Award



LAPTF members have these remarks to share about our distinguished member:

"I was a new member of Livonia Area Piano Teachers Forum (LAPTF) attending one of our monthly meetings when I first heard the strong rally cry for piano teachers to meet for "SAT workday". It was scheduled in the month of February and held at Mt. Hope Congregational Church where some of those same teachers were now gathered to pay their last respects and homage to Doris Mae Edwards who had passed away, ironically, the month of "SAT Workday", February 1, 2022. But her work was now finished.

I am the president of LAPTF because over 10 years ago, she invited me, with passion, of course, to an LAPTF meeting, got me to sign up as an SAT volunteer, and passionately talked about why it was good for me to get involved. She was right! Doris' rippling effect continues."
-Sharon Gomulka

"The family of Yury Avanesov would like to express their deepest condolences. Doris was a wonderful person who was warm, kind, and helpful. She was always there to help those in need and will forever be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family during this difficult time." -Yury Avanesov



"I, along with many other teachers and music students, am thankful for the opportunity to have met and worked with Doris Edwards at LPTF. Her enthusiasm for pursuing excellence in our guild's activities was evident in all she did, and she inspired us to learn and grow our musical and teaching skills reminiscent of LPTF's motto.

Even with her health concerns, Doris was a whirlwind of capability and strength. My husband's PT time would often coincide with Doris's at the same PT center. No 'sour grapes' for her, as she shared her determination to do her best at whatever God allowed into her life. Truly, Doris generously used her gifts and talents to touch many lives in many ways, and now, she is enjoying her perfect heavenly rewards. I Tim 6:12.

For your passion to better the lives of others, your caring, and far reaching positive influence, thank you, Doris! Gratefully, Joyce McClure"

"I met Doris over 40 years ago. Her energy, intelligence, and organization made a deep impression on me. Doris made things happen and was the best recruiter to do so. The SAT program was so successful because of her hard work and foresight. She was congenial, positive, and supported teachers and students. Her great spirit of community service remains with me forever." - Mary Siciliano

"It is very sad that we lost such a wonderful person and teacher. Doris will always be in my memories. She deserves to be remembered as one of the best LPTF members. Her input into LPTF development was tremendous, her energy and leadership were outstanding. My sympathy with her family. - Irina Semenova"

"I am a new member and did not know Doris. It is very inspiring to learn about such a remarkable teacher and LPTF leader who did so much for us." - Soonghee Ha

"My first day at an LPTF meeting, Doris approached, invited me in and opened the door to the opportunities that LPTF offered. From that moment on I made a friend, colleague, mentor." -Janice Derian

"As I think back about earlier teaching days, memories spent working alongside Doris rise to the top. She helped guide me through the maze of the SAT experience, and also helped form my philosophy that it's "all about the kids". I loved watching her connect with her students. She was a wealth of information and connections, loving, and strong. Thanks, Doris, for being you. - Ellen Nixon

LPTF continues to make room for everyone in that same spirit of "welcome". The LPTF Board is in the process of determining the best way to continue honoring Doris in our community. More information will be shared with MMTA as details are finalized.



MASQUERAGE

by Dr. Louis Nagel

As with so many of my columns and public presentations, I start the creative process with a pun, and then develop a presentation around it. Sort of like a composer thinking "I am going to write a symphony". And then finding some notes that seem potentially productive. Surely no subject matter today is more productive than the need—change that to the MANDATE---to wear a mask. And nothing enrages anti-vaccers and "freedom lovers" more than that MANDATE. My political stance is clear, and my deep regret that there is even a political issue here at all is obvious. No one particularly likes a mask except on Halloween maybe. But it is necessary. So this title does more than create a cute word. Let me build a column (if not a symphony) upon it.

The day before Valentine's Day I had the honor to play a benefit concert for the Washtenaw County Democrats at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Ann Arbor. The music was chosen to describe a variety of loving human relationships. The repertoire included: Schubert's Sixteen German Dances (to which I add two of my own), two short pieces about love, the Mendelssohn Duet from the Songs Without Words, and the second of the Three Romances, Opus 28 of Schumann, the G Minor Ballade of Brahms from the Opus 118 recalling the profound devotion respected by Brahms and Clara, each for the other, the Chopin Nocturne Opus 27 Number 1, in C-sharp Minor, my personal favorite of the entire set of nocturnes, sharing the stage with my daughter Sonya for the gorgeous Vocalise of Rachmaninoff in a transcription for viola and piano, and concluding for the sheer joy of hearing and performing a brilliant virtuoso piece, the Hungarian Rhapsody Number 13, of Liszt. The program, I am told was successful. So far as my opinion of my playing of it was concerned, some good, some not so! But so far as audience response, except for Brian, the nearby tech (what a gem to work with) and my loving wife and daughter and one other person, each seated far apart and way back in the room, who heard this program? Twenty? Two hundred and thirty seven? Barely a minyan perhaps? I have no idea.

And I was wearing a mask. As I play these days with the score open on the piano (modeling after Myra Hess, Richard Goode and Sviatoslav Richter) I experienced that which all glasses-wearing performers experience, fog! Practicing with a mask is helpful, but not without its problems. Even though distancing in the very large space was adequate, I felt it was important to MAKE A STATEMENT. Masks are necessary to the well-being of all of us, and have absolutely NOTHING to do with compromising or denying our freedom. But it does make one angry that it must be done, doesn't it?

That said, I imagine everyone who has had occasion to perform live during this protracted and difficult pandemic understands the problems of playing while masked. Aside from visual issues (and I should add that every note of that program was long ago memorized, but I feel more comfortable now at this

stage of my career with the score on the piano with me) there is the absence of an audience with whom to communicate. I talk to, sometimes with, audiences as most of you know, and I always feel the relationship that is being created. It is a symbiotic relationship, and I have always felt the partnership-- "we are all in this together"-- when attending a music event. When the partnership is compromised or curtailed altogether something very integral to performance is missing. It is hard enough to recognize people when they are masked, even when you know them, and when the visual is masked, relationship is masked emotional reactions are different. My first experience at Kerrytown playing a live concert (I had done three recorded ones before that live one) was strange. And other ones I have done before a crowd on one are still strange—not so different from recording sessions I have done and have felt equally ill at ease while doing. I admit I long for a crowd of people with whom to share my personal joy in making music.

I cannot imagine the chamber musicians and orchestra players performing large works and entire symphonic programs while masked. I can sense what must be a measure of their rage as well as a larger portion of gratitude and joy to be able to make music in pandemic times. To say nothing of teaching----.I think a separate column ought to be devoted to the unique difficulties of TEACHING online. I have minimal experience with this—would like a few more such challenges, as the nonagenarian Pablo Casals is quoted when asked "Maestro why at your advanced age do you continue daily practice"? he replied "Because I think I am hearing some improvement"! I admire all of you who do teach both virtually and virtuously. This may be true but it is indeed hard.

AND INDEED REWARDING. Music is needed now as much as ever. In fact, as I type these words, the tragedy in Ukraine is unfolding. It is hard to think of the joy of making music at this unspeakably horrible time, but this is when I think we need it so much. Maybe not today or tomorrow or the next, but sometime someone will find a way to make music heard and maybe seen in such a way as to be energizing and reassuring to oppressed people. Right now we all are masked and angry. That is necessary for the good of all. But hopefully soon we can remove our masks, dispel our rage, and in health, open our eyes as well as our ears with pleasure to the sounds of music.



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