



Newsletter

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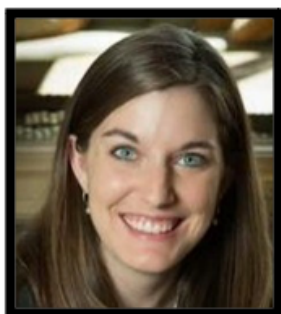
Dear FWMTA Members,

I am looking forward to the many exciting events FWMTA has planned for the upcoming year! I want to start by thanking Rosemary Solomons for her tireless work preparing and editing our newsletter for more than a decade. She has dedicated countless hours to creating an informative and interesting newsletter for our association. As Rosemary is stepping down from the position, we are happy to have Patrick Behringer as our new newsletter editor.

Fort Worth was well represented at the TMTA Conference in Waco this past June. Presentations were given by two TCU students, Nora Mello and Lydia Sander, and our own Dr. Jill Sprenger. We also enjoyed having two FWMTA ensembles perform. Our ensemble teams are forming now for next year's conference, consider having your students participate. Waco is just a short drive down I-35!

Looking into the next year, our new VP for Programs, Adriana Morales, has some exciting member meetings planned. Check our calendar and save the dates, you won't want to miss them! We are also looking forward to the MTNA National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, next March, 2024. This is sure to be an engaging and instructive experience.

Nothing happens in FWMTA without volunteers. We are so thankful for the teachers who continually give their time to run festivals, competitions, theory tests, outreach events and more. If you haven't stepped into one of these positions yet, I encourage you to do so. We'd be happy to help you find your place in FWMTA!



Spring Seals, NCTM
FWMTA President

Jill Sprenger seen at the TMTA Conference in June 2023 at the presentation for the Royal Conservatory of Music at which Marvin Blickenstaff spoke and Mario Ajero's students performed.



Notes from the Editors:

Having served as editor of the FWMTA Newsletter for thirteen years I was ready to hand over the task to a fellow member. I express my personal thanks to Patrick Behringer who, despite being a faculty member at a public school in Keller and currently working on his DMA degree, was willing to take on the role of Editor of the FWMTA Newsletter. In his doing so, the unbroken continuity of our E-Journal is assured. To learn more about our new editor, Patrick Behringer, please view the "New and Returning Members" section on page 5. - Rosemary Solomons



I would like to extend my thanks to Rosemary Solomons for her years of passionate dedication to this important task of keeping the organization informed and up-to-date. I look forward to carrying forward

that torch and getting to know new and experienced members of this fine organization, to help serve teachers and students in our community. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with newsworthy items, including

upcoming presentations or performances, professional degrees and benchmarks, or student achievements!

Patrick Behringer, NCTM
Newsletter Editor
(patrickbehringer@gmail.com)

*You are Invited to our 1st Annual Meeting!
"A Taste of Spain and France"*

Presented by Dongni Xi

Saturday, August 26 at 1:00 pm
Texas Wesleyan University, Martin Hall
Teachers Reception to Follow

PROGRAM

Ballade Op. 15 Teresa Carreño (1853-1917)

Coloquio en la reja by Enrique Granados (1867-1916)

Danza Andaluza Quejas, o La Maja y el ruiseñor
La Danza ritual del Fuego by Manuel de Falla (1876-1946)

Barcarolle No.1 in A minor, Op. 26 Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

La Valse by Maurice Ravel



BIOGRAPHY

Originally from China, Dongni Xie is a first prize winner of seven international piano competitions. She appears as one of the guest artists of the Cliburn foundation as well as the legendary pianists of the Achúcarro foundation.

Xie is in demand throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia, having performed in venues including Carnegie Hall, Château de Fontainebleau (France), Dream Forest Arts Center (South Korea), Gijon City Hall (Spain), and the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts (US). Xie has been praised for her “bold and riveting” (<Peninsula>) and “bravura performance...mature and relaxed, perfectly in line with its composer’s presumed intention.” (<Herald Tribune>). She has appeared as soloist playing with orchestras in California, Colorado and Texas, including Season Opening Concert of the Boulder Symphony Orchestra and Season Finale Concert of the

Meadows Symphony Orchestra. She boasts appearances as featured artist at many international music festivals, including the Imago Sloveniae (Slovenia), Festival ARTIS (Slovakia), and the August Music Festival (UK) to name but a few. In the 2023-24 season, Xie will perform with orchestras and in recitals across US and Europe.

Xie performs frequently in Dallas and the Fort Worth metroplex. An avid performer at music educational programs designed to create social change, she finds fulfillment in giving back to local communities and promoting classical music to the younger generation.

Xie is a leader in the interplay between classical and modern music, having founded *In6ix*, a sextet combining both jazz and classical styles. She successfully led her group as pianist on tour throughout China in 2019, giving concerts and master classes. Recently co-founded the concert series *Live! Again* based out of Dallas and Houston, she has brought a unique way to experience new music and modern arts in her community.

As an academic, Xie has been invited to give lectures at universities and colleges in the United States and Asia, and to deliver master classes at venues throughout China and clinics at local MTA events in the United States. She is an Adjunct Professor at Tarrant County College.

Xie obtained her doctorate in Piano Performance at the University of North Texas where she won a Teaching Fellowship. She earned degrees and diplomas from Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, University of Southern California, and Shanghai Conservatory of Music, having studied with Dr. Pamela Mia Paul, Norman Krieger, Yong Hi Moon, and Chen Jiang respectively. She recently received the Meadows Artistic Scholarship and Harold Von Mickwitz Prize Award from Southern Methodist University where she worked with maestro Joaquín Achúcarro and Andrey Ponochevy. Xie is a member of the most prestigious music honor society Pi Kappa Lambda. Visit www.dongnixie.com for more.



DONGNIXIEPIANO

MEMBERSHIP EVENTS

Saturday, August 26, 2023, 1:00 pm: Dongni Xie presents "A Taste of Spain and France"

Saturday, October 14, 1:00 pm: Matthew Kline presents "Following the Sound: A Mindful Approach to Focus, Presence and Cultivating Beauty in the Inner Lives of our Students"

Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 10:00 am: Hayden Coie presents "Engaging the Heart"

Saturday, May 4, 2024, 1:00 pm: Hando Nahkur presents "Sounds of Ukraine"

Special thanks to Adriana Morales for engaging these artists and coordinating wonderful programs. More information will be provided as the date of each program approaches.



Ensemble Preparing for the TMTA Conference

Pictured:
Azriel Dun, William Dun, and Rosabella Rivas

Director: Shelley Fuller

NEWS BRIEFS

The members of the FWMTA Board extend their sincere thanks to the following new members who graciously *volunteered* to serve our association in the following positions:

Vice President for Programs -
Adriana Morales plays an

essential role in the presentation of informative programs aimed at inspiring the members of our association as we strive to educate musicians at varying levels and ages.

Keji Sanchez plays a behind-the-scenes but vital role as our Treasurer and

Erin Fisher serves on the Board as Recording Secretary.

FWMTA also thanks Spring Seals who stepped in to serve as Interim President during the course of the 2021-2023 two-year term, when sitting president, Evan Mitchell, accepted a professorship at

the University of Florida. Ms. Seals now begins her two-year term (2023 - 2025) as President.

Job Opening: Part-Time Grammar School Music Teacher. Covenant Classical School is seeking a part-time Grammar School Music Teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. The teaching assignment will include 3rd

through 5th Grade Music and 6th Grade Choir. Preference will be given to teachers who have experience leading a choir. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to employment@covenantfw.org. <https://covenantfw.org/employment/>

FWMTA is in need of volunteers - both new and

long-standing members - to join festival and event committees and assist at various events. Please contact FWMTA president, Spring Seals for information on how you can help (spring@parkerpiano.com).

Please consider volunteering!

Thank you!

WELCOME TO THE ASSOCIATION, NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS!

Extra thanks to those who sent us their biographical information to be shared with the association.

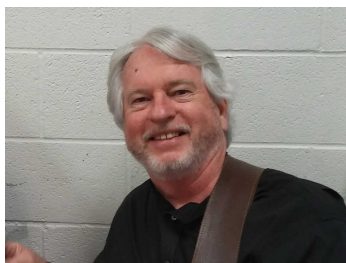
New Members: Twyla Robinson and Dorla Pryce Aparicio

Dorla Pryce Aparicio is originally from Costa Rica and earned her Bachelor's degree in Mexico and a Master of Music in Piano Pedagogy from Texas Christian University.

Since 1985, Dorla has been running her successful independent studio, Dorla's Piano Studio, LLC, where she instructs over 50 students in private and group lessons, including early childhood music classes. She specializes in group piano pedagogy and early childhood music and has created various curricula for piano camps. One of her notable accomplishments is the development of Piano Pyramid®, a multilevel ensemble-based group piano curriculum.



Dorla's extensive experience and passion for music education continue to inspire and nurture young musicians, fostering a deep appreciation and love of music in her students.

Returning Members: Christiana Stewart, Gary Sherrill, and Patrick Behringer

Returning member **Gary Sherrill** is a graduate of the UNT School of Music, and a Member of the Singing Men of North Central Texas as well as Musical Director and Accompanist at Naval Air Station and Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth. He is a Teaching Artist for The Artist Outreach, and Yamaha Music Education Certified. Gary Sherrill is a retired Minister of Music.

Returning member, **Patrick Behringer**, updated the FWMTA website to its current format in 2013 and will serve as editor of the Newsletter. He teaches Piano as a Fine Arts elective at Fossil Ridge High School in Keller, where he also coaches the Tennis Team. He began DMA studies in Piano Performance at the University of North Texas in 2022. He holds National Certification (NCTM) through *Music Teacher's National Association* and earned a Certificate in Piano Performance on scholarship from the University of Texas at Arlington, studying under FWMTA member, Dr. John Solomons. He performed *Rhapsody in Blue* with the UTA Orchestra as the winner of the Concerto competition.



Patrick has performed at the NYC Tenri Cultural Center, England's Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme and *Aldeburgh Festival*, on WCNY-FM 91.3 Classical FM in Syracuse, *Encontros na Selva* music festival in Manaus, Brazil, Adamant Music School Summer Program in Vermont, the Catawba College concert series in North Carolina, Mt. Mary University Young Artist Series, Steinway Hall of Milwaukee, the *Clavier* series at the University of Texas at Arlington, UTA faculty recitals for Dr. Jennifer Ciobanu, soprano, Dr. Gerry Wood, Horn, and former FWSO Principal Horn Mark Houghton. He has played in Master Classes for Menaham Pressler, Malcolm Martineau, Boaz Sharon, Enrico Elisi, Judit Jaimes, Gloria Cheng, and James Dick. Most recently, Mr. Behringer recorded piano music of Alberto Ginastera at the Wild Plums Recording Retreat at Guilford Sound Recording Studio.

COMPLETE CALENDAR OF EVENTS, 2023-2024

AUGUST

- 26** Membership Meeting: “A Taste of Spain and France” Dongni Xie.
1:00 Pm, Texas Wesleyan University, Martin Hall.

SEPTEMBER

- 15** [Student Affiliate](#) Enrollment Deadline
15 [Fall Theory Test](#) Registration begins
16 [Open Recital](#), 4:30pm, Martin Hall at Texas Wesleyan University
23 [Fall Festival: Jazz and Classic](#) Registration Deadline (REGISTRATION LINK COMING SOON)

OCTOBER

- 9 [Fall Theory Test](#) Registration Deadline
- 15 [Original Composition Contest](#) Deadline for Entry
- 21 [Fall Festival: Jazz and Classic](#), Ed Landreth Hall at TCU
- 28 [Open Recital](#), 4:30pm, Martin Hall at Texas Wesleyan University

NOVEMBER

- 1 [Student Affiliate](#) Late Enrollment Deadline (Fee Assessed)
- 4 [Fall Theory Test](#) (makeup date Nov. 9) at Broadway Baptist, 305 W. Broadway Ave, FW

DECEMBER

- 1 [Youth Duo Piano Competition](#) Registration Deadline
- 1 [Local Publication Contest](#) Deadline
- 1 [Student Affiliate](#) Extended Late Enrollment Deadline (Fee Increased)
- 2 [Open Recital](#), 4:30pm, Martin Hall at Texas Wesleyan University
- 15 [Spring Theory Test](#) Registration begins

JANUARY

- 8 [Spring Theory Test](#) Registration Deadline
Local [Performance Contest](#) Registration Postmark
- 28 [Open Recital](#), 4:30pm, Martin Hall at Texas Wesleyan University

FEBRUARY

- 1 [State Publication Contest](#) Deadline
- 1 [State Original Composition Contest](#) Deadline
- 3 [Open Recital](#), 4:30pm, Martin Hall at Texas Wesleyan University
- 3 [Spring Theory Test](#) (makeup date Feb. 8) at Broadway Baptist, 305 W. Broadway Ave, FW
- 6 Joint meeting with MCMTA and Forum, “Engaging the Heart” with Hayden Coie
- 11 [World of Music Test](#) registration postmark deadline
Local [Performance Contest](#) at Texas Christian University
- 12 [State and Local Piano Ensemble](#) Team [Intent Form](#) and Fees Postmark Date
- 17 [Youth Duo Piano Competition](#) at Texas Wesleyan University

MARCH

- 16 [Open Recital](#) 4:30pm, Martin Hall at Texas Wesleyan University
- 11 [World of Music Testing](#), Location TBA
Local [Chamber Music Ensemble Contest](#) registration postmark
- 13 [Solo Competition](#) registration deadline

- 16 [Open Recital](#) 4:30pm, Martin Hall at Texas Wesleyan University
Local [Chamber Music Ensemble Contest](#), location TBD
- 16-20 [MTNA National Conference](#), Atlanta, Georgia

APRIL

- 1 [Senior Scholarship Award](#) application postmark deadline
[State and Local Piano Ensemble](#) auditions, location TBA
- 13 [Solo Competition at Texas Wesleyan University](#)
- 13, 25 [State and Local Piano Ensemble](#) rehearsals, 9-11am, Steinway Piano Gallery, 510 Commerce St
- 27 [Solo Competition](#) Honors Recitals, Martin Hall at Texas Wesleyan University

MAY

- 4 Meeting, “Sounds of Ukraine” with Hando Nakhur, 1:00 pm
- 11 [Open Recital](#) 4:30pm, Martin Hall at Texas Wesleyan University
- 11, 25 [State and Local Piano Ensemble](#) rehearsals, 9-11am, Steinway Piano Gallery, 510 Commerce St

JUNE

- 8 [State and Local Piano Ensemble](#) rehearsals
- 11 Honors Recital, 7:00 pm
- 13-16 TMTA Conference at the Waco Convention Center

FWMTA BOARD