



Newsletter

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Fort Worth Music Teachers Association

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President's Column

Dear FWMTA Colleagues,



The recent bad weather days have reminded me of the resilience of music teachers which has become especially apparent in the last few years. Many of us had never taught online lessons until the spring of 2020, and we are still benefiting today from the ways we found to adapt to the circumstances given to us. I am proud to be a part of a profession that is timeless and relevant to students today.

We have much to look forward to in 2023 and I hope you are saving space on your calendar for many of our upcoming events. Locally, we will have our spring Theory and World of Music tests along with open recitals, Solo Contest, and an advanced piano

masterclass. Keep an eye on our website calendar for all of the details.

One of the events I am most looking forward to this semester is our first in-person MTNA National Conference since 2019. MTNA did a wonderful job offering virtual options for the last three years, but I know many of us have been waiting for the return to the in-person conference. If you are planning to attend be sure to support our former president, Dr. Evan Mitchell, for his session on Sunday, March 26, titled "Me, Myself and Motivation: A Student-Centered Approach to Developing Intrinsic Drive," and our TCU Collegiate Chapter on Monday morning presenting "The Happy Birthday" Predicament: Teaching Functional Skills to Beginning and Intermediate Pianists." I am honored to have been named an MTNA Foundation Fellow by the TMTA board and am looking

forward to representing Fort Worth at the Foundation Gala this year.

Finally, TMTA is working hard to plan a fantastic state conference this summer, June 15-18, 2023, at the Waco Convention Center. Many of our local students will participate in ensembles, Digital Keyboard Orchestra, All-Star Festival, and more. I hope to see Fort Worth well-represented! You may have noticed that the TMTA website has a new look. Check out recent TMTA newsletters for information about how to log in to the new portal. There, you will find any administrative information if you are an event chair and also Theory and World of Music study resources.

We have a lot to look forward to in 2023!

Spring Seals, NCTM
President

The 2023 MTNA National Conference takes place in Reno, Nevada in March. Make a note of the dates and plan on attending this grand in-person reunion of members of the music teaching profession, March 25–29, 2023.

FWMTA will hold elections for the installation of a new slate of officers by the end of this academic year. Officers serve for a period of two years: June 2023 – June 2025. Please consider giving your time to further the goals of our association as we grow and thrive together as musicians and educators. Should you receive a request from the nominating committee on serving, please give it serious consideration.

We welcome our newest sponsor, PianoBox Games – a company that provides a variety of tools and games geared toward aiding young piano students. Please see page 3.

Editor's Column

The piano is arguably one of the world's most popular instruments.

Pianists will unequivocally state that the piano stands unequalled in what it offers as an instrument. Are all pianos treasured and cared for in the same manner by those who are privileged to own one? Unfortunately, no!



A few weeks ago, I received a request for assistance in purchasing a piano from the parents of a student. Being uninformed, their appeal for assistance led me down a path I had not traversed previously. The parents informed me that their initial unguided search began on Fakebook's Marketplace. Not knowing what they meant by *Marketplace*, I soon learned that a variety of wares, from insignificant items to musical instruments, cars, and houses were posted for sale on this site. Curiosity got the better of me. My specific search for pianos had me enter the local world of music instrument sales – it was bewildering and disturbing.

I browsed through the announcements presented by sellers eager to dispose of pianos and other instruments on Marketplace. I was appalled by the locations of the pianos in these homes and the abuse to which the instruments were subjected. Perhaps the photographs were deceptive--- I decided to journey to where pianos in very poor condition were housed. I was saddened by the nonchalant attitude of the sellers.

My first trip had me examine a piano sitting in the garage of a house. It was used as a prop for hardware and plywood. The next, an upright grand

piano, had had its case refinished but had been left idle for more than 40 years! The owner proudly announced it belonged to his wife's grandmother. The case was restored so it would enhance their living room! The third piano I saw had an array of magazines on its lid and a laundry basket with the wash standing on the lid above. There it stood pleading to be rescued from the clutches of a disgruntled father who catered to his daughter's desire to learn to play the piano.

Rescuing the number of pianos treated with little respect by individuals who have no clue as to what the instrument has contributed to the world of music is impossible. Only a heroic gesture by a piano manufacturer who specializes in restoring pianos can provide abandoned and abused pianos with a new life.

As I pondered over the unfortunate fate of some pianos, I reflected on the piano Chopin used during his sojourn in a monastery in Mallorca, Balearic Islands, between 1838-39 together with Amantine Aurore Dupin, better known in the literary world as George Sand.

Chopin ordered a piano for his use in Mallorca from Pleyel of Paris but as its arrival was unduly delayed, he had no choice but to use an upright piano made by a local craftsman named Juan Bauza of Palma. Bauza's "pianino" survived a treacherous cart journey drawn by mules up a rocky hillside path that led to the rooms occupied by Chopin and George Sand in the Valldemossa monastery.

Bauz's piano was outdated. It could not support strings that were long or thick, its tension was limited as was its compass. The unrelenting

harsh weather conditions on the island had taken a toll on the pianino's wooden frame and iron bracing.

The exact number of works Chopin composed using the Bauza piano is not known. But the list provided by historians includes nine of the Preludes of Opus 24, the Ballade in F, Opus 38, the beginnings of the Scherzo in C sharp minor, Opus 39, the two Polonaises, Opus 40 and the Mazurka, Opus 41, No. 1.

Chopin eventually succumbed to a rare form of tuberculosis in 1849. But while at Mallorca, he did not permit his poor health and the discomfort it caused, nor the limitations of Juan Bauza's piano to stand in the way of an astonishing period of creativity and productivity.

Sixty-two years later, in 1911, harpsichordist of world renown, Wanda Landowska, purchased Chopin's Bauza piano which she found abandoned in the Valldemossa monastery. She had it transported to her residence on the outskirts of Paris. The Nazi occupation of Paris in 1940 led to the Gestapo confiscating the possessions of Landowska, among which was Chopin's Bauza piano. With the official restitution in 1945, Chopin's piano was returned to the home of Wanda Landowska its legal owner.

As for the local family who wished to purchase a piano and which led me to pursue an untrodden path, they are the proud owners of a splendid Yamaha piano purchased from a local piano company.

Rosemary Solomons,
Editor



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FWMTA Calendar February – June 2023

FEBRUARY

- 1 State Publication Contest Deadline
- 1 State Video Contest Deadline
- 4 Spring Theory Test (makeup date Feb. 9)
at Broadway Baptist, 305 W. Broadway Ave, FW
- 10 World of Music Test registration postmark deadline
- 11 Local Performance Contest
at Texas Christian University
- 12 State and Local Piano Ensemble Team Intent Form
and Fees Postmark Date
- 18 Youth Duo Piano Competition
at Texas Wesleyan University

MARCH

- 4 Open Recital with Forum, 4:30 pm, Martin Hall
at Texas Wesleyan University
- 10 World of Music Testing, Location TBA
Local Chamber Music Ensemble Contest
registration postmark
- 14 Solo Competition registration deadline
Local Chamber Music Ensemble Contest,
location TBD
- 25-29 MTNA National Conference, Reno, Nevada

APRIL

- 1 Senior Scholarship Award application
postmark deadline

APRIL CONTINUED

- 2 State and Local Piano Ensemble auditions,
location TBA
- 22 Solo Competition at Texas Wesleyan University
- 15, 29 State and Local Piano Ensemble rehearsals,
9:00-11:00 am at Steinway Hall,
510 Commerce St., FW
- 29 Solo Competition Honors Recitals, Martin Hall
at Texas Wesleyan University
- 29 Masterclass registration deadline:
submit a video via google drive
and email to tanevna@yahoo.com

MAY

- 6 Advanced Piano Masterclass
with Dr. Michael Buhkman. 2-4 pm,
TCU Music Center (Orchestra Hall)
“Meet the Composer”
- 13, 27 State and Local Piano Ensemble rehearsals,
9:00-11:00 am at Steinway Hall,
510 Commerce St., FW

JUNE

- 3 State and Local Piano Ensemble rehearsals,
9:00-11:00 am at Steinway Hall,
510 Commerce St. FW
- 13 Honors Recital, 7:00 pm at Steinway Hall
- 15-18 TMTA Conference at the Waco Convention Center

News Briefs

December Outreach Event

The last Outreach event held in December proved to be very successful. FWMTA hosted two recitals, 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the James L. West Center on Sunday, December 4, 2022. Nine teachers signed up a total of thirty students. Children/adult students, parents, and teachers performed in the recitals. The holiday music performed included– solos, duets, and voice and piano! Many of the residents sang along to the familiar tunes, which brought joy to those who provided the music as well as the residents. The James L. West Center is a not-for-profit organization that serves people with Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders. Our sincere thanks to all those who participated in making the FWMTA December Outreach event one of goodwill and cheer for residents and their families at the Center.

Jennifer DeSantis, Outreach Chair

Open Recitals

Please remember to avail your students of an event that takes place multiple times throughout the academic year –the open Recitals. This event provides an opportunity for students to improve memorization and gain confidence in performing in a formal venue before an audience. FWMTA thanks Zoe House for her untiring efforts as Recital Chair and Dr. Ilka Araujo for making the recitals at Texas Wesleyan University, possible.

Former FWMTA president, Evan Mitchell will perform two piano solo recitals as well as a chamber music recital at locations in Fort Worth and Dallas. The solo recital programs include works by Florence Price, Johannes Brahms, Missy Mazzoli, Claude Debussy, and Franz Schubert. Admission to all events is free of charge.

- February 17, 7:30 pm - solo recital, Alkek Fine Arts Center at Weatherford College
- February 20, 3:30 pm - solo recital, Martin Hall at Texas Wesleyan University
- February 20, 7:30 pm Mount Vernon Music series; Piano Quartets by Johannes Brahms and Emilie Mayer.
St. Rita Catholic Community, 12521 Inwood Road, Dallas.



Pianist Evan Mitchell seen in costume was the soloist in a performance of Totentanz by Franz Liszt together with the Northeast Orchestra conducted by Tom Connely, at Peace Lutheran Church, Hurst, Texas on October 28, 2022. This concert was a mix of classical, popular music, and musical theater, all with a Halloween theme.

FWMTA Extends a Warm Welcome to New Members



Tinatin Gudadze was born in Tbilisi, Georgia, and started playing the piano at the age of six. She studied at the Tbilisi State Conservatoire where she received her Bachelor's degree. She then moved to Barcelona Spain, joining the Liceu Conservatoire and obtaining a Master's Degree in Classical Music Performance. She had the opportunity to perform several piano recitals such as the opening of the "Classical Music Series" at the Barcelona North American Institute of Studies and the Russian House of Barcelona. During her stay in Spain, she was part of the faculty at a private conservatoire and music school. In January 2022 she moved to Fort Worth, Texas where she continues her career as a performer and piano teacher. During her free time, she enjoys reading, listening to music, and sharing time with her family.



Stephanie Nakahara Myers NCTM holds B.A. from Calvin College, and a Master of Music in Piano Pedagogy and Performance from Northwestern University School of Music, where she studied pedagogy with Elvina Pearce and Francis Larimer. She began her career as a director of Baldwin Music Education Center. She has served on the faculties of Northwestern University School of Music Piano Academy and College of Dupage. One of her most memorable public performances was with the Dupage Symphony as a guest pianist for the performance of Petrushka. Having operated a thriving private studio in Wheaton for over thirty years, she and her husband recently relocated to Fort Worth, Texas. She continues to teach her Wheaton students virtually. Mrs. Myers has joined Texas Music Teachers Association and maintains membership in West Suburban ISMTA (Illinois State MTA) where she served in many capacities, including AIM Theory Chair, AIM Performance Chair, Program Chair, Certificate Chair and Treasurer.

She continues to serve as AIM Repertoire Approval Chair for the State AIM Committee. She has written several articles for the Clavier Companion Magazine (formally known as the "Keyboard Companion"). Mrs. Myers has given presentations for the local chapters of ISMTA, including a masterclass as well for the State Conference. She has served as judge/adjudicator for numerous festivals and competitions in the greater Chicagoland. Mrs. Myers became certified through TMO (Teach Music Online) and continues to learn more about the effectiveness of online teaching. She lives in Crowley, Texas with her husband and enjoys being closer to her three grandchildren.

Information on new members **Viviane B. Pereira** and **Kyung Hyun Kim** will be published in the April issue of the FWMTA Newsletter



Melanie Talbot

My name is Melanie Talbot. I grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah where I studied piano under Ann Harrington. I graduated from Brigham Young University with a degree in Elementary Education in 1996. My husband and I moved to Texas in 1999. We have five children. I have taught piano lessons for the last 28 years. I was previously a member of the Mid-cities Chapter of MTNA. Thank you for welcoming me into your chapter.



Adriana Paola Morales grew up in Colombia, where she studied piano from early childhood through high school. A scholarship to Texas Christian University brought her to the United States, where she earned both a Bachelor’s and a Master’s degree in piano pedagogy under the guidance of Mr. Harold Martina and Dr. Ann Gipson. After graduation from TCU, she went on to win the Young Artist Performing Series Competition in her hometown and performed in one of Colombia’s finest concert halls, the Library Hall Luis Angel Arango. Prized as a pedagogue, Adriana has taught dozens of young pianists and adults at different schools in the DFW metroplex. She served on the faculty at Coppell Conservatory for over 10 years where her students frequently took home top prizes in area festivals and competitions. Active in her local community, Adriana has served as vice president of the Carrollton Music Teachers Association. Her lecture recitals have highlighted the intersection of language, culture, and music in Texas and abroad; topics have included Music and Language Intertwined, Latin American Art Song, and Viviendo la Música. Currently,

she is the director of Piano House Music Academy LLC in Fort Worth, the music director at Silver Creek United Methodist Church in Azle, and a Cliburn in the Classroom host, where she brings to life the “Cliburn in the Classroom” Programs to many schools in the DFW area.

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Spring Seals, NCTM

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