



# April Newsletter

1 of 5 pages

**Fort Worth Music Teachers Association**

**Volume 8, No.15 April 2016**

## Editorial Musings...

Another academic year will soon be recent history. As we enter the season of summer, we welcome a hiatus from our teaching duties and turn to the numerous matters that were left for “a later time.”

This is indeed a splendid time in which to look squarely at those neglected matters and begin working on them, but it is also a very good time in which to devote a few minutes to reinvigorate our minds and bodies ensconced by silence and free of outside distractions.

If you have not spent a few minutes of your day on energizing your mind in this manner, this would be the ideal time to give “mindfulness” a chance to invigorate both mind and body.

Mindfulness developed through meditation – a daily activity that takes but 3 – 4 minutes of time -keeps its promise of freeing us from the burden of emotions and mental habits that are detrimental to our well-being.

Start by sitting in a quiet spot in the familiar environs of your home or your studio surrounded by silence; now concentrate on how you breathe. In time, a fuller mindfulness will lead to an awareness of your body, which will connect with the steady rhythm of your breathing. The positive energy brought about by this practice ultimately flows gently into our everyday activities and lives. Among those activities is playing the pianoforte. Permit the technique to enhance playing and memorization and to the learning of new works.

A few minutes devoted to mindfulness each day will reward you with a strength and clarity of thought you have not previously experienced.

The Newsletter takes a hiatus as well...look for it in your inbox in August of 2016. Until then I hope you have an enriching and fulfilling Summer.

*Rosemary Solomons*

**FWMTA extends a warm welcome two new members:**

**Briana Link of Euless teaches Piano, Elementary Music and Flute.**

**Dr. Tanya Karyagina of Fort Worth, teaches Piano, Theory and Piano Pedagogy.**

We are very pleased to have you as members of our association.

**FWMTA President Jose Cubela writes...**

Dear Colleagues,

I had the privilege of attending the 2016 MTNA annual conference held in the historic city of San Antonio at the beginning of April. The conference was held at the convention center down town, a walk away from the 18th century Spanish mission, The Alamo.

From the moment I stepped into the convention center, I felt the energy of the crowd. At a distance, I heard the murmuring of vendors, music teachers from all over the country and instruments. It was invigorating!

San Antonio is a historic city with five Spanish missions dating back to the late 1600s to early 1700s. The beautiful Spanish architecture alone makes these missions worth visiting. If you are a foodie, as I am, you will love the restaurants along the river walk with their iconic

umbrellas and diverse cuisine. You cannot leave San Antonio without enjoying a Margarita on the River Walk...well, maybe two or three. Luckily, I had many friends at the convention to enjoy those Margaritas with.

It was wonderful to see several of our own members at the convention. I had a chance to visit with several of our members: Hsinyi Wang (VP of Programs), Jennifer DeSantis (VP of Membership), Jill Sprenger (Director), Sarah Alexander, Carolyn Gurley, Lori Christ, Tamas Ungar and many others. In addition to our members, I had the honor of meeting and visiting with several VIPs, among them were Kenneth Drake (an exponent of playing repertoire from the classical period on instruments of that era); Marvin Blickenstaff (editor for the Celebration Series and past president of the Frances Clark Center of Keyboard Pedagogy), Seymour Bernstein (pianist, composer, teacher, movie star), Catherine Rollin (composer, pianist, teacher) and others.

In addition to visiting and meeting new friends, I attended several stimulating classes including: "Performance Psychology: From The Practice Room To The Stage," presented by students of Dr. Mario Ajero at Stephen F. Austin University; "The Art of the Piano Duet: Teaching Artistry Through Ensemble Experience," presented by Christopher and Katherine Fisher; "The 40 Piece Challenge: Strategies For Repertoire-Rich Learning," presented by Elissa Milne; and "The Score is a Window Not a Wall: Interpreting the Beethoven Piano Sonatas," presented by Peter Takács as well as many other classes.

There were two high points to the MTNA Conference this year. First, Seymour Bernstein's piano master Class. Mr. Bernstein is 89 years of age, but has the energy of a 20 year-old. In the master class, two students performed for him. One of the performers was a 6th grader who performed Mr. Bernstein's Birds Suite, Book 1 beautifully; and the second performer was a talented 12th grader who performed Chopin's Ballade No. 1 in G minor, op. 23 with technical perfection and tremendous musicality. Mr. Bernstein had both students perform their pieces

as in a recital setting, and then worked with them. His love for music and teaching permeates his whole being. He lovingly pointed out the positive elements in each performer and made several musical and technical suggestions. Here are some quotes I have personally taken to heart from that master class about teaching: "The study of music will help you become a whole person." "The emotional, intellectual, and physical world is engaged when you practice properly." These statements are very valuable to both teachers and students alike!

The second high point of the conference was Emanuel Ax's all Beethoven recital. Mr. Ax's playing was energetic, technically perfect and sublime.

For me, the 2016 MTNA conference was an informative and enriching experience.

### **Members Receive Recognition, Awards & Certification**

#### **The Piano Technicians Guild RMM Awards Teacher Scholarship to FWMTA member Spring Seals**



The Piano Technicians Guild RMM Teacher Scholarship was presented to **Spring Seals** at the MTNA National Conference in San Antonio on April 6, 2016.

The Piano Technicians Guild Award is a financial-assistance grant presented to a nationally certified MTNA member to provide advance study opportunities related to piano.

The PTG is dedicated to providing continuing education for piano technicians. Their

commitment to continuing education also includes the credentialed professional piano teaching community. To that end, the PTG and the Piano Technicians Guild Foundation (PTGF) are pleased to announce two scholarships available to MTNA certified members.

Any piano teacher who has earned MTNA Professional Certification and uses a Registered Piano Technician (RPT) can apply for one of two scholarships from the Piano Technicians Guild (PTG) and the Piano Technicians Guild Foundation (PTGF).

One of these annual scholarships in the amount of \$750 awarded by the Piano Technicians Guild (PTG) is to be used specifically for Recreational Music Making (RMM) training, as presented by MTNA. FWMTA member Spring Seals used the scholarship to attend the RMM track of Pedagogy at the MTNA Conference in San Antonio in April, 2016.

Spring Seals, M.M., NCTM gives instruction in piano at Parker Piano Studios.

### **TCC Northwest awards Certificate of Appreciation to Patricia Tsai**

Tarrant County College, Northwest awarded **Patricia Tsai** a Certificate of Appreciation for her years of service and dedication to its Northwest Campus Senior Education Program.

The presentation took place on April 15, 2016 at TCC, Northwest at which Coordinator Robin M. Valetutto, Vice President Arrick Jackson and Director Marisa L. Reye were present.

The results of Patricia's dedication to the Senior Education Program and her hard work with her students, will culminate with a recital given by the senior piano class at the Tarrant County Northwest campus on November 11, 2016.

Congratulations as well to Patricia's son **Wyndham Tsai** who is currently pursuing a master's degree at the Southern Methodist University, studying with Andrés Diaz. He began his cello studies at the age of six with Myrna Trent at the TCU Suzuki Program and later with Richardson Symphony Principal Cellist Jungshin

Lim Lewis. He worked with Dallas Symphony Orchestra member Michael Coren and concert cellist Andrés Diaz before completing his undergraduate studies in cello performance at Northwestern University.

In February 26 and 28, 2016, Wyndham performed cello concerto by Dvorak in the Meadows Symphony Orchestra's Concerto Competition Winners' Concert, under the baton of Paul Phillips, SMU. The program features winners of the annual Meadows Concerto Competition, who are chosen to perform with the orchestra from a highly competitive field of talented Meadows undergraduate and graduate students. Wyndham completed his undergraduate studies in cello performance in 2015 at Northwestern University with Hans Jørgen Jensen.

### **Jill Sprenger Earns Certification**

Following a rigorous training period of numerous observations and apprenticeship days in Toronto and **the U.S., Jill Sprenger has been accepted into the Royal Conservatory College of Examiners.** She is now certified to work as a Music Development Program adjudicator throughout the U.S. and Canada.

### **Royal Conservatory Music Development Program Lauds FWMTA Teachers**

Congratulations to FWMTA and Southwestern Music Academy teachers who had 81 students prepare and take their Royal Conservatory Music Development Program assessments this past weekend. Two visiting adjudicators from Cincinnati and Calgary heard piano, violin, cello, and voice students play and sing a comprehensive exam of repertoire, etudes, technique, ear training, and sight reading.

This represents a huge achievement on the part of participating teachers and their students. The significant increase in the number of students at the RCMD Fort Worth Testing Center, led this year to students from Fort Worth and around the Metroplex playing their assessments from Friday afternoon through Monday afternoon.

## Where Are They Now?

Teachers, we welcome information about the progress of your senior-year students. The news that follows concerns four students who have chosen to continue to hone their skills in the field of music.

**Melody Knight** is completing her Freshman year at TCU with a double major in piano performance and vocal performance. She is the beneficiary of two scholarships, one in each speciality. She is currently studying piano with John Owings, collaborative piano with Janet Pummill, voice with Dr. Sheila Allen, and sings in the TCU Chorale directed by Dr. Christopher Aspaas.

Parents: Dr. Richard and Lennie B. Knight  
Former Teacher: **Maureda Travis**

**Damoyee Neroes**, was accepted into the piano program at Booker T. Washington High School.

Parents: Erikka and Damon Neroes  
Former Teacher: **Jennea Potter**

**Sophia Formella** will be attending the University of Miami in the Fall to double major in Vocal Performance and Music Education.  
Parents: Marcella Torres and Greg Formella  
Former Teacher: **Jennea Potter**

**Robert Bosworth** won a full scholarship to the University of Kentucky in 2010. Began studying with Dr. Irina Voro, chair of the piano faculty at UK.

2012: Won a place as accompanist at the Saratoga Opera Summer Program in Saratoga Springs, NY

2013: Won a place as accompanist at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, CA. Studied there with Marilyn Horne and Warren Jones.

Won a place as an accompanist and apprentice voice coach at the Merola Opera Program in San Francisco, where Robert studied with Warren Jones.

2014: Graduated summa cum laude from the University of Kentucky with a Bachelor of Music degree.

2014: Won a scholarship to earn a Master of Music degree. Area of study: collaborative piano and voice coaching with Dr. Warren Jones at the prestigious Manhattan School of Music in New York City. Graduates in May of this year (2016).

Parents: Dr. and Mrs. Robert Bosworth  
Former Teacher: **Rosemary Solomons**

## From the Desk of... **Ilka Araujo**

### **Texas Wesleyan University/Forum 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Duo Piano Competition/Festival**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Duo Piano Competition/Festival held in February 2016 was a huge success. Thirty-seven duo teams from fourteen different studios/teachers from all over the DFW metropolitan area demonstrated a high level of performance. The level groups ranged from K-12 and for the first time this year the festival portion of the competition featured amateur performers. Among the participants and winners were several teachers and students from the FWMTA. The judge was Dr. Leslie Spatz from Tarleton State University.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Competition/Festival will be held on **February 11, 2017**. For more information please check the competition website

<https://txwes.edu/academics/artsletters/music/special-events-and-competitions/> or contact the competition chair: **Dr. Ilka Araújo**  
**iaraujo@txwes.edu**

### **Make a Note -**

**The TMTA Convention takes place in Dallas. Dates are: June 16th -19, 2016. For more information visit <www.tmta.org. Please plan on attending.**

## **FWMTA Executive Board 2015 – 2017**

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