



Newsletter

1 of 4 pages

Fort Worth Music Teachers Association

Volume 8, No.14 February 2016

Editorial Musings...

We have at some time in our careers encountered a student who has had concerns as to whether piano lessons should take precedence over scholastic achievements. The student who has a strong innate love of music, juxtaposes weekly piano lessons and academic requirements and the demands on their personal time ungrudgingly till their ultimate goal is reached. Occasionally, a student though musically blessed, chooses to give up the study of piano and focus solely on academic achievement.

If you find yourself in the unenviable position of having to advise a student faced with a dilemma such as this, what I learned from a letter written by a 6th grader to Abigail Van Buren, should help immeasurably in making a student aware of the unceasing life-long rewards the study of music provides.

A 6th grade piano student in a letter to *Dear Abbey* says she has played piano for seven years, but now finds that her busy schedule at school gets in the way of her preparing herself for the competitions she regularly participates in. (May I add that she plays violin and is a member of her school orchestra.) Her dilemma: she loves piano; if she decides to give it up, will her life as a musician be over?

The columnist's response is of immense value to us piano teachers. She asks the piano student to refrain from giving up the study of piano, unless her grades drop. Though other things may appear at this time to be more important, the music education she is receiving now may be most beneficial to her as an adult. The columnist goes on to tell a true anecdote of a man in the

city in which she resides. A music-loving and talented man studied piano and classical music for many years in his youth. As he lacked the talent to make music his career, he attended law school, passed the bar exam and went on to become a highly successful lawyer, who specializes in representing musicians. The columnist concludes with more food for thought – life's paths are numerous; to nourish one's talents is to have a wider array of options.

Editorial Musings was inspired by a letter and its response published in a recent *Dear Abbey* column.

Rosemary Solomons

Important Dates:

February 201:

- 1st Publication Contest State Deadline & Registration Postmark for World of Music Testing
- 6th Performance Contest
- 9th Meeting—In conjunction with FORUM and MCMT
Guest Speaker Biliana Dimitrova
- 20th Ensemble Team Auditions

March

- 1st Postmark for entering Piano Solo Contest
- 4th World of Music Test
- 5th Recital with Forum

April

- 1st Meeting—In conjunction with Mid-cities--Guest Speaker Edward Francis
- 1st Senior Scholarship applications due
- 2nd-6th **MTNA National Conference** – San Antonio, Texas
- 8th Postmark date for Chamber Music Ensemble Contest
- 9th *Piano Solo Contest*
- 16th *Honors Recital for Solo Contest*
- 22nd Chamber Music Ensemble Contest
- 24th *Deadline for Recital*

MAY

7 *Recital*

Please keep in mind that our association requires the assistance of us members if the programs we offer our students are to be successfully carried out. Call the Student Affiliate Chairperson and offer to assist in any one of the numerous programs specially geared to enhance the musical education of our piano students. There is much we gain from being members of FWMTA; let us each make an effort to give back to the association we are proud to be a part of.

From the Desk of...

Reva Jean Beck

World of Music Registration is just around the corner. **Monday, February 1 is the deadline for Registration.** Please mail your list of students with their full name, grade level, and one check payable to FWMTA for the total number of students participating. Fee per student is \$10.00. All students must be Student Affiliate members in order to take this test.

Mail registrations to Reva Jean Beck 6108 Rayburn Ct., FW 76133

Sara Doan

FWMTA PIANO SOLO CONTEST
CONTEST DATE: Saturday, April 9, 2016 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
HONORS RECITAL: Saturday, April 16, 2016, at Texas Wesleyan University.

Please make note of the change in venue for the Honors Recital. Due to electrical issues, Cowden Hall remains closed for the semester. Therefore, the Honors Recital will take place at TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY - MARTIN RECITAL HALL. We are indebted to TWU for hosting our recitals this year.
ENTRY DEADLINE: Tuesday, March 1, 2016
Applications can be found in the FWMTA Yearbook. Please mail to: Sara Doan, 2408 Via Villani, #2226, Fort Worth, Texas 76109 D Doan
For questions or information, please email me at: sara.k.doan@gmail.com

Jose Cubela

Do remember to mark your calendar and plan on attending the joint **FWMTA, FWPTF and MCMT** joint meeting on **February 9, at 10 A.M. at Steinway Hall Fort Worth.**

A lecture/recital presented by Biliana Dimitrova on developing rhythm, phrasing and musicianship through the study and performance of etudes, should be beneficial to all of us who teach piano. Looking forward to seeing you at Steinway Hall on February 9, 2016.

Elyse Emerich

The annual **Fall & Jazz Festivals** took place on October 10, 2015 at Texas Christian University. The Fall Festival era this year was the Romantic period.

Two-hundred and twenty-seven students from the piano studios of thirty-three teachers participated in this very popular annual event. The adjudicators were Dr. Moira Hopfe-Ostensen; Penny Hanlon; Darrell Crim; Josh

Green; Jennifer Clarkson; Stewart Koontz; Belinda Scholl and Linda Secor. A fair number of students opted to perform both a jazz piece as well as one from the Romantic era, resulting in the following ratings: 378 received Superior, 19 Excellent & 1 Good.

The Fall Festival Committee extends its thanks to TCU for permitting FWMTA the use of the Ed Landreth building and technician, James Williams for making sure all the pianos were tuned and ready for those participating in the Festival.

Where Are They Now?

Katelan Tran Terrell received her B.M. in piano performance from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, studying with Nelita True, and began her graduate studies at Juilliard this past Fall semester. **Lewis Warren** began his undergraduate studies in piano performance at the New England Conservatory in Boston with Professor Victor Rosenbaum.

Katelan was named first prize winner of the Fort Worth Civic Orchestra Concerto Competition in 2011. She performed the first movement of Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 1 together with the FWCO under the direction of Kurt Sprenger.

Both **Katelan Terrell and Lewis Warren** are the former students of FWMTA member, Dr. John Solomons.

Please let us know about your students achievements so it may be publicized in our Newsletter.

News Bits

***FWMTA member Patrick Behringer** who performed George Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, was named winner of the UT Arlington Concerto Competition held in December 2015. As winner of the competition, Patrick Behringer will perform this much-admired work by Gershwin together with the UT Arlington Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Cliff Evans on **Saturday, February 6, at 7:30**

p.m. at Irons Recital Hall, UT Arlington. The performance is free and open to the public.

Patrick is currently a Performance Certificate degree candidate at UTA, studying with Dr. John Solomons.

***FWMTA member Dr. Gloria Lin**, piano, and Jesus Castro-Balbi, cello, will perform a Carnegie Hall Preview Concert on Sunday, February 7, at 2 p.m. at PepsiCo Recital Hall on the campus of TCU. The program includes works by Chopin, Bohuslav Martinu, Joaquin Nin, Rossini and Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco.

***World Championship of Old-Time Piano Playing**

The genres recognized at the World Championship of Old-Time Piano Playing includes **Jazz, Ragtime, Honky-Tonk and Boogie-Woogie** as well as **novelty songs from the early 20th century.**

The Junior Division for students 17 and under is limited to a single day. To learn more about this unique championship and the unique opportunity it offers students who enjoy the music genres represented at this event, please refer to the information sent to FWMTA members from Ian Hominick, Artistic Director, World Championship Old-Time Piano and faculty member at the University of Mississippi, Dept. of Music. (See e-notice to FWMTA members dated Friday, January 22, 2016.)

***Carles & Sofia Piano Duo to Perform in North Texas**

If you have not heard a live performance by the Carles & Sofia Piano Duo, make it a point to attend one of the two concerts they will give in North Texas. They are ranked among the finest piano-duos in the world. Their precision, brilliant technique and ability to make a four-hand arrangement sound almost orchestral at times, will astound you. **The arrangements they play are for four-hands at one Keyboard**

Carles & Sofia gave the world premiere of the **four-hand piano version of the opera, *Goyescas* by Enrique Granados at Carnegie Hall on Thursday, January 1, 2016.** This premier performance was given exactly one hundred years after the Metropolitan Opera's premier performance of the opera *Goyescas*.

Spanish Steinway artists **Carles & Sofia** will appear at two venues in North Texas this week. Their recital programs include works by Ravel, Albeniz, Falla, and Rachmaninoff. Avail yourself of the opportunity of hearing this exciting Piano-Duo team at one of the following recital halls:

Thursday, Feb. 04, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Martin Hall
Texas Wesleyan University

Friday, Feb. 05, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Irons Recital Hall
University of Texas at Arlington
Both recitals are free and open to the public.

***Fort Worth Civic Orchestra
Call for Entries**

The Fort Worth Civic Orchestra Young Musicians Concerto Competition will be held on Saturday, March 19th, 2016, at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

The competition is open to students through 12th grade who are residents of Tarrant, Parker, Johnson, Hood, Ellis, Wise and Denton Counties.

Those studying any orchestral instrument or piano are eligible. **Deadline** for submitting entries and a tape/ CD or DVD of the contestant performing 5 minutes of the movement of their chosen concerto is **February 27, 2016.** Past prize winners are not eligible to enter.

Invitations to compete in the competition will be sent out by March 10, 2016.

1st Place prize: \$500 plus an opportunity to perform the movement of the Concerto with the Fort Worth Civic Orchestra during their Spring Concert on Saturday May 7, 2016.

2nd Place prize: \$250

For application forms and more detailed information, **please visit the FWCO website.**

FWMTA Executive Board 2015 – 2017

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