



# February Newsletter

1 of 5 pages

Fort Worth Music Teachers Association

February 2017

## Editorial Musings

The words *duet* or *duo* are used to describe compositions for two instrumentalists or two singers. The piano repertoire is abundant with duets, often described as works for four hands at one keyboard. The popularity of these compositions arose from the piano's size and sonority. And two pianos were found to admirably lend themselves to the sharing of the musical material.

Works for piano four-hands tend to incorrectly be regarded as modest compositions when compared with the more glamorous duo-piano creation. This myth is quickly dispelled when challenging duet parts are executed by two high-calibre pianists at one keyboard.

As the repertory of music for duet and duo-piano performance boasts of arrangements of excerpts from orchestral scores, strings works for various groupings, concertos and operas, performers are in the enviable position of acquainting themselves with music of various genres and styles. Added to these are the numerous arrangements of popular and Broadway music scores.

The earliest known four-hand duets were created by J.C. Bach 1749 – 1750. Some fifteen years later, nine-year old Mozart and his sister Nannerl were in London, England, and played duets for J.C. Bach. And ten years later, J.C. earned the distinction of being the first composer to have his four-hand sonatas published.

We are indeed fortunate to have a contest in our city that caters to those students who are ready to meet the challenges and share in the ultimate joy of playing works for two keyboards. One has to admit that the visual effect and the sonorities

created by the two instruments lend a “glamorous” touch to duo-piano performances.

The next Duo-Piano Contest takes place at Texas Wesleyan University on Saturday, February 11, 2017. The sense of accomplishment attained by the budding young artists, and the listening pleasure the duo-piano teams provide – the contest is held in the presence of a live audience - makes this event a very enjoyable one.

The instigator of this whole idea is Patricia Barr, who, together with her husband Howard Barr, were much in demand as concert duo-pianists in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The demise of her husband some years ago brought their concert career to an end. Patricia Barr allowed her love of duo-piano music to extend itself beyond the boundaries of the concert world: she reached out to youthful pianists through a duo-piano contest sponsored by her. She has graced every contest by her presence since its inception ten years ago. Her ultimate gift in the furtherance of duo-piano playing was her generous parting of the two Baldwin pianos she and her husband performed at. The two pianos grace the stage of Martin Hall at Texas Wesleyan University.

For **piano duet** recordings – four hands at one keyboard - **Carles and Sofia**, both from Girona, Catalonia, Spain, are incredibly impressive.

For duo-piano recordings - Duo-Pianists **Katia and Marielle Lebeque** -twin sisters from the Basque region of France, who have been playing together for thirty years now - are equally impressive. And two other highly acclaimed Duo Pianists close to home but of an earlier time, are Patricia and Howard Barr.

- Rosemary Solomons

## Mark Your Calendar...continued on page 2

### FEBRUARY

- 1 Local Performance Contest Registration Postmark
- 1 State Publication Competition Deadline
- 1 State Video Contest Deadline
- 3 State and Local Piano Ensemble Team Intent Form and Fees Postmark Date
- 3 World of Music Test Registration Deadline
- 4 Spring Theory Test at Broadway Baptist Church
- 7 10-12 pm Meeting in conjunction with Forum and Mid-cities MTA, Fort Worth Steinway Hall. Guest presenter: Biliana Dimitrova
- 11 Youth Duo Piano Competition at Texas Wesleyan University
- 15 Registration Deadline for Royal Conservatory Development Program
- 18 State and Local Piano Ensemble Team Auditions
- 18 Local Performance Contest at Texas Christian University

### MARCH

- 1 Solo Contest Registration Deadline
- 3 World of Music Testing, Location TBA
- 4 Open Recital with Forum at Texas Wesleyan University, Martin Hall
- 18-22 MTNA National Convention, Baltimore, MD

### From the Desk of ...

#### *Sara Doan*

This is just a reminder that the registration deadline for the FWMTA Solo Competition is WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2017.  
Competition Date: Saturday, April 1, 2017  
Location: Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Honors Recital: Saturday, April 8, 2017  
Location: Texas Wesleyan University  
This will be an exciting year for us, especially because we are extending the competition to vocalists and instrumentalists for the first

time! Please help spread the word so we can have a great turnout for these new divisions. The registration forms can be found here: [http://fwmta.org/uploads/3/4/7/0/34701407/2017\\_solo\\_competition\\_registration\\_forms\\_\\_1\\_.pdf](http://fwmta.org/uploads/3/4/7/0/34701407/2017_solo_competition_registration_forms__1_.pdf)

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Doan. ([sara.k.doan@gmail.com](mailto:sara.k.doan@gmail.com))

#### *Elyse Emerich -*

The annual Fall & Jazz Festivals took place on October 15, 2016 at Texas Christian University. The Fall Festival era this year was Contemporary music. A total of two-hundred and eighty-two students representing thirty-six teachers, participated.

The adjudicators at the Fall Festival were: Eunice Tavaglione, John Fisher, Darrell Crim, Holley Hughes, Jennifer Clarkson, Russel Hughes, Harriet Motter, Belinda Scholl, Beverly Ryan, and Linda Secor resulting in the following ratings: 173 Superior +; 153 Superior; 61 Excellent & 4 Good.

FWMTA would like to thank Texas Christian University for the use of the Ed Landreth building and James Williams for making sure all the pianos were tuned.

#### *June Leondar*

### Music Theory Testing Attracts Many FWMTA Members

The Theory Test committee present testing twice yearly; once in the early Fall and again in the Spring of each year. Some of the student activities at the State Convention of Texas Music Teachers Association require students to study for and make a passing score on Theory Tests created by the State Theory Test committee. Twenty four FWMTA teachers presented 208 students for testing on November 11, 2016. Thirty teachers have entered 312 students for the Testing on February 4, 2017. Tests are given to students on 12 levels. Local testing is conducted by teachers who register their students for testing.

Continued on page 3

Tests are graded by State appointed graders. Students scoring 70 or above receive Participation Certificates. Those making a score of 90 to 101 receive medals: gold for scores 99-101, silver for scores 94-97 and bronze for scores of 90-93. Medals are issued to students during the months of April or May. Students earning medals are honored at the June FWMTA HONORS RECITAL.

Theory committee chairs are Maureda Travis and June Leondar

### **Jennea Potter**

For the 2016-2017 year, FWMTA has 498 students enrolled in student affiliate. Student affiliate enrollment is required for Theory Test, State Ensembles, Original Composition Contest – State Level, Publication Contest – State Level, Video Essay Contest – State Level, Student Affiliate Performance Contest and World of Music.

*The following article is reprinted with the permission of the writer, April Suarez Olvera. Dr. Ilka Araujo was in Taiwan, Summer of 2016.*

### **Araújo Teaches Piano in Taiwan**

Ilka Vasconcelos Araújo, Texas Wesleyan's associate professor of musicology and piano, received an invitation from the IPPEC, International Piano Performance Examination Committee, to be a judge at its annual summer program in Taiwan.

Araújo said her credentials allowed her to get recommended to the IPPEC.

"I did a program at Mississippi State University a few years ago, and they liked very much what I did there. I taught and I played concerts and all that, so they recommended me to this committee [IPPEC]," she said.

The IPPEC, a nonprofit educational organization, was initiated in 1989 to serve the needs of Taiwanese music students. Based in Taiwan, the IPPEC exists to provide academic-oriented evaluation systems and a complete educational consultation in terms of further

studies in music. Every year the organization invites an accredited individual to be the judge at its annual program. The invited judge critiques the musicians while teaching them how to improve their music, by covering the topics of technique, style, musical ideas, and choice of sounds and color. The judge is also required to test the participants' knowledge through preset questions created by the IPPEC on music history, music theory, and sight-reading.

During the six-week program, July 1 – August 7, Araújo worked with a total of 1,849 students, listening to approximately 60 to 100 students play in an eight-hour shift.

Most of the students come from Taiwan, but there are a few from the Philippines, China, Korea and Japan.

"I really enjoyed working with the students and their teachers," Araújo said. "They were very motivated and interested in learning. They worked hard and wanted to hear more ideas. So, that part was actually very rewarding."

"It was great to see how involved and dedicated these students and families are. Students go to school basically all 12 months of the year. Even in the summer time, they were still spending the whole day at school – this dedication comes from Confucianism, a philosophy that helped establish education in the country," Araújo explained. "They take work very seriously and in their piano studies they practice sight-reading daily and go through a tough regime of scales and arpeggios. Nevertheless, one can still find much variety among these students from the most talented to the basic average ones and even unmusical ones. Despite all their hard work they still have many deficiencies in understanding the more sophisticated side of real piano playing: some of them lack knowledge in how to use advanced technical abilities, such as double notes, thirds, tremolos, octaves, broken octaves, and so on. They also have difficulties in understanding musical issues such as how to really play legato, voicing, phrasing, breathing, careful listening, avoiding unwanted accents, and others. In this they do not differ from any other music student from other parts of the world. But the most interesting aspect was to see their

respect to me and their desire to learn more and improve.”

Araújo really enjoyed learning a different culture she had never been exposed to and plans to be an adjudicator once again in the future. “The people are very friendly and I felt much welcomed. It was obvious I was a tourist, but I never felt unsafe walking on the streets. The food is amazing – like nothing I had seen before, and I have traveled much already! It was wonderful to visit their temples, learn about their view of the west, and see how careful they are with the environment,” she added.

## News From TMTA Convention

### June 2016

FWMTA students had great participation at the TMTA convention last June in Dallas. They were finalists in Original Composition, Publication Contest, Chamber Music Contests and performed at the Ensembles.

**The Texas American Ensemble #1**, under the direction of Ilka Araujo, premiered "Sundance Square" by Caleb Wendel, who was at the convention as winner of the Composer of the Year award.

**The Texas American Ensemble #2**, under the direction of Twila McCown, performed "Toccata for Two" by Robert Vandal.

**The High School Ensemble team** under the direction of Bonnie Dove, performed "Mechanisms" also by Caleb Wenzel.



Texas American Ensemble #2 with Twila McCown at the TMTA Convention, June 2016



Nathaniel Castaneda & Ashley Truong - students of Ilka Araujo - 3rd place winners at the June Leondar Chamber Music Contest at TMTA Annual convention held in Dallas, June 2016.



Members of the Middle School Ensemble team at the TMTA Convention, June 2016. Bonnie Dove, Caleb Wendel and Ilka Araújo are also in the picture.

## Timely Reminders...

### FWMTA Senior Scholarship Applications are due April 1, 2017

Now is the time to begin gathering information for applications for the Fort Worth Music Teachers Association Senior Scholarship Awards. We offer two types of scholarships to high school seniors. The Memorial Scholarship Award recognizes a talented high school senior who plans to major in music. The amount of this award will be determined by the Scholarship Committee, and approved by the Executive Board of FWMTA. The Senior Scholarship Award is available to students who have accumulated points according to achievement level in various musical activities in grades 9 through 12. Recipients of the Senior Scholarship Award need not plan to major in music. Any high school senior who studies with a teacher who is a member of FWMTA may apply. The senior student may apply for more than one scholarship, but may receive only one award. Seniors who apply for the awards must pass a TMTA Grade 12 theory test and write an essay explaining his/her interest in music. In the event we have a large number of applicants, students must be prepared to audition before the Scholarship Committee with two pieces by established composers from different eras of musical composition.

**Contact MaryAnn Fritz at:  
mafritz616@att.net for application forms.**

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## Young Musicians Concerto Competition A Fort Worth Civic Orchestra Event

The FWCO Concerto Competition will be held on Saturday, March 18th, 2017, at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2001 W. Seminary Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76115

It is open to residents of Tarrant, Parker, Johnson, Hood, Ellis, Wise and Denton Counties through 12th Grade on any orchestral instrument or piano.

Past prize winners are not eligible to enter.

Please complete entry form and return with application fee of \$30 and a tape/CD/DVD of the applicant performing 5 minutes of the movement of their chosen concerto by February 25th, 2017 to:

Lisa Martin, FWCO Concerto Competition,  
210 Timber Trail, Weatherford, TX 76087

Invitations to compete in the competition will be sent out by March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

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 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

2nd Place Prize: \$250

The FWMTA E-Newsletter is distributed three times during the course of the academic year. Members are invited to send items of interest to the editor at any time.

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