



## Editorial Musings



Our work as educators provides us with the opportunity of contributing to the arts in a major way. The role we play as teachers of music permits us to inspire, guide and

mentor our students at an impressionable age.

Our hope is that a student's exposure to music over a period of years, will lead to a lifelong love of music and an appreciation of the Arts. The music students of today will not only determine the importance of music's presence in American culture, but from them will emerge the performing artists and supporters of the Arts of the future. That future is now...

As advocates for music and the Arts ourselves, let's strive to encourage these young musicians to avail themselves of what Arts organizations have to offer.

A few simple steps in nurturing the love of music can begin with attending symphonic concerts, piano recitals given by professional artists, voice recitals, choral concerts, chamber music concerts, the ballet and the opera.

Pause for a moment to think of the numerous distractions that engulf us: television, the internet, sports, and cell and smart phones. Our minds, if permitted, will bow to these distractions and be wrenched away from matters of greater importance.

America needs the support of advocates who believe in preserving the arts in American culture. The many distractions and the dwindling financial support of the Arts by those in positions of power in the political world will, if allowed to continue, cause a chasm in our cultural world.

We can each be an advocate for the arts. Make a start by supporting our local symphony orchestra and the orchestras of neighbouring cities - orchestral concerts almost always feature a concerto. Each concert season offers a plethora of choices; from solo recitals to chamber music to choral offerings and much more. Attending a concert or two each season should be a priority.

And check into the superb array of free concerts provided by TCU, TWU and UNT. I had some of my older students attend a TCU opera production and in the words of the young - 'they were blown away!'

Watch for the reduced price ticket sales offered by the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and the free concerts they offer at two different locations. The Fort Worth Ballet and Fort Worth Chamber Music Society offer special student rates. The FWSO offers special student rates as well as a Student Passport, which provides ten (10) concerts for \$35.00!! Fort Worth Civic Orchestra asks for any contribution you can afford.

Let's encourage our students to attend the free concerts at TCU or TWU this Spring semester. Make a start - spring into action! The smallest contribution we make as advocates for the Arts, will serve to strengthen and preserve music and the Arts in American culture nationally and beyond.

Rosemary Solomons

## EVENT CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY 2018

- 1 State Publication Competition Deadline
- 1 State Video Contest Deadline
- 2 World of Music Test Registration Deadline
- 2 State and Local Piano Ensemble Team Intent

- Form and Fees Postmark Date
- 3 Youth Duo Piano Competition at Texas Wesleyan University
- 3 Spring Theory Test at Broadway Baptist Church
- 13 10am-Noon – Joint meeting with Piano Teachers Forum and Mid-Cities at Steinway Hall Fort Worth. Presenter: Mary Sallee
- 17 State and Local Piano Ensemble Team Auditions at Steinway Hall
- 18 Local Performance Contest at Texas Christian University

### **MARCH 2018**

- 2 World of Music Testing, Location TBA
- 5 Solo Contest Registration Deadline
- 10 Open Recital with Forum at Texas Wesleyan University, Martin Hall
- 17-21 MTNA National Convention, Lake Buena Vista, FL
- 24 Local Chamber Music Ensemble Contest registration postmark

### **APRIL 2018**

- 1 Senior Scholarship Award Application Deadline
- TBD Local Chamber Music Ensemble Contest
- 14 Solo Contest at Texas Wesleyan University
- 15 State Registration for the Chamber Music Ensemble Contest
- 21 Solo Contest Honors Recital at Texas Wesleyan University, Martin Hall
- 28 9am FWMTA Ensemble Rehearsal at Steinway Hall Fort Worth
- 28 “Celebrating our FWMTA Teachers” – FWMTA Gala at TCU

### **MAY 2018**

- 5 Open Recital at Texas Wesleyan University, Martin Hall
- 5 FWMTA Ensemble Rehearsal at Steinway Hall Fort Worth – 9 A.M.
- 19 FWMTA Ensemble Rehearsal at Steinway Hall Fort Worth 9 A.M.

### **JUNE 2018**

- 2 FWMTA Ensemble Rehearsal at Steinway Hall Fort Worth 9A.M.
- 16 9am FWMTA Ensemble Rehearsal at Steinway Hall Fort Worth

- 19 FWMTA Honors Recital at Fort Worth Steinway Hall at 6:30PM and 7:30PM
- 21-24 TMTA State Convention, Waco Convention Center, Texas

## **FWMTA Seeks *Best of State Award***

By Co-President, Jennifer DeSantis



As we get back into the swing of things after the holidays, it is good to reflect on our teaching strategies for the upcoming semester. While I consider new repertoire and prepare for the next festival, theory

test and recital, I become motivated to work but also overwhelmed with everything that needs to be done.

A few questions come to mind. Are we providing the right path for our students? Are we teaching them how to practice effectively? Are we too tough or not tough enough? We all want to be the best teachers we can and offer each student what he/she needs to succeed.

Each summer the opportunity for our FWMTA to be considered for the “Best of State” award comes around, and each year we find ourselves too busy to check into this for our organization.

I decided to start looking into the requirements to learn what it takes to win this award. As discussed in the Fall 2017 Texas Music Teacher’s publication, there have been some changes. Rather than using a point system, a local association interested will show an innovative music-making program that has been implemented. What can we implement to stand out as a strong and thriving local association?

One idea that is dear to my heart is community outreach. There are many ways that our students can engage with the community: retirement/nursing homes, hospitals, museums and libraries.

I would love to see teachers from our organization come together and plan a FWMTA program for outreach. Not only will our students

build self-confidence, they will become better sight-readers and conquer stage fright. And, the audience will learn and appreciate the work it takes to perform in public. This is one idea that you can easily implement into your teaching plan and help your students grow. Sarah and I would love to hear any other ideas you have for our organization. We are a great group of teachers. Let's make a difference!

## MTNA National Convention and Presentation

By Co-President, Sarah Alexander - NCTM



The MTNA annual national convention is fast approaching! Do you plan to attend? This year, it will convene at “The Happiest Place on Earth”, otherwise known as Disney World. The Convention will begin with *Pedagogy Saturday* on March 17 and end on Wednesday, March 21. This will be my sixth year to attend and it never disappoints. The daily schedule is jam-packed with concerts, masterclasses, sessions, meetings, networking and time spent in the exhibit hall.

This year, I have the honor of presenting once again with my FWMTA colleague, Spring Seals (FWMTA Secretary) and our former TCU classmate, Whitney Hawker. Our presentation topic is titled ***The Struggle is Real: Building a Thriving Local Association.***

Part of our research is being done through a survey that MTNA agreed to send out to members on January 9. We are currently collecting results from this survey to help us pinpoint how local associations can better serve the needs of their members. We are also using it to determine how to encourage more members to get involved. The future of our local associations depends on recruiting new members, the involvement of current members, and passing on experience and knowledge to younger or newer teachers through mentoring.

If you can take a few minutes and fill out our survey, it would be most helpful. You can either search for the email sent through MTNA on January 9 (you might find it in your spam box) or you can access it through this link:

<http://mtna-commercial.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT02NTk4NjIzJnA9MSZ1PTgwNDA5MDYzMyZsaT00ODEzNjM4Mw/index.html>

Please let me know if you are planning to attend the MTNA convention. I would love to connect with you! It would also be fun to attend the traditional TMTA dinner with you and meet the TMTA leadership as well as other teachers from around the state.

Be sure to watch for an update on the presentation and the convention in the next newsletter.

## From the Desk of...

Jennifer DeSantis

Congratulations to our members who participated in the Pedagogy Master Class on January 20th at TCU! We appreciate your hard work and willingness to participate: Qian Liu, Emily Tran, Benjamin Pawlak, Patricia Tsai, Dr. Tanya Karyagina and Jose Cubela.

A special thank you to Mandy Luckert and Dr. Ann Gipson for planning this event and to TCU for allowing us to use Pepsico Recital Hall. And our thanks to the MTNA Collegiate Chapter for providing us with a lovely reception.

**Save the Date!** FWMTA Gala – Celebrating our Teachers – April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

This event will highlight the accomplishments of our teachers and their students. We will also preview a special documentary video on the history of FWMTA and hear a premier of a piece dedicated to our association, composed by Timothy Brown. Be on the lookout for more details and your invitation!

## Janis Felts

The annual Fall & Jazz Festivals took place on October 14, 2017, at Texas Christian University. The Fall Festival featured music from the Baroque era; the Jazz Festival featured numerous composers, arrangements and styles. The 254 participating students performed 335 compositions for the festivals adjudicators. There were 38 teachers represented.

The students were adjudicated by Resa Carrell, Jennifer Clarkson, Darrell Crim, Dr. John Fisher, Linda Secor, Dr. John Solomons, Dr. Jill Sprenger, Mike Springer, Dr. Eunice Tavaglione & Erica Vosburg, resulting in the following ratings: Superior: 301 Excellent: 34

FWMTA and the Fall Festival Committee would like to thank TCU for the use of Ed Landreth Hall and technician, James Williams, for making sure all the pianos were tuned in preparation for the 2017 Fall & Jazz Festivals.

## Sara Doan

The Solo Competition is approaching! Details, registration form and adjudication sheet are attached to the e-mail reminder sent on January 20, 2018. Please note the following DATES and NEW LOCATION:

- Fees and registration forms must be postmarked by March 5.
- Competition is April 14.
- Both the Competition and the Honors Recitals (April 21) will be at Texas Wesleyan University in the Ann Waggoner Fine Arts Building.

Please help us increase awareness and participation by sharing the attachments with your string and voice colleagues.

For questions, you may email Sara Doan at: [sara.k.doan@gmail.com](mailto:sara.k.doan@gmail.com).

## Up Coming Events

### Youth Duo-Piano Contest

Texas Wesleyan University holds its annual Youth Duo-Piano Contest on Saturday, February 3, 2018.

The Texas Wesleyan University Youth Duo-Piano Competition is a celebration of young pianists and the skilled collaboration between two such performers. Contestants perform before a live audience as they are being adjudicated. The event is co-sponsored by the Texas Wesleyan University Department of Music and the Fort Worth Piano Teachers Forum.

### The Fort Worth Civic Orchestra Holds its Annual Concerto Competition

Talented young musicians will have a chance to perform in concert as guest soloist with a symphony orchestra through the Young Musicians Concerto Competition. The annual Competition, sponsored by the Fort Worth Civic Orchestra, is open to student musicians through 12th grade who play an orchestral instrument or piano. Applicants must be residents of Tarrant, Parker, Johnson, Hood, Ellis, Wise or Denton counties, and past first prizewinners are ineligible to re-enter.

The Competition is accepting applications now through February 23, 2018. The entrance fee is \$30, and forms are available online at <http://fwco.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Young-Musicians-Concerto-Competition-Application-Form-2018.pdf>.

Applicants must submit a recording of themselves performing their concerto. Selected students will perform a movement of that concerto before a panel of judges. The screening panel reserves the right to reject a concerto for appropriateness.

**The first prizewinner will receive a \$500 honorarium; the second prizewinner receives \$250.**

The Young Musicians' Concerto Competition will be held on Saturday, March 17, 2018 at Cowden Hall on the campus of the Southwestern Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. The winner will be invited to perform the movement of his or her chosen concerto with the Fort Worth Civic Orchestra at its annual spring concert on Saturday, May 5, 2018 in Truett Auditorium at the Seminary. Note: The winner will forfeit the honorarium award if unable to perform at the concert.

**The Fort Worth Civic Orchestra is an all-amateur adult community orchestra** led by Music Director Kurt Sprenger.

The FWMTA Newsletter goes out to members as an E-Publication three times during the course of the academic year. Items of interest intended for the next Newsletter, can be submitted to the editor anytime between now and April 2018.

**Send to: [r.solomons@tcu.edu](mailto:r.solomons@tcu.edu)**

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