



# Newsletter

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*Fort Worth Music Teachers Association*

*Volume 7, No.3 April 2013*

## *Editorial Musings...*

*By Rosemary Solomons*

The beginnings of the Fort Worth Music Teachers Association can be traced back to 1932. In that year, a small group of music teachers met at Broadway Presbyterian church to set an organization in motion – one that would support the furtherance and improvement of music teaching as a profession.

Our association's pride lies in the exceptional quality and work ethics of its members. A glance back in time reveals that from 1962 to 1991, **six FWMTA members** had been earned the prestigious "Teacher of the Year" award presented by the Texas Music Teachers Association. Each of these teachers was honoured by TMTA (founded in the year 1886) for outstanding contributions to the music profession. Grace W. Lankford, the first of these recipients, earned this distinction in 1963. Her name also remains indelibly linked with the beginnings of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

In 1964, Dr. E. Clyde Whitlock was named TMTA "Teacher of the Year."

Recognized in his time for his contribution to music education, Dr. Whitlock's name was immortalized through TMTA's Whitlock Memorial Scholarship Program, which bears his name.

The list of FWMTA teachers, both Independent and at Collegiate level who have earned recognition for their untiring efforts in the field of teaching, and for the personal enrichment each has lent to FWMTA and TMTA, provides a source of continuing inspiration. From the first-named Teacher of the Year Award presented in 1963 to the present day, the list of FWMTA teachers to have earned this honour reads:

1963: Grace W. Lankford

64: Dr. E. Clyde Whitlock

67: Dr. George Anson

75: Donald W. Bellah

90: **June Leondar**

91: Ruth Bunch

98: **John Owings** – Collegiate Level

2002: Dr. **Tamas Ungar** – Collegiate Level

2012: Dr. **John Solomons** – Collegiate Level

**June Leondar, John Owings, Tamas Ungar and John Solomons, FWMTA salutes you!**

### **Upcoming Events**

**April 13** *Piano Solo Contest at SWBTS*

19 *Deadline for April Recital*

27 *Recital at Steinway Hall – 5 p.m.*

**April 27** Meeting and Fellowship –Home of Marsha Rapfogel **11a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**June 11** Honors Recital at Steinway Hall at 6:30 p.m.  
**June 13 - 16** TMTA Convention - DFW-Hyatt-Grapevine

***FWMTA Applauds Piano Ensembles Performing at TMTA Convention in June***  
by Reva Jean Beck

The Piano Ensemble Local Team has 8 students. They will perform “Knights and Dragons” by Vogt for the Honors Program on Tuesday, June 11 at Steinway Hall, 6:30 p.m.

In addition, the Two Texas American Teams have a total of 27 students, and the High School Team has 14 students. A total of 41 students will be performing at the State Convention on Friday, June 14; Saturday, June 15; and Sunday, June 16. Each of the performances is at 3:00 p.m. The directors are Ilka Araujo, Bonnie Dove, Laraine Goold and Reva Jean Beck. All three teams will play on the Honors Program on June 11 at Steinway Hall, Fort Worth. Please make it a point to attend the Honors Program and show your support and pride in the accomplishments of these students.

The studios represented are those of Margaret Laakso, Twila McCown, Sheila Turner, Jennea Potter, Marolyn Rippe, Reva Jean Beck, Renetta Frisque, Harriet Motter, Jennifer DeSantis, Maureda Travis, and Laraine Goold.

***FWMTA GALA DINNER***  
by Ilka Araujo

The Fort Worth Music Teachers Association sponsored a successful Gala Dinner at the TCU ballroom on March 2, 2013. The dinner committee comprised of Jennifer DeSantis, Josie Moses, and Ilka Araújo thank all those who graced the occasion. Among those present were several members, spouses, student performers with their families, and composer Timothy Brown. Music was provided by the Texas Wesleyan Jazz Combo, which enhanced the night. A delicious dinner, wine and dessert was catered by TCU. Students of Reva Jean Beck (Jacob Coffey), Tamas Ungár (Isaac Foreman), and Maureda Travis (Elijah Ong) shared their talent through beautiful musical performances. A brief presentation by Jose Cubela as vice-president of Student Activities reminded all of the richness and importance of the programs offered by the FWMTA. The highlight of the evening was the presentation given by June Leondar, who in her inimitable style unfolded the history of the association in a delightful and humorous way.

During the occasion members at large were recognized for the contributions made by them to the success of the association in whatever capacity they have served, whether as members, active teachers, program chairs, or officers. Those honored for their tireless efforts and devotion were Reva Jean Beck, Lari Goold, June Leondar, Marolyn Rippe, Maureda Travis, and Lucy Yacante.

Jill Sprenger was honored for bringing new ideas and activities during her tenure as president.

Ann Gipson was recognized for training and inspiring a new generation of music teachers; John Solomons for receiving the 2012 TMTA Collegiate Teacher of the Year award and Tamas Ungar for receiving the 2012 MTNA Teacher of the Year award. Posthumous recognition was bestowed upon Norman Rinehart Stemple for his several years of monetary contributions to the Senior Scholarship program.

The organization took pride in honouring June Leondar for outstanding service and significant contribution to the history and development of the Fort Worth Music Teachers Association. A donation in the amount of \$ 500.00 was made to the TMTA General Trust Fund in honor of June Leondar. She has held several positions: choir director, accompanist, coach, piano teacher, church organist, chairman of several positions at local and state levels, treasurer, secretary, organizer and president of both FWMTA and TMTA to name but a few. She has been a much sought-after adjudicator and her students have displayed many achievements. She is the recipient of the 1990 TMTA Teacher of the Year Award.

Among her many specific contributions to FWMTA are: Yearbook Production: 15 Editions since 1984; Director on Board 5 years and Immediate Past President 1990-1992; Chairman of "Octoberfest" 1981-1985; Director of the High School Ensemble at State Convention 1982, 1983, 1991, 1992; Newsletter producer 1993, 1994; Chair of Budget & Finance 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2001-2008; Vice President for Membership 2001 - 2005, 2007-2009; Corresponding Secretary 2000 – 2002; Chairman By-Law Review Committee 1993; Theory Testing Chairman 1994 to 2013 (with Maureda Travis 2001- present); and Vice President for Student Activities (Student Affiliate) 2005-2007, 2009-2011.

Photos from Gala:



Photos by Jennifer DeSantis

### ***The 14<sup>th</sup> Van Cliburn International Piano Competition***

The much-anticipated Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, a quadrennial event, will take place May 24 – June 9, 2013. The wide repertoire for the piano will be recreated on the stage of the Bass Performance Hall Fort Worth, by thirty contestants from twelve countries as they participate in what the late Van Cliburn preferred being called - *A Festival of Music*. The countries represented at this prestigious event are the United States, Italy, Russia, China, Chile, Japan, Poland, France, Australia, Taiwan, South Korea and the Ukraine.

The U.S. contingent of eight pianists is the largest this country has had in many years. Two local teachers - John Owing and Tamas Ungar, are grooming two contestants for this rigorous three-tiered event. Both are members of FWMTA and are piano faculty members at TCU. YouYou Zhang (U.S.) is being prepared for this demanding event by John Owings; Marcin Koziak (Poland) studies with Tamas Ungar. The city of Dallas has to be equally proud of pianist Alex McDonald. This native Texan is a current doctoral student at the Julliard School of Music. He received his early training at a music studio in Dallas.

See you at the 14<sup>th</sup> Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

Congratulations to yet another member of our association - Ilka Araujo. Dr. Araujo was awarded the Texas Wesleyan University Faculty Scholar Recognition for 2012, and was recently invited to write an entry on living Brazilian composer Marlos Nobre for the Rutledge Encyclopedia of Modernism to be published later in 2013.

### ***FWMTA President Josie Moses writes...***

As the School year is wrapping up and summer is fast approaching, I want to express my gratitude to the FWMTA in allowing me to serve as your President for the last two years. It has been my privilege and honor to work with our wonderful Board members and I have grown tremendously from this experience. I am thankful to all of our members for contributing their time and talents into the vast array of programs the FWMTA offers its students, and look forward to the future of continued growth of the Fort Worth Music Teacher's Association.

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