



Newsletter

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Fort Worth Music Teachers Association

Volume 7, No. 5 February 2014

Editorial Musings...

We teachers are fortunate in that the beginning of each semester, and the beginning of each *calendar year* provide us with the opportunity to evaluate our efforts as educators. These evaluations give us a chance to reflect on our efforts in the teaching field and to work with renewed energy on the new challenges ahead. It is indeed a privilege to be in a position that permits us to reach the short-term goals we set for ourselves.

The new year and the new semester yet at fledging level, give us a chance to move forward with renewed energy as we unceasingly seek to better our efforts at imparting our knowledge as we teach. The music teaching profession permits us to grow musically throughout our careers. I doubt if there is any profession from which emanates as much joy and is as rewarding as what *we* have chosen as our life's work.

Rosemary Solomons
Editor

Upcoming Events

February 11, 2014 – Members Meeting

Meeting in conjunction with Forum 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Fort Worth Steinway Hall

Guest presenter: Debra Hadfield

“Creating YOUR Fantastic Studio”

How can **you** create **your** Studio to suit the life **you** want to live?

Find the student **you** want to teach?

Accomplish the goals **you** set?

The lecture will consider studio policies, advertising, scheduling, communication and activities for student retention.

February events continued...

7 Registrations due for World of Music Testing

11 Meeting—In conjunction with Forum---Guest Speaker Debra Hadfield

14 Deadline to Register for Performance Contest

March 2014

1 Performance Contest

1 *Deadline for entering Piano Solo Contest*

1 Ensemble Team auditions

7 World of Music Test

9 Applications due for Chamber Music Ensemble Contest

14 *Deadline for March Recital*

22-26 MTNA National Conference - Chicago Illinois

22 Recital With Forum

31 Chamber Music Ensemble Contest

April 2014

1 Senior Scholarship applications due
12 *Piano Solo Contest*
18 *Deadline for April Recital*
26 *Honors Recital for Solo Contest*
26 *Recital*

June 12 – 15, 2014

Music Teachers Association Convention
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Houston, Texas
Each member of this Association is needed on one or more of the Student program committees. Call the STUDENT AFFILIATE Chairman for an opportunity available in your special realm of interest.
Remember, we can sponsor all these programs for our students when we make a commitment as a collective body.

From the Desk of ...***Reva Jean Beck***

Ensemble Coordinator

Please send me the following information on each student:

1. Name of ensemble and the part
2. School grade and number of years in piano ensembles
3. Phone number and email address
4. Check for amount of the registration

Address: 6108 Rayburn Court, FW 76133 T. No. 817 946-9678

Renetta Frisque

Performance Contest - Saturday, March 1, 2014 (afternoon)- TCC Northeast Campus

Deadline: February 14, 2014

For information, please check yearbook or call

Renetta Frisque at 817-515-668

Coordinator, Preparatory Piano Program I Music Department

Tarrant County College Northeast I Office NFAB 1126

828 W. Harwood Rd. I Hurst, Tx 76054

817-515-6683

Renetta.Frisque@tccd.edu I www.tccd.edu

Bonnie Dove

Composition Co-Chair
TMTA Composition Contest

All our FWMTA members will be happy and proud to know that eleven students, representing five Ft. Worth teachers have entered their original work in the TMTA Original Composition Contest. Our local judge, who rated all the compositions submitted for judging back in October was FJH Composer, Timothy Brown. His excellent comments allowed the revising, editing and improving of compositions which received a rating of Excellent or Superior. The eleven compositions Mr. Brown chose to advance included:

Five works for Solo Piano

Improvisation for Two Pianos

A work for Organ and Choir

A set of Fifteen Variations for an Ensemble of Strings and Piano

Octet for Mixed Chamber group

A String Quintet and

A three movement Sonata for French Horn and Piano.

The outstanding level of work that these students produced should make all of us Very proud of our Ft. Worth students and teachers

The announcement of the winners and students who achieve honorable mention will be made sometime in mid-April; we will be keeping our fingers crossed for Ft. Worth success and the honoring of our student composers.

Incidentally, Judge Timothy Brown is the father of FWMTA member, Eddie Brown. I was very pleased at my decision to have Timothy Brown as adjudicator, as his positive comments and insightful suggestions greatly helped in taking our student's compositions to another level.

Lari Goold

Senior Scholarship applications are due to Lari Goold by April 1st. For application forms I can be reached at 817- 346-1306 or via email at lgoold@att.net

David Yeomans

**THE CLEAR CREEK MUSIC FESTIVAL
HALFWAY, OREGON
JUNE 27-JULY 11, 2014**

The Clear Creek Music Festival has made a significant impact to the communities of eastern Oregon, and eagerly anticipates its fourth successful season! Among the instructional and performing faculty at Festival '14 will be David Yeomans (NCTM), Professor Emeritus of piano at TWU Denton, Gregory Allen, Professor of piano at UT Austin, and TCU faculty Sheila Allen (voice), Blaise Ferrandino (composition), and Jesús Castro-Balbi (strings). The world première of Dr. Ferrandino's work for Festival chorus, children's chorus, soloist, and piano entitled *The Wings of the Mountains* was dedicated to the Festival and presented last summer, conducted by Matthew Valverde, a doctoral candidate at the Eastman School of Music. In addition, Dr. Ferrandino plans a dramatic production for Festival '14, reflecting the history of Oregon and involving Festival students, faculty, and community residents.

Pre-college students intending to major in music interact with collegiate students, benefit from university-faculty instruction, and better prepare themselves for college auditions. The Festival faculty is committed to encourage the strengths and to work with the challenges of each individual student. Participants in the Festival also enjoy the opportunity for daily yoga sessions, as well as outdoor activities such as exploring the trails of this beautiful countryside by foot or by horseback, riding the rapids of the Snake River, seeing the cabins of Gold-Rush miners in Cornucopia, or following the route of the Oregon Trail.

Further information about the Festival can be found on our website www.clearcreekmusicfestival.org, which includes an overview of its mission and activities, as well as application and audition information. Applications should be submitted by March 1, 2014, and live auditions at TCU are scheduled for Sunday, February 23; a good-quality video of a recent performance can be included with the application in place of the live audition.. Please contact clearcreek@flash.net or Dr. Sheila Allen (817-927-5460) for answers to any questions about the Festival, or to schedule an audition time.

Patrick Beringer

I want to announce that the new website is up and running! www.fwmta.org

FWMTA president, Ilka Araujo says she is very pleased with the end results of Patrick Behringer's efforts on updating the FWMTA website. Check it out for yourself!!

To all interested FWMTA teachers:

The Fort Worth Civic Orchestra will hold its annual Concerto Competition for Young Musicians in March 2014. If you have any student candidate that desires to participate, all information pertaining to the competition and an application form can be got at the Civic Orchestra's website: http://fwco.org/?page_id=53.

The web address looks dubious, but it is legitimate. The application form has a telephone number should you wish to contact the organizers.

God Bless America – America's Unofficial Anthem

There is nothing more stirring than the strains of a patriotic song with lyrics that express the love of one's country. One such song that is quintessentially American is *God Bless America*, composed by Irving Berlin (1888-1989). Born in Siberia, Russia, and named Israel Baline, this son of immigrant parents came to the United States with his family at the age of five. Irvin Berlin composed *God Bless America* in 1913 when he was serving in the United States Army at Camp Upton in Yaphank, New York. Having doubts as to the suitability of the song's inclusion in his Ziegfeld-style musical revue *Yip, Yip, Yaphank*, he put the song aside.

Hitler's rise to power and the threat of war in Europe in the late 1930s, had Irvin Berlin take a fresh look at his earlier composed song, *God Bless America*. With minor changes to the melody and lyrics, Berlin made it more a song of peace than one of victory. The revised version was introduced by singer Kate Smith, on her radio show on Armistice Day, November 11, 1938. The song was quick to gain popularity. Two years later (1940), the song was adopted as Franklin D. Roosevelt's campaign song. And closer to our own time, members of the United States Congress sang Irvin Berlin's unofficial anthem, *God Bless America*, on the steps of the Capitol in Washington, D.C., hours after the horrific events of September 11, 2001.

While the Storm clouds gather far across the sea, / Let us swear allegiance
to a land that's free./ Let us all be grateful for a land so fair, / As we raise
our voices in a solemn prayer.

The Editor

Irvin Berlin had no musical training; he could neither read nor write music. The melodies that made his name known throughout this land were notated for him by his amanuensis of many years - Helmy Kresa. May *God Bless America, my home sweet home...*

Executive Board Officers 2013 – 2014

President Ilka Araujo 817-346-1743	VP for Student Activities Mary-Ann Fritz 817-454-6342 & Jennea Potter 214-632-4777
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Historian:	Cathy Lloyd

FWMTA Members: Newsworthy items of musical interest that you wish to share with your fellow members can be published in the Newsletter. Send news items anytime from now until April 2, 2014 to r.solomons@tcu.edu if you wish them to be included in the next E-Newsletter

FWMTA Newsletter February 2014
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Technical Assistance provided by T. L. Helmick