



Newsletter

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Fort Worth Music Teachers Association May 2012 Vol. 1 No. 3

Year-End Thoughts

As members of the Fort Worth Music Teachers Association, we are in a position to offer our students a variety of activities throughout the school year. Each of these activities is organized with meticulous care by a chairperson(s) and a supporting committee.

If you look back through the school year to any of the activities you had your students participate in, you will recall how well organized the event was. The credit for the efforts behind these activities goes to a small group of teachers who, each year, give generously and unselfishly of their personal time in making these events a success. **To all 2011 - 2012 chairpersons and their supporting committees we say *thank you.***

And to those members who will be in a position to assist on a committee or in any other capacity, please take a moment to let us know that you are willing to give of *your time* to better serve our students. **Show your support of FWMTA in a tangible manner.**

Rosemary Solomons
Editor

Note from the President

FWMTA President goes to the MTNA Conference

It was my honor and privilege to represent the Fort Worth Music Teacher's Association at the MTNA Conference held in New York City this past March. What an exciting conference and vibrant city to visit!

The conference was filled with many incredible speakers/clinicians including Manahem Pressler, Melvin Stecher and Norman Horowitz, and the exuberant Benjamin Zander. I attended lectures about Neuroscience of Music Practice and learned how sleep affects our retention of practiced musical passages; How the Classical Improviser Can Become a Jazz Improviser; and Strategies for Reliable Memory in Music Performance.

I also attended the Annual Business Meeting and went to a Masterclass given by Cliburn winner Alexander Kobrin. The highlight of the conference, for me, was hearing Benjamin Zander speak; he encourages and inspires us to become our own personal best. I am excited to read his book "The Art of Possibilities" and see how I can apply his positive strategies into my own teaching studio. I left New York refreshed, renewed, and excited to come back and teach my wonderful students here in Fort Worth. If you ever get a chance to attend a National Conference, I would highly recommend it. It will be an experience you will not forget!

Josie Moses

Music Theory Testing 2011-2012

Submitted by June Leondar

This has been a most successful year for giving our students the opportunity to prove their learning of the basic concepts of music theory through the testing program offered by Texas Music Teachers Association Student Affiliate program. A total of 336 students took the test. Of these 142 earned Gold Medals for making a score of 98 or above; 72 earned Silver medals for making a score of 94-97 and 34 earned a Bronze medal for making a score of 90 to 93. In addition, 40 students who have participated in the program consistently have earned Certificates issued by the State for making a medal on all of the three levels in a Division.

Looking forward to 2012-2013 we have sent the testing dates for November 2, 2012 (registration by October 15, 2012); and February 3 for 2013 (registration by January 18, 2013) A few copies of test papers for the 2012 test period, are available from Chairman. Any teacher can go on the TMTA website and download copies of tests, including the audio ear training samples, for use in your Studio.

Many people are involved in the volunteering to make this theory test possible for all our students. We are grateful to **Maureda Travis** for arranging the use of the rooms at Broadway Baptist Church . Our thanks to **Jose Cubela** for taking care of the Student Affiliate registration. In addition, the TMTA office manager Chris Arnold and data base manager Abby Billins deserve our recognition for their support and keeping the records at the State level; which provides the official record of the scores of more than 16,000 students for a period of 12 years.

In reference to those State office employees; there are some very important things you can do as a teacher to make their work as well as the local theory committee easier and more accurate. AS you plan your program for your student in the coming year. Please **be a c c u r a t e** with these items:

Spelling of students names - keep the same name from year to year

Grade level of each student. State data base in organized around the grade level of students

Meet the deadlines for Student Affiliate registration and registration for theory testing.

CONGRATULATIONS to these teachers who have offered this program to their students.

Teachers who had students testing:

Amanda Spicer, Ann Gipson, Arjola Miruku, Catherine Lloyd, Cynthia Merworth, Dazheng Zhu, Diane Stewart, Douglas Briley, Edward Brown, Ethelyn Beck, Heather Yerkes, Ilka Aroujo, Jennea Potter, Jennifer DeSanti, Jill Sprenger, John Owings, Jose Cubela, Laraine Goold, Larisa Cherkasov, Laura Huffman, Leanne Kirkham, Linda Banfy, Loreen Christ, Lucy Schlenker, Lucy Yacante, Marolyn Rippe, Mary Ann Fritz, Maureda Travis, Patricia Tsai, Renetta Frisque, Reva Jean Beck, Sharon Stahr Fisher, Sheila Turner, Shelley Fuller, Shoujen Liu, Twila McCown.

FWMTA will be represented at the Texas Music Teachers Convention in June by three Piano Ensemble Teams.

Submitted by Reva Jean Beck

Twelve High School students will play “Scherzo” by Douglas Briley and directed by Laraine Goold on Sunday, June 17 at 4 p.m.

Two Texas American Teams: “American Forever” by Sanucci is directed by Ilka Araujo and will play Sunday, June 17 at 3 p.m.

“Smoky Mountain Reel” by Timothy Brown is directed by Reva Jean Beck and will play Friday, June 15 at 4 p.m. Each team has 10 students.

All three teams will play on **the Honors Program Tuesday, June 12 at Steinway Hall**. The first program begins at 6:30 and will feature the local team of four students playing “Polka” by David Karp and the Smoky Mountain Reel Team. The second program begins at 7:15 with “America Forever,” then “Scherzo.” **Three Senior Scholarship Awards will also be presented.**

FWMTA Scholarships May 5, 2012

Submitted by Laraine Goold

Based on the recommendations of the 2012 Scholarship Committee, the FWMTA Executive Board awards three Seniors a total of \$2000.00.

Memorial Scholarship Award

This award recognizes talented high school seniors who plan to major in music. ***Eliann Reinhard*** - Eliann will graduate from Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts. She plays violin, piano and is a vocalist. She has been the concertmaster with the FW Youth Orchestra, has played the lead in several musicals and has received many honors in piano throughout her 12 years of music. She will have a double major at John Hopkins University: Cognitive Science and Music (she plans to study music at the Peabody Conservatory of Music). Eliann Reinhardt, student of **Reva Jean Beck** is the recipient of **\$800.00**.

Senior Scholarship Award

This award is based on the accumulated points according to achievement level in various activities in grades 9 through 12

Christine Gurley - Christine will graduate from Coram Deo Academy in Flower Mound. She is an accomplished pianist who has won a 1st-3rd place in the FW Solo Contest all 4 yrs. of High School and received Superior ratings in all the festivals during those yrs. She will be attending Trinity University majoring in Biology and with a minor in music. She will study with Dr. Carolyn True. Christine Gurley, student of **Dr. Jill Sprenger** will receive **\$600.00**.

Participation Award

This award recognizes the dedicated students whose commitment to concentrated and progressive effort in music study is demonstrated by their participation in music related activities in grades 1 through 12.

Charis Fernandez - Charis will graduate from Burleson High School. She has taken music lessons from the age of 6 and has a long list of superior ratings in the many festivals and Solo Contest she participated in. She is one of two musicians in her church. She will be attending Texas A & M and majoring in Biochemistry to pursue a career in medicine. Charis Fernandez, the student of **Lucy Yacante** is the recipient of **\$600.00**

These three students will receive their awards and be recognized for their achievements at the Honours Program on Tuesday, June 12, 2012 at Steinway Hall, Fort Worth. Congratulations to both students and their teachers.

FWMTA Meetings for 2012 – 2013 have been confirmed. Locations and other information will be available in the yearbook. Dates to mark on your calendar:

Fri. Sept. 14, 2012 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Fri. January 11, 2013 11a.m.-1 p.m
Fri., October 19, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Tues. February 12, 2013 11a.m. – 1 p.m.
Sat. November.10, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.. May Meeting 2013 TBA

2012 TMTA Convention dates are June 14-17 at the DFW Hyatt in Grapevine.Saturday, June 16, 2 - 3 P.M.

A New Piece -- From the Alpha to the Omega: Following Repertoire from the Assigning to the Performing!

Travel with a piece through its many stages: choosing, learning, memorizing, polishing, seasoning, and performing. Come explore the opportunities and pitfalls that arise along the way that make the teaching profession so rich and rewarding!

Presenter: Jill T. Sprenger

TMTA Convention Ensemble Teams:

10 Elementary students perform *Smoky Mountain Reel* by Timothy Brown directed by Reva Jean Beck on Friday, June 15 at 4 p.m.

12 High School students perform *Scherzo* by Douglas Briley directed by Laraine Goold on Saturday, June 16 at 4 p.m.

10 middle-school students perform *America Forever* by Sanucci directed by Ilka Araújo on Sunday, June 17 at 3p.m.

*Congratulations to **Arjola Miruku** who is now a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music in Piano.

For all interested teachers...

You can check out the events for Piano Texas 2012 at www.pianotexas.org. Among the featured artists of international renown are Malcolm Bilson, Paul Badura-Skoda, Leon Fleisher, Yeol Eum Son and Akiko Ebi among others. **There is a 20% discount for tickets to MTNA members."**

Piano Solo Contest held in April at SWBTS

Two-Hundred and Twenty-Nine Students entered by 50 teachers participated in the Piano Solo Contest in April 2012 at the Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. This very popular contest proved once again to be most successful. The judges were impressed by the high level and preparation of the students. We wish to thank Co-Chairs, **Maureda Travis** and **Echo Wilson**, and their committee for the flawless organization of this event. Three cheers to all of you!

The judges at the Piano Solo Contest were Dr. Brian Allison, Ms.Sara Doan, Dr. Michelle Johnson, Dr. Gloria Lin, Dr. Annie Lin, Dr. Richard Shuster and Dr. John Solomons.

BOARD NAMES NEW VICE PRESIDENT In actions taken by the FWMTA Board a new person was added to the Executive list. June Leondar was named to be the Vice President. In reviewing the past year, the Board members determined that more help for the President is needed with meeting deadlines and managing the many opportunities for teachers and their students. This Vice President will be the aide to the President and will not change the function of the Vice President for Programs. Members of the Board wish to thank June Leondar for having accepted this position and for her years of untiring service to the cause of FWMTA.

FWMTA Newsletter Vol. I No. 3 2011 – 2012 prepared and edited by

Rosemary Solomons