



# Newsletter

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Fort Worth Music Teachers Association Volume 7, No. 4 September 2013

## Editorial Musings...

I hope your Summer proved to be relaxing and provided you with time in which to reflect on the challenges that lie ahead for us as teachers.

As we begin the Fall semester for the year 2013-2014, there is a ripple of new energy and a vitality that emanates from the new slate of officers. These members have graciously and generously volunteered their time to serve us members and further the interests of FWMTA.

The Officer Profile's focus in this issue of the Newsletter is on Ilka Araujo, recently installed President of FWMTA. Please make a concerted effort to attend the four meetings that have been set in place for the academic year 2013-2014. Our new VP for Programs, Gloria Lin, needs our support. This can be exhibited in a very simple way – a robust attendance at these meetings.

I look forward to providing you with three issues of the FWMTA Newsletter. I hope 2013-2014 proves to be productive and rewarding for us all.  
Rosemary Solomons  
Editor

## Upcoming Events

The program on September 7, 2013 featured Sarah Crouch whose presentation was on *Teaching Tips for Students with Special Needs*

The next three programs planned for the year 2013-2014 are scheduled to take place at Steinway Hall, Fort Worth.

**Saturday, November 9** – 11:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Masterclass with pianist John Owings

**Saturday, January 25** - 11:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Masterclass with pianist Boaz Sharon

**Tuesday, February 11**, 10:00 a.m. – 12 Noon

P.T.Forum/FWMTA combined meeting

Debra Hadfield will talk on *Creating YOUR Fantastic Studio*

**FWMTA Programs/Events/Deadlines October 2013 – January 2014.**

**October 2013**

05 – Recital (deadline - September 27)

14 –Deadline Fall Theory Test registration

19 –Fall Festival (deadline – September 13)

29 –Deadline Original Composition Contest

**November 2013**

01 -Deadline November Recital

03 -Fall Theory Test-Broadway Baptist Church

09- Masterclass: John Owings

09- Recital FWMTA & Forum

18-Late Enrollment - Student Affiliate enrollment for Spring Testing

29 –Deadline - December Recital

**December 2013**

07 – Recital - Christmas Program & Winners of Original Composition Contest Showcased

15 – Publication Contest Essays Due

## **January 2014**

07 –Late Student Affiliate Enrollments

11 –Due: Ensemble Registration

17 –Deadline Spring Theory Test Registration

17 –Deadline January Recital

25 –Masterclass with Boaz Sharon

25 -Recital

### **Fort Worth Music Teachers Association Officer Profile**



**Ilka Araujo – 2013-2015 - President FWMTA**

Brazilian pianist and musicologist Ilka Vasconcelos Araújo holds a B.M. in piano performance from the State University of Ceara in Brazil, a M.M. in piano performance and pedagogy, and a Ph. D. in musicology from the University of Florida. Dr. Araujo has performed and taught master classes in Brazil, the Czech Republic, France, Germany and the United States. She has also presented lectures and lecture-recitals for organizations such as the College Music Society, the International Hawaii Conference in Arts and Humanities and the American Musicological Society.

She has been featured in several regional and national broadcast programs in Brazil such as *Isto É Magazine*, *Siará Magazine*, *Programa do Jô*, Federal University of Ceará Radio, *TV Verdes Mares*, *TV Cultura*, and *TV Jangadeiro* among others. Dr. Araújo advocates the promotion of Brazilian music and culture through lectures and performances. Her articles on Brazilian living composer Marlos Nobre have been topics of many national and international conferences. Her most recent contribution titled *Marlos Nobre* will be published by the Rutledge Encyclopedia of Modernism in 2013.

Besides holding a faculty position at Texas Wesleyan University where she teaches music history, music appreciation and private piano, Dr. Araújo also works as an independent piano teacher, scholar and as music director of the FWMTA Middle School Piano Ensemble. A warm welcome to Ilka Araújo as the newly installed president of the FWMTA.

*News BRIEFS*

**Theory Testing Program**

June Leondar

Music teachers in Fort Worth have the opportunity to enroll their students in an organized music theory study program provided by the Texas Music Teachers Association through the Student Affiliate membership of students.

The twice yearly testing is a cooperative activity among teacher members in the association. Students are grouped by grade levels and tests are presented by teachers in two parts: a written section and an aural section. Test papers are graded by State appointed graders. Medals are awarded to students making 90 or above on the test taken at grade level.

Please Note: Students must be enrolled as Student Affiliates before the **test date of registration**. - **October 14, 2013** for Fall Testing on November 3, 2013.

- **November 18, 2013** for Spring Testing on February 2, 2014

A theory syllabus is available from TMTA, and sample copies of past tests are available on the TMTA website. Local chairpersons, June Leondar (817-448-8559) and Maureda Travis (817-294-1447) are available to answer questions you may have. Further information on the Testing program is outlined in the FWMTA **Yearbook** and in the TMTA **Handbook** available on line at: **[www.tmta.org](http://www.tmta.org)**

**Essay Publication Contest - 2012-2013**

Marsha Rapfogel

The students of Margaret Laasko, Jenna Potter and Eddie Brown submitted entries to the Essay Publication Contest for 2012-2013. Three of the four FWMTA entries were judged worthy of being sent to the TMTA Contest for 2012-2013. **James Simmons**, student of **Margaret Laakso** and **Kiera deCesare**, student of **Jennea Potter** received Outstanding ratings.

**Audrey Money**, student of **Jennea Potter**, received an Excellent rating and was awarded a Certificate for her entry. Remember to read the Outstanding Essays published in book form by the TMTA.

## **Note-Star Piano Competition**

Edward Brown

Jacob David, 5<sup>th</sup> grade piano student of Edward Brown, won his age division in the 2013 Note-Star Piano Competition for his performance of the first movement of Claude Debussy's Pour le piano. Jacob submitted a video recording of his performance and was selected to compete against two other advanced level 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Two thousand plus public votes later, Jacob was selected for a final performance concert May 26<sup>th</sup> at Klyde.

## **FWMTA Scholarship Winner**

Sarah Allen – student of Maureda Travis who was awarded a scholarship in the Spring of 2013, expressed her thanks in a note, which says: *Thank you so much for honoring me with this scholarship. I have been privileged to be a part of FWMTA for many years, and I believe that it has prepared me to persue music in college and in the rest of my life. I sincerely thank you for helping me continue my music education. With gratitude, Sarah Allen*

## **Student Affiliate News**

Jennea Potter & Mary Ann Fritz – co-chairpersons

It's that time of year again – Student Affiliate registration is due! Please check your email for the spreadsheet of all FWMTA students and teachers that were enrolled in SA for the 2012-2013 school year. In that email you will find instructions for entering your students for the 2013-2014 school year. When you are finished updating, email your information to Jennea Potter at [Jenna@littlemusicmaker.com](mailto:Jenna@littlemusicmaker.com) no later than September 13. In addition, please send a fee of \$13.00 per student, plus a \$12.00 teacher fee made out to FWMT to: Jennea Potter, P.O. Bos 93691 Southlake, TX

Please remember your dues must be POSTMARKED by September 13, 2013.

## **Piano Ensemble**

Reva Jean Beck

Fort Worth has three state piano ensemble teams. The titles for each ensemble are printed in your Fort Worth Music Teachers Yearbook. Texas American Team No. 2 (approximately grades 4-6) needs a director. If you would be willing to direct this team please let Reva Jean Beck know. They will be playing "Jitterbug" (for two pianos), from The Way We Danced Book by Rocherolle. These three teams will play at the state convention, in Houston, June 2014.

## **Applause Music Festival – Summer 2013**

The primary objective of the annual Applause Music Festival is to promote the expansion of new and modern classical music. This past summer, the piano compositions of eight different composers were premiered at two venues: Irons Recital Hall, UTA, and the Modern Art Museum's Recital Hall, Fort Worth. The works for piano premiered by FWMTA member, pianist **John Solomons** at Irons Recital Hall were those of George Chave (U.S.), Jaap Cramer (Netherland), Ian Tan (Malaya), Paul Poston (U.S.), Scott Miller (U.S.), Nikolas Sideris (Greece), Francisco Del Pino (Argentina) and Alexander Miller (U.S.).

### **“Notes” Of Interest from Ilka Araujo**

#### **FWMTA has a new logo...**

As many of you have noticed our association has a new logo. It was designed, approved, and put into use in the summer of 2012. Now, it is time to share with you its real meaning:

The Lamp is the symbol of knowledge. In this case, the musical notes emerging from the lamp point to the knowledge of music. The prominent star in the background represents Texas. The words “Seeking Excellence” were added to remind us of our mission and goals.



#### **A note on our Website...**

Our Website has been in dire need of major reconstruction and service. We would like to inform you that we have a new webmaster, Patrick Behringer. He will spend the next couple of months working diligently to give our website a face-lift and vitality.. We ask your understanding and patience throughout this arduous process as Patrick works on numerous specific details.

#### **Announcement...**

The Texas Music Teachers Association is happy to announce the TEACHER ENRICHMENT CONFERENCE to be held at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX - November 9-10, 2013. For more information on registration, lodging, and specific program please visit the TMTA page at [http://www.tmta.org/programs/enrichment\\_conference.php](http://www.tmta.org/programs/enrichment_conference.php)

#### **In Memory of Glenda Lanier**

The Fort Worth Music Teachers Association is deeply sorry to hear about the passing of Glenda Lanier, NCTM, last September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013 (?). As TMTA Vice-president for Student Affiliate, the late Glenda Lanier made remarkable contributions to that program, especially regarding the Theory section. FWMTA will make a contribution to the TMTA General Trust Fund as a memorial to her.

### **Marsha Rapfogel Chairs Publication Contest for Thirteen Years...**

The Board and Members of FWMTA wish to extend a warm word of thanks to Marsha Rapfogel for her untiring dedication as Chairperson of the Publication Contest. Marsha gave of her time and resources to this special annual event for thirteen years. In retrospect, she can proudly say she assisted many a budding music-historian learn of what it takes to delve into the history of music. Thank you, Marsha,

### **Ilka Araujo, president of FWMTA writes...**

It is often common to think that after five, ten, twenty, thirty plus years in the same profession one knows it all. In a private studio one usually assumes that it would be so much easier if students were motivated, prepared, and practiced their lessons as they should. It is not very often, however, that we, as educators, take the time to reflect upon what we could do to make things a bit different. What could we do to motivate students and how could we inspire them not only on their daily practices, but that those teachings could serve them for the rest of their lives?

Most private teachers do not realize this, but like sports coaches, they are the ones who impact the most a student's life, whether or not that student will follow a music career. Adult students often have strong memories from the teachers they had during their infancy. Those recollections never get erased and even the traumatic experiences are most of the times recalled with grace and humor in adult life.

As the new school year begins, it is an opportunity for us to take a moment to reflect on how we could make a difference. How could we establish real goals in our studios and try to meet them? Despite all temptations and distractions of the twenty-first century, learning an instrument is still noble and rare. It is one activity that generates concentration, discipline, responsibility, dedication, refinement, problem solving, and care. For the best intentions that the studio teacher has it is important to understand that like our students, we are also constantly learning. There is always a different way to teach the same material and knowing different approaches can be extremely effective in circumstances where challenges face us. This would be applicable when teaching a young student who is trying to feel the swing of a syncopated bluesy passage or an advanced one who needs to comprehend the philosophical complexity behind a passage on a late Beethoven sonata.

It is our mission to keep that interest and motivation on our students and therefore, the more we know and the more we expose ourselves to new ideas and innovation the better results we will have from our students. Let us keep our own motivation going and let us keep learning. We are lucky to be in such a rich environment in our metropolitan area and we should take as much advantage as we can. If we do it, it will be easier to convince our students to do it too. Best of luck and have a great year!!!

## **FWMTA WELCOMES EIGHT NEW MEMBERS**

**Five new members provided us with information about themselves, three members opted otherwise.**

**Cassia Verzello** I have recently moved to Texas from Connecticut. I did not begin a traditional career path in music, but studied nursing as a young college student. I have studied piano since childhood and have always been active in accompaniment and teaching. I decided to begin teaching more seriously and enrolled in piano pedagogy courses. I have managed a full piano studio for the past 20 years and have been an active member of my local MTNA chapters for the past 15 years. I am the mother of 6 children and 4 beautiful grandchildren.

**Kelly Schieffer** has twelve years of experience teaching private piano lessons. She enjoys the challenge of passing on the joy of music while still teaching good habits which can be built on as her students progress. She believes in a well-rounded approach in her instruction, including repertoire study, theory, technique and functional skills. Some of Kelly's former students have gone on to major in piano performance and music composition. Kelly is the mother of two home-schooled high school students, both of whom are accomplished pianists. In addition to teaching and home-schooling, Kelly is involved in her church's children's ministry.

**Sarah Alexander**, NCTM, holds a MM degree with an emphasis in Piano Pedagogy from Texas Christian University. She is an active member of MTNA, TMTA, and local music associations and currently serves as Chamber Music Clinic Chair for TMTA. Ms. Alexander has enjoyed presenting the piano works of Leroy Anderson at the TMTA convention and for local associations. In addition, she has co-presented a lecture at the MTNA convention. Ms. Alexander is sought after as a judge and accompanist around the DFW metroplex. She currently holds an adjunct faculty position at the TCCD Northeast campus, teaches in the TCC Piano Preparatory Department, and maintains a private piano studio in Keller

**Janis Felts** - BA in Music & Vocal Performance. Currently working toward MM in Church Music with Piano Pedagogy emphasis from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Twenty-two years teaching experience.

**Sandra Karam** - BM from Incarnate Word in San Antonio. Major was Piano Pedagogy. Teacher at St. Anthony's Elementary School in 1986 (San Antonio). Allegro piano studio 2009-2012 in San Antonio.

Also on the list of new members are **Gary Sherrill, Brianne Stedje and Julia Parker**. We are very pleased to welcome you as members of our association. We know you will each be an asset to FWMTA.

**Executive Board Officers 2013 – 2014**

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