



Newsletter

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Fort Worth Music Teachers Association

Volume 7, No.7 September 2014

From the Desk of –

EDITORIAL MUSINGS

By the time this edition of the Newsletter reaches you and you begin reading it, our agendas and schedules as faculty members and as independent teachers will be firmly in place for the Fall Semester. Uppermost in our minds is the desire to cater to the needs of each individual student and nurture in them the love of music.

Take a moment at this time to glance back to the first FWMTA meeting you attended as a new member. As expected, you found long-standing members to be secure in their knowledge of the workings of the association and its numerous programs. Overwhelmed by it all, you wished a member would extend a personal welcome to you - the new member - and offer to assist you on understanding the association's programs. May these memories create in us the desire to build relationships. This is easily and simply done through our association's **mentoring program**. Let us each do whatever we can in an effort to welcome our new members. The relationships created will each contribute to the strength and solidarity of FWMTA.

Rosemary Solomons, Editor

See page 3 for a list of FWMTA new members

Gloria Lin - VP for Programs

September 6

11:00 – 1:00

Texas Wesleyan University
Panel Discussion on “Intra-Cultural and Intercultural Teaching Expectations and Challenges”

Guest Speaker includes: Dr. Tamas Ungar, Mrs. Larissa Cherkasov, Dr. Jill Sprenger, Dr. Lili Zhang, and Mrs. Esther Ong

Moderator: Dr. Gloria Lin

November 15

10:00 – 12:00

Fort Worth Steinway Hall
Master-class with Dr. David Korevaar

February 10

10:00 – 12:00

Fort Worth Steinway Hall
Meeting in conjunction with Forum Presentation and Workshop “Myths and Truths Behind Piano Technique”

Guest Presenter: Dr. Ilka Araujo

April 11

4:30 – 6:30

Texas Wesleyan University
Recital and “Meet the Composer”
Guest Composer: Mr. Timothy Brown

Lucy Yacante - Recital Chair

Please Note **NEW LOCATION**. Recitals will be held at **Martin Hall, Texas Wesleyan University**, 120 Wesleyan St., Fort Worth 76105

Time / Day: Saturdays @ 4:30 pm

RECITAL DATES:

Fall 2014 - September 13,
October 11, November 8,
December 6

Spring 2015 January 24,
March 21, May 2

REGISTRATION: E-mail to be received by chairperson midnight of the Sunday before each recital. lucy__yacante@att.net

Jennea Potter - Theory Chair

Please remember to use the appropriate form when sending the list of students along with the check. It is imperative that students' names be fully spelled and printed in order to avoid confusion.

Ilka Araujo - President

The 2014 TMTA Convention in Houston was well attended. Various presentations, lectures and performances of high caliber enriched the program. Several of our members were able to participate. Among the ones I had the opportunity to visit with were June Leondar, Bonnie Dove, Sheila Turner, Twila McGown, Patrick Behringer, Sarah Alexander, and Hsinyi Wang. Compliments go to the piano ensembles for their strong performances and great display of costumes. The same goes to our students who represented us so well in composition and performance contests. FWMTA received a

\$ 100.00 check from TMTA for containing the most number of Nationally Certified Members. I would like to congratulate those who have gone a step further in order to earn certification. TMTA celebrated its 100-year anniversary with a beautiful historical video presentation and luncheon. A new board was also installed.

Elections:

There will be elections in the Spring for a new board to be installed at our association. Please consider serving on one of the positions as we always need more involvement from the membership for a better future. If you have any questions on the job description of any of the positions please contact me and I will be glad to describe them for you.

Reva Jean Beck - Piano Ensemble Chair

The following pieces have been approved by state for 2015 FWMTA Piano Ensembles. I urge all teachers to purchase the pieces early and begin preparing students. The pieces are to be memorized by April 4.

Registration fee/check due Friday, January 9, 2015.

Team Auditions Saturday, February 21, Steinway Hall

FWMTA PIANO ENSEMBLE

High School Team:

“Waltz for Two Pianos”

by Eugenie Rocherolle, Neil A. Kjose.

Director: Renetta Frisque

Texas American Team No. 1:

“Sicilienne” for Two Pianos by Bach/Maier, Alfred. Director: Ilka Araujo

Texas American Team No. 2:

“The All-American Hometown” by Noona, Heritage Press, Book 4 Duet Performer.

Director: Twila McCown

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Local Team:

“Smoky Mountain Reel” by Timothy Brown,
FJH. Director: Reva Jean Beck
Five Saturday Rehearsal Dates at Steinway Hall:
April 4 & 25, May 2 & 16, June 6.

Pieces are to be memorized for the first
rehearsal.

Piano Ensemble Chairperson
rjbeck@flash.net

Jennifer DeSantis - VP for Membership

Extends a warm welcome on behalf of FWMTA
to the following new members: Watch for more
information on each of these fine musicians in
the next edition of the Newsletter.

Christine Pater
Spring Seals
Mary Guess
Elyse Emerich
Jiyeon Han
Molly Pittman
Lauren Curtin

FWMTA President, Ilka Araujo,
Writes...

I would like to encourage you to read the
document that follows. It describes a change in
the Code of Ethics taken by MTNA, which
consequently affects all of its holding
associations. I signed the document in order to
remain part of TMTA and MTNA assuring them
none of these practices would happen in our
association. It is important that you are aware of
what the Federal Trade Commission will be
looking for should they ever need to do a closer
investigation on any local association. Thank
you for your cooperation.

MTNA...for a more musical tomorrow

Dear Member:

As you may know, the Federal Trade
Commission conducted an investigation
concerning the provision in MTNA’s Code of
Ethics that stated:

The teacher shall respect the integrity of other
teachers’ studios and shall not
actively recruit students from another studio.

The Federal Trade Commission alleges that this
provision violates the Federal Trade Commission
Act because it unnecessarily restricts members
of MTNA from competing for students, thereby
depriving students from the benefits of
competition among music teachers.

To end the investigation expeditiously and to
avoid disruption to its core functions, MTNA
voluntarily agreed, without admitting any
violation of the law, to the entry of a Consent
Agreement and a Decision and Order by the
Federal Trade Commission. As a result, MTNA
has removed, and will not enforce, the above
provision from its Code of Ethics.

In general, the Federal Trade Commission has
prohibited MTNA from engaging in certain
activities that restrict members from soliciting
students or other teaching work, including
activities that restrict members from offering
services directly to students who may be
receiving similar services from other music
teachers.

Some state and local music teacher associations
that are affiliated with MTNA have codes of
ethics or similar documents that contain
provisions that restrict its members from: (a)
advertising prices or other terms of teaching

services, (b) competing on price-related terms, or (c) soliciting students or other teaching work. The Federal Trade Commission has prohibited MTNA from accepting or maintaining as an affiliate any association that has such a code of ethics or similar document that contains these prohibited restrictions.

In order to maintain their affiliation with MTNA, each state and local music teacher association must review its constitution and bylaws, code of ethics, operational policies, and membership requirements to determine if they contain any of these prohibited restrictions on members. Examples of these prohibited restrictions would include the following:

- An association restricting a member from offering opportunities for study to gifted students in the form of free lessons or scholarships as inducements to study with a particular member.
- An association restricting a member from engaging in advertising free scholarships or tuition.
- An association restricting a member from soliciting the pupil of another music teacher by inducements or other acts.
- An association restricting a member from enrolling a pupil of another teacher unless the pupil's financial obligations to the former teacher have been satisfied and relations with that teacher have been severed.
- An association restricting a member from charging fees that are lower than the average in the community.
- An association restricting how members accept tuition payments from pupils.
- An association imposing restrictions or requirements on members regarding make-up lessons or missed lessons.
- An association restricting a member from writing or publishing for public media or from reviewing or criticizing

colleagues or colleagues' students for any purpose whatsoever.

- An association restricting a member from seeking a job opportunity unless notice has been given of an impending vacancy.

State and local music teacher associations that are affiliated with MTNA and which have any of these prohibited restrictions in their constitution and bylaws, codes of ethics, operational policies, membership requirements, or elsewhere will have the opportunity to remove them. If they do not certify to MTNA that they do not have any such restrictions prior to the deadline set forth in the Decision and Order, MTNA will have to disaffiliate from them until such time as they comply with the Decision and Order.

In Brief.....

Dr. David Yeomans article on the Piano Polkas of Bedrich Smetana: A Gateway to the Wealth and Abundance of Czech Piano Music, was found most inspiring by our members.

.Ilka Araujo wrote saying:

“I thank and congratulate Dr. David Yeomans for the exciting and informative article on Smetana’s Piano Polkas published in the last FWMTA Newsletter”

*The editor invites you to consider writing an article on a music-related topic that would be of particular interest to us as pianists. For more information send an e-mail to r.solomons@tcu.edu

*Newsworthy items of musical interest you wish to share with your fellow members can be published in the Newsletter. News items can be submitted until January 15, 2015, to r.solomons@tcu.edu if you wish them to be included in the next E-Newsletter

From the President:

As the new school year begins one gets energized and takes the time to think, reflect, and concentrate on new resolutions. It is important to take a step back and see what worked and what did not work as planned so that new strategies can be implemented.

It has always been encouraging to hear from members, especially the younger generation of teachers, asking for ideas and opportunities to grow and enrich their studio experience. Based on that, the board decided to offer four different programs for this year that plan to focus on the many aspects that involve that development.

The first meeting will focus on Inter- and Intra-cultural challenges in teaching. In the field of music, cultural differences never seem to impose obstacles once performers got together to play at a concert. The language of music has always been self-sufficient and has never needed other means of communication. However it came to teaching, verbal communication and understanding became a matter of fundamental importance. How can communication be achieved on a daily basis when cultural background becomes so distant and language knowledge so restricted? Until the mid-twentieth century most educated people in the United States, Europe and South America knew how to speak two or three languages. That is not the case today for many reasons and, in some way, despite all globalization language and culture seem to have become even more remote. A small group of professionals and parents will share what strategies they believe can be used to minimize the differences and how a positive learning experience can be achieved.

The joint meeting in February intends to address one of the most challenging topics in the development of a musician: how technique is built. Several studies in the twentieth century have tried to explain and convince a whole generation of aspiring musicians that technical, repetitive exercises were obsolete and that other short cuts had to be applied in order to adjust to

modern life and avoid injuries. The presentation intends to find solutions and address the main conflict and possible misunderstandings generated by artists, books, methods, and even teachers in order to help a future generation of aspiring musicians to benefit from such research. Despite the traditional Master Class held in November, another great learning experience will be at the April meeting when students will have the opportunity to meet a living composer. Students benefited so much from the experience of playing the music and meeting Melody Bober a few years ago that the board wanted to repeat the experience. This time the guest is local composer Timothy Brown. Because of time restraint the recital will not be able to accommodate all students to perform, but it is highly recommended that every teacher encourage his/her students to learn a piece by Timothy Brown by April. Those who do not perform at the recital will still have the chance of hearing other students perform as well as have their music autographed. Details on how students will be selected will be later announced by the board. Every studio can, at their discretion, use the moment to explore topics involving new music and living composers as well as the many different styles a certain composer possesses.

Welcome back to a great year ahead, and hopefully you will be able to take advantage of all these programs. Good luck as you get your plans prepared and calendars organized!

Ilka Araujo

Executive Board - Officers 2013 - 2014

President

Ilka Araujo 817-346-1743

VP for Programs

Gloria Lin 817-257-4149

VP for Student Activities

Mary-Ann Fritz 817-454-6342 &

Jenea Potter 214-632-4777

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Robyn Meahl 785-317-8579

VP for Membership

Jennifer DeSantis

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Jill Sprenger, Reva Jean Beck and Renetta Frisque.

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Reva Jean Beck

Historian:

Cathy Lloyd

FWMTA Newsletter Editor:

Rosemary Solomons Helmick

Technical Assistance provided by T.L. Helmick

September 2014