



Newsletter

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Fort Worth Music Teachers Association

Volume 7, No.10 September 2015

Editorial Musings...

The tone of conviviality was unmistakable at the first FWMTA meeting for the academic year. Long-standing members and new members gathered at Lou's Place on the campus of Texas Wesleyan University on Saturday, August 29, 2015 for Brunch and a lecture demonstration. The demonstrations at the keyboard (electronic) were provided by young, talented students of the presenter. They were inspiring!

The focal point of the meeting was geared toward enlightening us music teachers of modern technology's unlimited possibilities in the world of music. A highly informative presentation given by Dr. Mario Ajero, Associate professor at SFASU was the highlight of the meeting. His topic: *Getting Your Studio's Technology to the Right Tempo*. His audience of music teachers listened attentively; some made notes, indicating that they were ready to try what had been tried and tested. Others gave the impression that they had as yet to attune their minds to using these ubiquitous technological methods that promise to enhance the teaching of piano, theory and interpretation.

Understanding such terms as software, hardware download, upload, social media, educational apps, multimedia music and other technological jargon is imperative today if one is to adapt to these current trends.

Grasping some of the puzzling aspects between tonal or traditional idioms and atonal or contemporary idioms was, if you recall, quite a task. Remember floundering *at first* in trying to comprehend the ebb and flow of contemporary musical tides? Well, then,

there is nothing preventing us from mastering the techniques of the cold inanimate world of technology and its terminology, and permitting it to enhance the lessons of our students. Hats off to Dr. Mario Ajero!

Rosemary Solomons

Important Dates:

SEPTEMBER

6 *Deadline for September Recital*

12 *Recital*

10 *Postmark for entries for Fall Festival*

14 *Deadline for Student Affiliate registration*

27 *Deadline for October Recital*

OCTOBER

3 *Recital*

6 *Postmark for Fall Theory Test registration*

10 *Fall Festival*

29 *Entry deadline for Original Composition Contest*

31 *Fall Theory Test*

NOVEMBER

1 *Deadline for November Recital*

7 *Recital with Forum*

13 *Late Student Affiliate Enrollment - required for Spring Theory testing*

29 *Deadline for December Recital*

DECEMBER

5 *Recital: Christmas, Duets, Christmas Hymns, winners of Original*

Composition contest, carols

10 Publication Competition Essays Postmark

JANUARY

2 Late Student Affiliate Enrollments

5 Postmark for Spring Theory Test registration

8 Ensemble Registrations due to Chairman

18 Deadline to Register for Performance Contest

24 *Deadline for January Recital*

30 *Recital*

30 Spring Theory Test

Please remember to consult the new copy of the FWMTA Yearbook when you receive it, as there may be certain discrepancies as regards dates, times etc. **in the first copy you received.**

The Dates and Events listed under *Important Dates* in this September issue of the Newsletter, is only a reminder of what each month of the school year has to offer. For further information and a full and complete guide to all that our association has to offer, please consult the Yearbook.

Former SA Student from Fort Worth Wins Award

Celeb Wenzel, FWMTA nominee for TMTA Commissioned Composer of the Year, was the recipient of this award for 2016. He is currently writing a work that will be featured at the annual TMTA convention in Dallas, June 16 – 20, 2016.

While still in undergraduate school, Caleb composed a piece for piano duet, titled *Mechanisms*, that was chosen by FWMTA as the selection for the TMTA High School Ensemble team. Caleb is concurrently composing *Sundance Square Dance*, which will be the upper elementary piece performed by the Texas American Ensemble. He plans to dedicate it to FWMTA. Both these works will be performed during the convention on the Student Affiliate Ensemble Recitals.

Having been a former Student Affiliate member, Celeb Wenzel wishes to show his support of SA members by being present at all their performances. This should generate a good deal of publicity for FWMTA. The teachers involved in ensemble teams

are looking forward to having a splendid time with their students and their parents at the convention, June of 2016. If you are interested in having your students play on any of the ensemble teams, please check out the ensemble pages in the FWMTA Yearbook, or contact Bonnie Dove at pianodove@sbcglobal.net

Also, please note that since the convention is in Dallas, Texas, there will be no significant travel involved and no hotel stays to add to the expenses for parents. So do encourage your students to participate in one of the ensemble teams.

Incidentally, **Celeb Wenzel** is the former student of **Bonnie Dove**.

Meet FWMTA President

Jose Cubela will serve as president of FWMTA for a two-year term: 2015 – 2017.



Jose Cubela

I consider it an honor and a privilege to take on the duties of president of the Fort Worth Music Teachers Association. The organizational skills and infectious enthusiasm of our out-going president, Ilka Araujo, had the newly appointed board members and myself, just as eager to give of our time and energies to serving our association over the next two years.

My education as a musician began in Miami, FL where I studied with Linda Byrd and then with Dr. Gary Wolf at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, FL. At TCU, I earned my Master of Music in Piano Performance under Maestro Harold Martin. I currently am an adjunct member of the music faculty at Texas Wesleyan University, Tarrant County Community College, and on the staff of

TCU's Preparatory Division. In addition to being an active teacher and performer, I am the music director at Christ the King Anglican Church in Fort Worth. I teach students at college and pre-college level.

I am very well acquainted with a number of our members as I have previously served on the board of FWMTA and in other capacities within the association as well. I look forward to meeting our more recent members and representing FWMTA over the next two years as its president.

Editor's note

If you wish to learn more about the accomplishments of Jose Cubela, now at the helm of our association, read on...

José Antonio Cubela, raised in Miami, Florida, received an Associate in Arts with honors from Miami Dade Community College where he studied with Linda Byrd. In 2002, Mr. Cubela graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Music degree under the instruction of Dr. Gary Wolf at the University of Central Florida in Orlando in 2002. At Texas Christian University Mr. Cubela graduated with a Master of Music in Piano Performance where he studied under Maestro Harold Martina in 2004.

Jose Cubela has received several honors and awards, which include: First Place in the University of Central Florida Piano Concerto Competition; performer at the TCU/Cliburn Piano Institute (now known as Piano Texas Institute); placement in the Gray Perry Young Collegiate Piano Competition held in Orlando, Florida; awarded membership into Pi Kappa Lambda, and was elected to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. He studied in master classes with Jose Feghali, Seymore Bernstein, Yoheved Kaplinsky, Arbo Valdma, Tamas Ungar, and Christina Ortiz.

Mr. Cubela has been an adjudicator for the Sonata Club Piano Competition, and the Fort Worth Music Teacher Association's Piano Competition. In addition to being active with various associations, Mr. Cubela teaches and performs through the Van Cliburn Foundation's Musical Awakening Education Programs. He is a professor of primary and secondary piano and music appreciation at Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth and Tarrant County Community College. At Texas Christian University he teaches piano through the TCU Music Preparatory

Division. In addition to being an active teacher and performer, he is the music director at Christ the King Anglican Church in Fort Worth. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Jose Cubela will premiere several piano works by Brazilian composer Daniel Solyom in November, 2015.

FWMTA wishes to extend its thanks and appreciation to Jose Cubela and members of the Executive Board, and other teachers who have volunteered to serve in various capacities. They have opted to give of their time and share their talents and skills so that our association may continue to nurture the minds of aspiring young musicians.

RS

From the Desk of ...

Ann Gipson

Interested in obtaining MTNA Certification?

If you are interested in pursuing MTNA Certification, I would be delighted to serve as a mentor as you work through the projects. We can meet in person or visit through Skype or Google Hangouts. For more information, please contact me 817-257-6312 or email me at a.gipson@tcu.edu

“MTNA National Certification is a process that validates an individual's qualifications for a specific field of professional practice. It demonstrates to employers, clients, and peers that which the individual knows and is able to do. It signifies commitment to continued excellence in professional practice. In addition, it increases visibility, builds credibility, provides a goal for personal professional achievement and validates expertise for the individual and to those outside the field.”

Ilka Araujo

8th Annual Texas Wesleyan Youth Duo-Piano Competition & Amateur Duo-Piano Festival

Co-Sponsored with Fort Worth Piano Teachers FORUM

Saturday, February 6, 2016

Entry Deadline: December 1, 2015

Complete Applications online at
<https://txwes.edu/academics/artsletters/music/special-events--competitions/> or Send Applications to
Competition Chairman: Dr. Ilka Araújo, Music
Department, Texas Wesleyan University, 1201
Wesleyan Street, Fort Worth, 76105
For questions and information please e-mail:
<iaraujo@txwes.edu>

June Leondar

THEORY TESTS 2015-2016

Fort Worth Music Teachers Association students are provided with a structured outline of basic Music Theory concepts. Tests, given twice yearly, allow the student to gain confidence in understanding and use of the printed page of music. Additionally students are given the challenge of “listening” through the ear-training outline in the theory tests.

All teachers are invited to present this program to students, offered through membership in the Student Affiliate of Texas Music Teachers Association. The TMTA .org website on line, provides theory manuals, student dictionaries, samples of past tests and ear training samples.

The Theory Testing Outline included in this Yearbook gives teachers information about the local presentation of the test. The testing is accomplished by all teachers who register students for testing, sharing the responsibilities of giving the tests.

The Chairs make this urgent request of teachers.

Please use the registration form included in this Yearbook to register students for testing. A typed list is necessary for accuracy of the spelling of student names. The POSTMARK DATE is critical for getting the correct number of tests of the right level for testing on the date as planned.

Fee: \$11.00 per student. This fee covers the cost of renting space for the testing, getting copies of the tests, sending tests to State Graders and cost of medals earned by students making 90 and above on the tests.

**Test Dates: October 31, 2015 and
January 30, 2016.**

For questions and more information please call
Chairs:

June Leondar 817-448-8559 or
Maureda Travis 817-294-1447

WORLD OF MUSIC TESTS

Reva Jean Beck

Chair

World of Music Tests. These materials help a student study music history. Workbooks span each grade level, 1 through 12. Great composers and the music they wrote are incorporated in a wide variety of materials, which students will find to be both fun and rewarding. They can be used in home study, private lessons, or a class situation. Your Yearbook has more details.

Welcome New Members!

FWMTA is very pleased to report that six new members have joined our organization. They are **Lisa Cummins, Virginia Cross, Kaye George, Stewart Koontz, Kyoung Mun and Anastassia Parouchev.**

We look forward to meeting you and learning more about your interests and talents.

Please contact **Jennifer DeSantis, VP for Programs** with any questions regarding your membership and if you wish to be set up with a New Member Mentor.

Jennifer DeSantis, 817-257-6134

News of interest...

FWMTA wishes to congratulate **Margaret Laakso**, whose students, Hollis Ray Wilson, Miles Gabriel Simmons and James Simmons submitted entries to the 2015 Publication Contest. They were the only entries received from FWMTA teachers. It is hoped that more teachers will encourage their students to meet the challenge of bringing their knowledge of music history and their writing skills together in this innovative contest.

Margaret Laakso's students Hollis Ray Wilson, grade 2, received an excellent rating and Miles Gabriel Simmons, grade 1, received an **Outstanding** rating. His essay was published in the official SA publication made available to all those who attended the TMTA Convention in Houston, in June, 2015.

Congratulations to all students who represented Fort Worth at the Performance Contest at TMTA in Houston, in June, 2015. Special compliments go to Justin Yan, student of **John Owings**, for receiving 3rd place in the 10th grade Piano Solo Contest.

Royal Conservatory Music Development Program

Jill T. Sprenger

Teachers, I am pleased to inform you that the Royal Conservatory Music Development Program is alive and well in Fort Worth! Participation has grown steadily since 2012 and last year we had sufficient student assessments to qualify in hosting 3 visiting adjudicator specialists in piano, strings, and voice. Assessments are comprehensive in nature and cover areas of repertoire, etudes, ear training, and sight-reading. I have found that these performance/practical assessments coordinate and complement our own State Theory Test very well. In our Southwestern Music Academy the level of playing and achievement has grown noticeably these past 4 years we have been having our students participate. You can go online to register for a free teacher account and view all of the materials available at www.musicdevelopmentprogram.org. The fee for the Prep Level assessment has been reduced this year to \$49, which would make this a perfect year to try out entering students. I hope you will consider getting involved in this wonderful program!

Please remember to submit news of interest and music-related articles to the editor any time between now and January 15, 2016, if you wish to have it included in the next edition of the FWMTA Newsletter due in February 2016. E-mail to: r.solomons@tcu.edu

FWMTA Executive Board 2015 - 2017

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