



September Newsletter

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Fort Worth Music Teachers Association

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Editorial Musings...

The learning of new repertoire has us spend many hours at the keyboard. Maintaining our skills as pianists requires patience, determination and total mind and body involvement.

. Fingers, wrists, posture, the right foot's use in pedaling, position of hands, the movement of the head, shoulders and upper body are all brought into play as we immerse ourselves into mastering a piece of music.

It is a well-known fact that a body is prone to injury when muscles lack flexibility and strength. Muscle balance, the laxity of the joints and the alignment of our bodies are some of the factors that are involved when playing a keyboard. We are well aware of an increase of tension in the body through two factors we have little control of - physical and emotional. Other extrinsic causes such as arthritis, being overweight, and other illnesses or conditions also have a bearing on being susceptible to injury.

A book that is of immense help to pianists and instrumentalists is Janet Horvath's *PLAYING (LESS) HURT*. What impresses one when reading this book (which needs to remain a constant companion), is that Ms. Horvath (a cellist herself) provides a wealth of information pertaining to all of the factors that affect pianists and instrumentalists, but most importantly she provides simple exercise routines that help *avoid injury*. The practicality of the exercises comes from the fact that they require no specific time or place.

Janet Hovath's *Play (Less) Hurt* is a tremendous book that beckons us enter into the intimate world of the string and keyboard performer. The author imparts her information with aplomb; her numerous

anecdotes make splendid interjections. The reader emerges from it all enriched by her research, insight and sound advice.

Rosemary Solomons
Editor

Mark Your Calendar

September 14, 2016 Student Affiliate Registration

Jennea Potter and MaryAnn Fritz wish to remind members that the first Student Affiliate registration deadline is September 14, 2016. As the enrollment process has changed significantly, please allow for additional time to familiarize yourself with the new registration process this year.

1. All teachers need to login to www.tmta.org first and update the grade level for their students.
2. Teachers may also add any new students (not transfer students) to their list on the website.
3. Email a list of students enrolling in Student Affiliate to Jennea@littlemusicmaker.com by September 14.
4. Mail a hard copy of your list with your dues to PO Box 93691, Southlake, TX 76092, postmarked by September 14.
5. For detailed instructions and links to instructional videos please refer to the attachment to the email dated August 30, 2016. Please feel free to contact Jennea Potter if you have any questions.

FWMTA STUDENT MUSIC THEORY TESTS 2016-2016

Submitted by **June Leondar**

In music making a study of the theory of sound, the written language and the nomenclature related to music is presented in annual theory tests. Music theory concepts are presented in a twelve- year plan and include written as well as aural questions. Fort Worth Music Teachers, please follow the steps listed below for giving music students this opportunity of testing their learning in music.

1.Register students in the TMTA-Student Affiliate Program on one of these dates:

September 14, 2016, November 3, 2016 or December 30, 2016

2.Register students for theory testing on November 5, 2016 or February 4, 2017

Please use the registration form from the FWMTA Yearbook

Registration dates – postmarked by October 8, 2016 or January 16, 2017

Tests will be given in classrooms at Broadway Baptist Church Fort Worth, Texas
See the TMTA website for complete information about the content of these theory tests.

This test procedure is a cooperative effort by all teachers who register students for testing.

Tests are graded by TMTA selected graders. Participation Awards are given for making a 70% or above on the test, and medals are awarded to students making 90-101 on the tests of their school grade level. State recognition for consistent participation and making top scores as well as monetary awards are given at the State Convention.

Should you need more information or questions answered call one of these chair persons. Co-Chairs: *June Leondar* 817-448-8559 or *Maureda Travis* 817-294-1447

Saturday, November 12, 2016

Submitted by **Spring Seals**

TMTA presents the Fifth Annual Teacher Enrichment Conference
This Inspiring Fall Conference takes place on Saturday, November 12, 2016, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Stephen F. Austin State University School of Music. The featured clinician, Marvin Blickenstaff's topics will be:

Doing What Comes Naturally: Nature's Clues to Effective Interpretation
Burgmuller's 25 Progressive Pieces, Op. 100
Basic Technical Instruction through Romantic Character Pieces
What Do You Do When the Magic Stops? The Case of the Potential Piano Drop-Out

Other Important Dates

SEPTEMBER

14 SA Registration Deadline
15 Fall Festival Jazz and Contemporary Contest Postmark Date

OCTOBER

1 Student Recital at T W U, Martin Hall
8 Fall Theory Test Registration Deadline
12 Original Composition Contest Entry Deadline
15 Fall Festival: Jazz and Contemporary Contest, TCU Ed Landreth Bldg.

NOVEMBER

3 SA Late Enrollment Deadline (Fee Assessed)
5 Fall Theory Test, Broadway Baptist Church
5 Recital with *Forum* at T W U, Martin Hall
11/12 Chamber Music Clinic: Piano and Instrumental at TCC-NE. Joint event with Mid-cities MTA and TCC-NE. Presenter: Dr. Bradley Bolen
12 Original Composition Contest Recital Steinway Hall, Fort Worth

DECEMBER

- 1 Youth Duo Piano Competition Registration Deadline
- 2 Local Publication Competition Deadline
- 2 Local Video Contest Deadline
- 10 Student Christmas Recital: Christmas hymns, carols, duets, and performance by winners of Original Composition Contest
- 30 SA Extended Late Enrollment Deadline (Fee Increase)

Members Recall Experiences from the Summer of 2016

Ethelyn K. Beck remembers the Cliburn Amateur Piano Competition, June 2016

One of my advanced students asked if I had heard of the Cliburn Amateur Competition. Her high school had taken their top Sophomores on a tour of TCU. She saw several posters while in the music building.

A "light bulb" went off. My high school students and I took a couple of "field trips" to attend the Seventh Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition held June 19-25 at Bass Hall.

The final round of the competition was very exciting. We were all wondering who would win and who else shared *our* observations. The judges took a long time to deliberate and finally the winner was announced

The judges, my students and I chose the same competitor! He was the last finalist to perform. You could see and hear how excited he was about his piece; he put his whole self into his performance.

You could also tell the audience was very pleased with what they heard and observed. It felt like everyone stood at the same time he stood to bow.

Thomas Yu, 38, from Canada was the First Place Winner. He was very excited; he had wanted to be in the competition 4 years ago, but was too young. The contestants have to be 35 or older. There were many contestants that were retired. Every amateur pianist we heard in the competition was outstanding

Thomas Yu was also named the audience's favorite competitor. (Members of the audience voted for their favorite choice by sending in the number assigned each competitor - just as in American Idol.) Thomas Yu received a Stetson cowboy hat and tickets to Billy Bob's!!

My students and I had a wonderful time at the Cliburn Amateur Piano Competition. We went home inspired to practice a little bit more.

Patricia Tsai looks back at what she experienced at Piano Texas International Academy and Festival in June, 2016

It was a wonderful experience for me to be part of the Piano Texas International Academy & Festival this past June.

I spent the first half of this year taking care of my ninety-year-old Aunt at a critical time in her life. I focused on her needs for the better part of this year.

I was glad I was able to give her the care and attention she needed. But for many months I could not devote time to playing the piano. I was rather discouraged but returned to practicing with new determination. I signed up as a participant in Piano Texas.

Piano Texas consists of ten days of intensive piano workshops for teachers. Included are private lessons, masterclasses, concerts and lectures/conversations given by world-renowned international and local artists.

There were also chamber music performances and piano concertos with orchestra (for the program of Young Artists this year). We were truly inspired by these young artists and learned from them. Besides, we teachers had a number of performance opportunities in different venues.

When Dr. Tamas Ungar (director of Piano Texas International Academy & Festival) announced last year the Theme for this year's Piano Texas would be "Schumann and Brahms," I recalled the time when I was studying in Paris, France.

The music of Brahms was taught by the late Monsieur Antonio Ruiz-Pipo and Schumann, by the late Mademoiselle Denyse Rivière.

Mme. Denyse Rivière was a very strict teacher. Yet, I held firmly onto the concept “ A Journey to the West of Tripitaka” and put all the hardship behind if I wanted to learn how to play the piano. Her constant demands helped me express the music with genuine feeling. It was unforgettable.

Teachers in the Piano Texas program encouraged each other, and we were encouraged by the young artists we heard at Piano Texas. We admired a number of teachers who had solid technique and performed challenging pieces with artistic expression. We were also inspired by the young artist who won the Concerto Competition. And we were encouraged by a number of artists who were interested in our progress.

Though I knew there were still numerous elements needed to be worked on and refined in my performance, I learned from all the generous comments to accept myself and prepare for the next. Isn't that also how we teach our students?

Words from my Piano Texas friend that I like to share are: “I am glad that you have overcome many personal obstacles to arrive where you are today. That is what life's journey is about, isn't it?”

I saved as much as possible months before Piano Texas for the tuition so that I might learn more from this great opportunity. There was much we learned about performance ability and interpretation

I offer my heartfelt thanks to all those associated with Piano Texas for making this educational program possible for us here in Fort Worth.

Our thanks to Ethelyn Beck and Patricia Tsai for sharing their recent summer experiences with us.

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