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# NewsNotes

## President's Notes

Wanda M. Hall, NCTM, VMTA State President

**I**t is so amazing that the year 2007 is well underway! Where does the time go?

I would like to express my appreciation to the Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association for hosting the Fall Conference in October 2006. President-Elect Debra Gunnerson did an outstanding job of planning this conference for us. We appreciate her efforts much more than we could ever say. George Mason University was so gracious in hosting the Fall Conference. Many thanks go to the Music Department for allowing us to use their facilities and for the outstanding workshops and the wonderful performances provided by faculty members. We appreciate so much the time the orchestra spent preparing for our Concerto Competition winners concert.

Since the Fall Conference, I have appointed Betty Ann Spiers to serve as Parliamentarian. She is replacing Melissa Marrion, who served in this position for many years. Our heartfelt thanks go to Melissa for her diligent work during her years of service. We are still in need of a historian to maintain our scrapbooks. If you have a passion for scrap booking and would like to serve VMTA in this capacity, please let me know.

Please look at our website. The VMTA Theory Syllabus and practice tests are there, minus the practice test answer keys. We are working toward having them on the website as well. There are still some glitches that we have yet to overcome, but they are being worked on. It is best to have high-speed internet or DSL internet service when printing out these pages. Dial-up service makes for slow printing of these documents. The VMTA Sight Reading Syllabus is also on the website. The VMTA Skills Testing Syllabus is being revised. Once that is completed, it will be placed on the website with the other syllabi. We have added a link to the Music Teacher Magazine International website. I have read some interesting things there. I hope that you are taking advantage of our website. John Winsor has provided us with an excellent website which can be used to our advantage if we just take the time to do so.

I attended the Southern Division Competitions in Tallahassee, Florida, January 12-15. What a treat it is to hear such talented young people perform! Virginia made a good showing with winners, alternates, and honorable mentions. Please read the report elsewhere in this newsletter.

I will represent Virginia at the CFMTA, MTNA, RCM Collaborative Conference in Toronto, Ontario, March 23-27. This Collaborative Conference promises to be an exceptional opportunity for all its participants. Thank you, VMTA, for allowing your President to participate in such wonderful activities.

We would like to submit a name for the MTNA Teacher of the Year award in 2007. An application form will soon be available on the website so that each chapter may nominate a member to be considered for VMTA Teacher of the Year. Please send your application to Wanda M. Hall, 10

Merritt Cove, Carrollton, VA 23314-2122. Those applications must be postmarked by May 1, 2006, so that the Executive Committee may review them before the June meeting. ■

## Spring Conference 2007

Wanda M. Hall, NCTM, VMTA State President

**T**he 2007 Spring Conference will be held on Saturday, June 2, 2007, in Charlottesville, Virginia. Our business meeting and luncheon will take place at Westminster-Canterbury of the Blue Ridge, 250 Pantops Mountain Road, Charlottesville, VA 22911. The schedule is as follows:

9:30 a.m.—Meeting of the Executive Board

11:00 a.m.—Meeting of the VMTA Administrative Board

Noon—Luncheon open to all members for \$13.50 each.

1:00—Program featuring John Winsor: *Everything You Wanted to Know About the VMTA Web Site, but Were Afraid to Ask*

2:00—Adjournment

To reserve your place at the lunch table, please send a check to VMTA for \$13.50 to Julie Slingerland, 6616 Brad-dock Road, Annandale, VA 22003, by May 12.

### DIRECTIONS:

**Coming from the East on I-64:** exit at the first Charlottesville exit, marked Charlottesville/Shadwell (exit 124). Turn right onto Rt. 250. Proceed through one stop light after you turn; at the second light, turn right (Pantops Mountain Road). There is a sign for "Westminster Canterbury of the Blue Ridge" on the highway, just beyond this stoplight.

**Coming from the West on I-64:** stay on until the last exit (Charlottesville/Shadwell) and follow directions above, except you would turn left at the bottom of the exit ramp onto Rt. 250 and go through 3 lights. (If coming from the Harrisonburg area, the easiest way would be to take I-81 to I-64 West and follow above directions).

**Coming from the South** on Rt. 29: take I-64 Exit towards Richmond, then exit at 124 (Charlottesville/Shadwell) and follow the directions for coming from the West.

**Coming from the North:** follow 29 South to the 250 By-pass exit East to Richmond. Continue about 5 to 6 miles until you cross the Rivanna River. Turn left at the 3rd light after the river.

**Once on Pantops Mountain Road,** proceed up the hill to the Gatehouse. Tell the guard on duty you are arriving for a meeting in the Rotunda Room. There are several possible parking places, as follows. Go over one speed bump, then look immediately to your left where you will see the entrance to a small parking lot. If there are no spots there, go over a second speed bump and you will see a large Visitor Parking Lot on your right. In both cases, walk back to the smaller lot and go through the Fountain Courtyard to the double doors at the back, which lead you directly into the foyer of the Rotunda Room. ■

# MINUTES

VIRGINIA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
GENERAL BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 28, 2006  
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY, FAIRFAX, VA

## Members present:

Laura Hoffman, Martha Smith, Tonya Menard, Joan Bradley, Jeanette Winsor, Anne James, Denise Adkins, Cathy Valley, Sharon Banks, Dee Booth, Ronda Sprague, Belinda Stevens, John Paul Healy, Lee Slatton, Betty Ann Spiers, Beth Tomassetti, Debra Gunnerson, Lynn Kleisler, Joan Moore, Myrenna Kickasola, Sharon Stewart, Samantha Luck, Kim Peachy, Julie Slingerland, Wanda M. Hall, Jacqueline Yeomans.

## Call to Order

The General Board meeting was called to order by President Wanda Hall at 3:43 p.m.

The **motion** was made and seconded to adopt the agenda; the motion passed.

**Secretary Jacqueline Yeomans** read the minutes of the June 3, 2006 meeting. The **motion** was made and seconded to accept the minutes as corrected; the motion passed.

## Reports of Officers and Chairs

**President Wanda Hall** announced that there is a map showing the location of all local associations on the website. Both the Theory and the Sightreading syllabi are online and can be printed out as needed. At MTNA's request, VMTA has waived the state membership fee for one member. Neither Wanda nor Debra Gunnerson was able to attend the September Summit on Leadership. In January 2007 Wanda will attend the Southern Division Competitions at Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida. In March she will attend the collaborative conference in Toronto, Ontario. Members are urged to prepare passports now. New appointments: Samantha Luck IMTF Chair; Virginia Moore Theory Chair. Still vacant: Historian and Parliamentarian.

**President-Elect Debra Gunnerson** thanked members present for coming to this year's Conference and awarded door prizes in the form of theory workbooks. She highlighted next year's Conference which will take place November 1 - 4 at Shenandoah University. Lee Ann Dransfield, President, and the Shenandoah Chapter will host. Robert Vandall will be our clinician; Dmitri Shteinberg our concert artist.

**Vice-President/Membership Denise Adkins** read her report (attached). We have 842 members. **Treasurer Julie Slingerland** presented her budget report (attached). On the recommendation of the finance committee, she closed the money market account and placed the funds (\$5075.60) into an interest bearing CD. We also currently have a CD worth \$20,490.30 due to mature in July 2007 and two new CDs at \$2000 a piece. We are following the advice of our accountant in setting up laddered investments (amounts coming due at different times). Julie proposes investing more funds in the coming months. Currently, our checking account balance is approximately \$6,000.

Our accountant credits the membership for taking action by recently raising fees, resulting in this favorable bottom line. The **motion** was made by Kim Peachy, seconded by Tonya Menard, to accept the Proposed Budget. The motion passed.

**Certification Chair Martha Smith** reports that Virginia ranks 31<sup>st</sup> of 50 states in membership certification. Last year three new members were certified. Diane Perett is now a Certification representative; Martha hopes to find a person for the Tidewater area. **IMTF Chair Samantha Luck** reported that she is gathering materials about legal and business concerns of interest to teachers. **State Chair for Local Associations Myrenna Kickasola** reported back from today's meeting. Seven local chapter presidents attended. Items discussed were: using the MTNA website as a help resource; making state testing syllabi available to members; tax implications for accepting scholarship money and filing income tax returns; on-line availability of newsletters, judging sheets, and other forms; successful fundraising efforts. Her report is attached.

## Reports from Standing Committees

**Student Composition Competition Chair Judy Leonard** presented the following results: Brenna Haas, Elementary level winner, for Brenna and the Chocolate Factory (piano); Ben Brosche, Junior level winner, for Rapid Fire (soprano saxophone, keyboard, bass and drums); Evan Duffy, Senior level Honorable Mention, for Fantasia in D Flat Major (piano); Kaleigh Acord, Senior level winner, for Piano Trio No. 1 (violin, cello and piano). Her report is attached.

No reports were submitted from the following events: **VMTA Concerto, VMTA District Auditions; VMTA State Auditions, Theory.** Wanda Hall announced that the listening CD's are not yet available; the tapes may still be used since no listening examples have changed.

**Keyboard Skills Lynn Kleisler** announced that syllabi are available for \$10.

**MusicLink Chair Martha Smith** reported that Kevin Lu, a seventh grade student of Teresa Compos-Falk, won a Jack Kent Cooke scholarship of up to \$10,000 per year until his graduation from high school. He learned about this extremely rare scholarship through Music Link. He may use the funds to purchase a piano, pay for summer music camp or lesson tuition.

**MTNA Foundation Chair Belinda Stevens** reported that Virginia donations to the MTNA foundation have been very low. Virginia has not nominated any fellows for the MTNA Foundation.

**NewsNotes Editor Jeanette Winsor** reminded us of the January 15 deadline. *NewsNotes* is now available on-line. All members have been issued passwords by John Winsor. If a member has changed his/her assigned password and forgotten it, that member can request that John Winsor reset it to the default password originally issued. Mailing label address issues: Each VMTA member is responsible for the accuracy of his/her information which he/she provides to MTNA annually (by August 15). The Winsors work only with the data sent to them by

*(continued on page 10)*

# Certification Profile: Andrew Horowitz

by Anne James, NCTM



“I want to teach students the difference between showing up and doing well,” says Andy Horowitz. “In general students are terrible at organizing their practice time. I have them keep practice logs, breaking it down by sections of the piece, metronome goals, etc. I use two kinds of practice logs. Once or twice a month I use a detailed log in the form of a grid. An example of part of the assignment for a younger student would be to practice measures 1–8 six times while saying the note names. They would record the number of times they do it.”

“I want all of my students to be using their time well. 95% of people can learn to play. If they commit their time I want them to do a good job of it and make a good faith effort each week. I give a daily lesson evaluation, in written form rather than a letter grade. I want to be the kind of teacher who can teach both the talented and those who are willing to plug away at the craft.”

Studies with the late Andrew de Grado at the University of Illinois opened his eyes to advanced repertoire, Andy says. Under Dr. Joanne Haroutounian at George Mason he observed the studios of twelve teachers. “It was Elaine Gallo who showed me I could make a living teaching.” She gave him the opportunity to teach some group lessons while he was still in college. “I

feel lucky that I ran into her and that she showed me from the business side how it could work.” Andy now teaches four days a week at his home studio and two days at Elaine’s storefront studio, with a total of 50-55 students ranging over a wide variety of ages and levels.

“It is important to me that my students have good production values. I want to make recitals enjoyable for both student and audience. A good performance is valuable for all.” For the recital he tries to have the students perform complete works of their choosing, with no duplication of repertoire. Rehearsing for the recital includes recital etiquette and learning how to start together in ensemble works.

In addition to serving as Recording Secretary of NVMTA, Andy organizes NVMTA’s annual music sale. He also created the website for their teacher referral service. In becoming certified he was looking for something that gave credibility. “The more people become certified, the more credibility the profession as a whole will have. Certification is important for the image of independent teachers.”

This summer will find Andy fulfilling his dream of riding a bike slowly across the country. Beginning in Washington, D.C., he will take mostly back roads and bike paths as he travels to Charlottesville, Blacksburg, and across the country to Denver, where he will head northwest to Seattle. The trip is anticipated to take 80 to 100 days, dwarfing his longest previous trip of fifteen days. ■

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Friday, April 6

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# Reports

## FALL FESTIVAL RESULTS

Debbie Sacra, VMTA Fall Festival Coordinator

Thanks to the hard work and devotion of the local MTA Chairmen and members, 802 students participated in the five Fall Festivals across the state in 2006. Thank you all for making the Fall Festival so successful.

### Lynchburg (CVMTA) November 18

Registered: 8\* Teachers; 54\* Students: All Piano\*, 54\* Solos

	Sup.	Ex.	VG	Good	Fair	Not Rated	TOTAL
TOTALS Played:	29	24	1	0	0	0	54

### Northern Virginia (NVMTA) November 4

Registered: 56\* Teachers; 490\* Students: 486\* Piano, 2\* Voice, 2\*

Harp, 490\* Solos

Level	Sup.	Ex.	VG	Good	Fair	Not Rated	TOTAL
Level 1							300*
Level 2							100*
Level 3							78*
Level 4							12*
TOTALS Played:	165	206	50	11	0	5	437

### Richmond (RMTA) November 18

Registered: 19\* Teachers; 127\* Students: All Piano\*, 127\* Solos

Level	Sup.	Ex.	VG	Good	Fair	Not Rated	TOTAL
Level 1A	21	9					30
Level 1B	32	5					37
Level 2	23	10	2				35
Level 3	6	4					10
Level 4	1						1
TOTALS Played:	83	28	2	0	0	0	113

### Roanoke (RVMTA) November 11

Registered: 16\* Teachers; 109\* Students: All Piano\*, 109\* Solos

Level	Sup.	Ex.	VG	Good	Fair	Not Rated	TOTAL
Level 1	34	7	2				43
Level 2	25	9	1				34
Level 3	15	8	2				25
Level 4	1	1					2
TOTALS Played:	75	25	4	0	0	0	104

### Winchester (Shenandoah) November 18

Registered: 5\* Teachers; 22\* Students: All Piano\*, 22\* Solos

Level	Sup.	Ex.	VG	Good	Fair	Not Rated	TOTAL
Level 1	2	10					12
Level 2	1						1
Level 3	1	8					9
Level 4							0
TOTALS Played:	4	18	0	0	0		22

STATE TOTALS	356	301	57	11	0	5	730
							802*

\*Represents Registration Information ■

## REPORT FROM THE STATE CHAIR FOR LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Myrenna A. Kickasola, State Chair for Local Associations

The VMTA local association presidents met on Saturday, October 28, 2006, for their annual meeting during the annual VMTA Fall Conference at George Mason University. Seven presidents were present. Four had sent prior notice they would not be able to attend.

After introductions and information about the chapters represented, and exchanging yearbooks, the chairman distributed copies of helpful material from the MTNA website. The national website is an excellent resource for help. The chairman also reported updates and information from the recent executive board meeting.

Topics for discussion included the sending of local newsletters to the MTNA Local Association Chair. Myrenna Kickasola will contact her to clarify what she needs from the local chapters.

The syllabi for the state testing (theory, sightreading and skills) were discussed as to availability and the best way for local chapters to see that members receive these when they are needed.

What is expected of the local VMTA chapters in terms of accepting money for scholarships and the need to file income tax forms? How does non-profit affect income tax obligations? Myrenna Kickasola will check with MTNA to learn the details.

There was sharing of ideas that our chapters are implementing. Registration and judging sheets are being put on-line—even newsletters and yearbooks. Some presidents described their successful fundraising projects.

Presidents were reminded that chapter reports (update on chapter membership, events and any interesting projects/awards) will be due at the Spring Conference (two copies) plus a copy electronically mailed to the Newsnotes editor. Important dates for next year are **March 24–27** (MTNA conference in Toronto), **June 2nd** (Spring Conference), **November 1–4** (Fall Conference at Shenandoah University, Winchester). ■

## An Offer You Can't Refuse!

MTNA will rebate \$100.00 to the first ten people who complete and pass the certification process in 2007. When you go to the MTNA website, you will find all the information you need to begin your journey, including application forms that you can fill in and print for submission. Take advantage of this opportunity now!

—Sharon Stewart

## Reports... (continued from page 4)

### MTNA FOUNDATION REPORT

Belinda Stevens, Chairman

Our state has experienced a first! The first MTNA Fellow from Virginia has been named. One of our own Virginia private teachers has received this honor. More information is upcoming in future months. Stay tuned!

Total contributions for the fourth quarter were \$1305.00—six donors. ■

### VIRGINIA COMPOSITION COMPETITION COORDINATOR REPORT—OCTOBER 28, 2006

Judith Leonard

The results of the Competition are completed ahead of this year's deadline.

The Winner at the Elementary Level is Brenna Haas. Her composition for solo piano is titled *Brenna and the Chocolate Factory*. Brenna is 10 years old and lives in King George, Virginia. She studies with Nathalie Steinbach from Fredericksburg, VA.

The Winner at the Junior Level is Ben Brosche. Ben's piece is *Rapid Fire*. It is written for soprano saxophone, keyboard, bass and drums. Ben is from Spotsylvania, Virginia and is 13 years old. His teacher is Nathalie Steinbach.

At the Senior Level, Evan Duffy receives an Honorable Mention for *Fantasia in D Flat Major* written for piano. Evan lives in Virginia Beach and studies with Suzanne Guy from Norfolk, VA.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2007 VMTA Conference, November 1–4, 2007, Shenandoah University, Winchester, VA. The preparations for the 2007 Conference is underway. A few tidbits include Dr. Dmitri Shteinberg as Concert Artist, Robert Vandall, our Clinician on Saturday with a premiere composition for the state of Virginia, Anthony Olson and Eva Peng from Missouri presenting vocal arrangements of Chopin Mazurkas, and our own NVMTA Nancy Longmyer on "Teaching Students to Hear and Listen." That's not all, Samatha Luck will be presenting IMTF issues in a unique format. Don't forget to book your room at the Wingate Hotel, 150 Wingate Dr. Winchester, VA 22601, 877-946-3585, only 1-mile from the beautiful campus of Shenandoah University. If you would like to submit a lecture or recital please contact me as soon as possible, Debra Gunnerson 703-378-1581 as space is limited for the 2007 VMTA Conference.

—Debbie Gunnerson, President-Elect

The Winner of the Senior Level is Kaleigh Acord who wrote *Piano Trio No.1* for violin, cello and piano. Kaleigh is 15 years old and lives in Fairfax Station, Virginia. Her violin teacher is James Batts from Baltimore, Maryland. Kaleigh was Virginia's Junior Level Winner in 2005.

The 2006 judges are Patricia Boots from Alexandria, Virginia, Robert Kerr from Orlando, Florida and Jo Lombard from Springfield, Virginia. ■

(continued on page 7)

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**SUMMARY OF VMTA BUDGET FOR 2006-07**

*Julie Slingerland, Treasurer*

**Income**

MTNA Sponsored Events	\$3,100
VMTA Sponsored Events	\$20,450
Advertising	\$3,000
Fall Conference Income	\$2,600
Membership Income	\$19,000
Other Income	\$1,150
Total	\$49,300

**Expenses**

MTNA Sponsored Events	\$7,265
VMTA Sponsored Events	\$12,685
Fall Conference Expenses	\$9,000
NewsNotes Expenses	\$3,520
Yearbook Expenses	\$3,000
Web Site Expenses	\$300
Administrative and Other	\$3,550
Total	\$39,320 ■

**2006 SENIOR MTNA PERFORMANCE COMPETITIONS**

*Lise Keiter-Brotzman, Senior MTNA Coordinator  
Virginia Chair, MTNA Competitions*

The MTNA competitions were held at the fall convention at George Mason University, October 26-28, 2006. The Senior Woodwind Competition took place on Thursday, Oct. 26, with judges David Snively (clarinet/saxophone, Bridgewater College), Chris Jewell (bassoon, Washington Opera Orchestra), and Elizabeth Brightbill (flute). There were twelve contestants this year. The Winner was Amanda Cook (flute), student of Judith Lapple; the Alternate was Renfei Liu (clarinet), student of Ken Lee, and Honorable Mention went to Alvin Kim (clarinet), student of Ken Lee.

The Senior Piano Competition took place on Saturday, Oct. 28, with judges Paolo Steinberg (Eastern Mennonite University), and Oksana Skidan (Harmonia School of Music). Five pianists participated. The Winner was Frane Rusinovic, student of Anna Ouspenskaya; the Alternate was Jesse Wong, student of Nancy Breth; and Honorable Mention went to Simeon Kim, student of Teresa Compos-Falk.

The Senior Strings and Senior Voice Competitions had one entrant each, so no competition was held. Julie Bertoia (cello), student of Miron Yampolsky and Kate Kirschner (soprano), student of Margaret L. McNulty, both advanced to the Division Level as State Representatives.

Congratulations to all who participated! ■

**VIRGINIA MTNA JUNIOR COMPETITIONS—OCT. 2006**

*Dr. Lisa Withers*

**MTNA JUNIOR WOODWIND COMPETITION**

**3 Entrants (2 clarinet, 1 flute)**

Winner: Hyun Jong Moon, clarinet

Teacher: Kenneth Lee

Alternate: Rachel Kim, clarinet

Teacher: Kenneth Lee

Honorable Mention: Eric Jackson, flute

Teacher: Judith Lapple

JUDGES: Elizabeth Brightbill, David Snively, Chris Jewell

**MTNA JUNIOR PIANO COMPETITION**

**10 Entrants**

Winner: Kimberly Hou

Teacher: Marjorie Lee

Alternate: Kevin Shu

Teacher: Rosita Kerr Mang

Honorable Mention(s): Marika Yasuda, Kevin Lu, Alexander Stabile

Teacher(s): Suzanne Guy, Teresa Compos-Falk, Nancy Breth

JUDGES: Oksana Skidan, Paulo Eisenberg, Nancy Roldan

**MTNA JUNIOR STRINGS COMPETITION**

**3 entrants (2 vln, 1 cello)**

Winner: Marissa Resmini, violin

Teacher: June Huang

Alternate: Zakhar Zakharevich, cello

Teacher: Miron Yampolsky

Honorable Mention: Anna-Luisa Mirto, violin

Teacher: Natalia Yampolsky

JUDGE: Laura Kobayashi ■

**VMTA STATE AUDITIONS**

*Gabriella Ryan, State Auditions Chairperson*

The VMTA State Auditions were held on October 28, 2006, during the State Convention at George Mason University. The judges were Lee Jordan-Anders from Wesleyan College, Gabriel Dobner from JMU, and Dmitri Shteinberg from VCU. There were a total of 16 teachers and 29 students in the competition. Congratulations to all the participants, winners, and their teachers for their dedication and efforts in the artistry of performance.

(continued on page 8)

The Department of Music at Radford University announces openings for Graduate Assistantships in Piano Accompanying and Class Piano Teaching beginning in the upcoming 2007–2008 academic year. The Assistantships are generally for two years and range from \$4,000-\$8,000. The application deadline is **March 1, 2007**; applicants are encouraged to submit their forms earlier if possible. For more information, please visit the Department of Music website at <http://music.asp.radford.edu/> or contact Dr. Lucy Mauro, Department of Music, Radford University, Radford, VA 24142, 540-831-5815 or [lmmauro@radford.edu](mailto:lmmauro@radford.edu).

## Reports... (continued from page 7)

### Level 1A

1st place—Carmen Knoll, Teacher—Marjorie Lee  
2nd place—Rachel Chon, Teacher—Narciso Solero  
3rd place—Emily Wu, Teacher—Ruta Smedina Starke

### Level 1B

1st place—Kristina Hu, Teacher—Marjorie Lee  
2nd place—Jessica Shen, Teacher—Marjorie Lee  
3rd place—Elizabeth Armistead, Teacher—Suzanne Guy  
Hon. Mention—Maggie Zhang, Teacher—Ruta Smedina-Starke

### Level 2

1st place—Rebecca Zhang, Teacher—Marjorie Lee  
2nd place—Fifi Zhang, Teacher—Marjorie Lee  
3rd place—Elizabeth Heifets, Teacher—Jolanta Szewczyk

### Level 3

Hon. Mention—Paul Chung, Teacher—Rosita Kerr Mang  
Hon. Mention—Marianna Cutright, Teacher—Content Sablinsky

### Violin Level 2

1st place—Katie Wooldridge, Teacher—Hope Armstrong Erb ■

## SOUTHERN DIVISION COMPETITION JANUARY 13–15, 2007

### Junior Piano:

Winner – Kimberly Hou (Marjorie Lee, teacher)

### Junior Strings:

Honorable Mention – Marissa Resmini (June Huang, teacher)

### Junior Woodwinds:

Winner – Hyun Jong Moon (Ken Lee, teacher)

### Senior Voice:

Alternate – Kate Kirshner (Margaret L. McNulty, teacher)

### Senior Woodwinds:


Honorable Mention – Amanda Cook (Judith Lapple, teacher)

### Junior Composition:

Winner – Benjamin Brosche, *Rapid Fire*  
(Nathalie Steinbach, teacher)

### Senior Composition:

Honorable Mention – Kaleigh Acord, *Piano Trio No. 1*  
(James Batts, teacher) ■



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# Technology Tidbits: Ear Training Expedition

by Betty Reed, NCTM

Hopefully those who attended the VMTA convention this past October stopped by to meet Renee Lacey and be introduced to her excellent aural skills and theory program in three parts, *Ear Training Expedition*. Part 1 was previously reviewed in *NewsNotes*. This will be an overview of all three parts.

Each part tutors, drills interactively, and tests theory and ear training via visually appealing games. In the Listening Skills Games the pupil identifies the sound solely by listening to each example as many as three times. The program supports all three learning styles: visual, aural, and kinesthetic. Each part has many musical selections that were specifically chosen or composed to illustrate the particular skill being taught.

## A brief overview of the theory and aural skills in each part:

Part 1: 17 units covering high, middle, & low; melodic direction & movement; root position major & minor triads; perfect, major & minor intervals; and major & harmonic minor scale structure. For those who score high in the games, there are bonus rounds which are additional aural games in which triads/intervals are played by different instruments.

Part 2: 20 units covering major & minor inverted triads; root position & inverted augmented & diminished triads; close & open position; rhythm & meter recognition; Circle of 5ths; key signatures; identifying relative minor scales; and identifying the 3 types of minor scales.

Part 3: 19 units covering 5 types of seventh chords; cadences; scale degrees & triads of the scale; simple & compound meters; chord stability & harmonic progression; whole tone, pentatonic, chromatic, & modal scales; and melodic movement/recognition. Part 3 has over 3200 correlated musical examples. It also has bonus rounds featuring extra aural games in which seventh chords are played in open or inverted positions.

The program can be used by pupils studying any instrument. It works equally well with a wide range of ages—from children in kindergarten through adults. The colorful, eye-catching graphics appeal to all ages. Students have used it to prepare for syllabus theory exams as well as high school AP Music Theory exams. Freshman theory students have used it to increase their aural skills. It has been used in many independent music studios, as well as in group lessons and in the classroom. The program will keep records for 32 pupils, but this number can be increased by contacting Trail Creek Systems.

Cost: Each part, \$79.95. All 3 parts, \$199.95. Any 2 parts, \$139.95.

Requirements: Windows 98/ME/2000/XP, Pentium III processor with minimum 700MHz, 128 MB RAM, 50 MB HD space, sound card, speakers & mouse.

For more information: call (208) 232-7053 or go to [www.trailcreeksystems](http://www.trailcreeksystems) to order online. ■

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## Minutes... (continued from page 2)

MTNA and are not in a position to alter it. Members are advised to contact Elaine Donaldson with any data entry problems. Website data: any personal information on the website is under each member's control and can be changed by that member as needed. Theory syllabus downloading: anyone with dial up computer access will find that it takes a very long time to download because of the size of the file.

**NewsNotes and Yearbook Advertising Chair Kim Peachy** reported that 11 advertisements were received for the 2006 Yearbook; 10 for the Fall *NewsNotes* and to date 6 for the Spring *NewsNotes*. Revenue was \$2640 for this year (an increase of \$395 from 2005). Local associations are urged to place ads. (Thanks to the Charlottesville Chapter for doing so.) The fees for running the ads remain the same.

### New Business

During the Executive Committee meeting on October 26, five items of business were referred to the General meeting:

1. Certification: There was discussion about National's desire to motivate teachers to become certified. The following recommendation from the Executive Committee meeting was read: "I move that we offer a rebate of \$100 each to the first ten people to gain certification within the fiscal year." The motion passed.
2. VMTA Keyboard Skills syllabus errors: The Executive Board recommended that a committee form to discuss and correct the errors in the VMTA Keyboard Skills syllabus.

The following people agreed to serve: Julie Slingerland, Tonya Menard, Lynn Kleisler, Wanda Hall, Sharon Banks.

3. Composition competition: MTNA recommended we pay the judges a per score fee rather than a flat fee. The Board discussed this Thursday night and decided to keep the flat fee but raise it to \$200. There are three judges; we had 27 entries this year. The recommendation stated: "I move that we pay the composition judges a set fee of \$200 each for the job." The motion passed.
4. Concerto Competition: Marjorie Lee will be resigning as Chair and would like a new 2007 Chair to work with her. President Hall asked for suggested names for this position.
5. District Auditions: The following recommendation was read: "If the district auditions result in only one eligible competitor for a certain event, then the state audition for that event will be cancelled." An eleven to twelve minutes discussion ensued. Points made: one candidate does not make a competition; historically it has been difficult to find a judge for one contestant; judges are paid \$40/hour; there is an entry fee of \$15 at the district level; the state audition does not have a fee; the State and District auditions are among our most expensive items: perhaps we should raise fees. The discussion ended with a motion by Laura Hoffman, seconded by Jeanette Winsor "that the recommendation on the floor be tabled for future discussion." The motion passed.
6. Nominating Committee: Nominations from the floor named Kim Peachy, Denise Adkins and Belinda Stevens to comprise the nominating committee which will present a slate of officers at the June meeting. A motion was made by Laura Hoffman, seconded by Dee

Booth to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

### Reports on file

President's Report

Treasurer

VMTA Membership

VMTA Chair for Local Associations

Composition Competition

Advertising

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Yeomans, Secretary ■

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# Fall Conference Highlights

## October 2006 at George Mason University



1. Charlottesville MTA and Eric Ruple
2. Melody Bober
3. Debra Gunnerson, student, and Linda Monson
4. Kelly Ker Hackleman, John Healey
5. Lee Slatton, Corky Sablinsky, and Anne James
6. Linda Monson and Sonya Kim
7. Teri Compos-Falk and Anthony Maiello

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