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Wanda M. Hall, NCTM
Immediate Past President

Jeanette Winsor, NCTM
NewsNotes Editor

NewsNotes

President's Notes

Debra Gunnerson, NCTM, VMTA State President

As the new year opens, we send many heartfelt thanks to Wanda Hall for her splendid leadership these past two years as President of VMTA. She personally guided my growth into the President's position with her generous kindness and caring. Wanda, we all thank you for a job well done and look forward to your future involvement in VMTA.

Our new President-elect, Lisa Withers, takes on the task of our Fall Conference. Her expertise in music as well as in higher educational settings will be a great benefit to planning the Fall Conference and growing into the Presidency. As we struggled with securing a Conference site in 2007, we note that many music departments in Virginia Universities are undergoing significant change. Welcome signs of this positive change are new music buildings and new construction on older music buildings across the commonwealth, all indications to the music profession that growth is occurring at numerous levels in the music field. Private music instructors should be proud of the education and musical foundation we have given our students as a precursor to higher education in the music arena.

As VMTA looks forward, we need to uplift the image of music teachers in the hearts and minds of the general public. One of the highlights from the Fall Conference was our own Samantha Luck, Executive Committee Chairman of IMTF (Independent Music Teachers Forum). Her presentation got us all thinking of ways to improve our studios and promote a more positive and professional Private Music Teacher. Let all of us at VMTA find avenues to help promote our professionalism.

The Shenandoah University houses some of the finest musicians and educators in Virginia. VMTA experienced first hand the commitment and success of our last Fall Con-

ference held at Shenandoah University in the fall of 2007. Hosting our annual Fall Conference requires "all hands on deck," and you far exceeded our expectations. The weekend proved to be a fine-tuned musical event. THANK YOU!

As your president, I will attend the Southern Division Competitions in Greenville, South Carolina from January 18-21, 2008. The winners will be listed later in this newsletter. Also, I will head to Denver, Colorado the end of March for the MTNA National Conference. I will hob-knob with the Who's Who of MTNA. Attending lectures, recitals, award luncheons, and our own Southern Division meetings are just a few of the highlights on my agenda. Please pass along any comments or ideas that you would like me to share with MTNA National.

The Theory Tests are now on CDs. Yippee!! We send a big thank you to Virginia Moore and Rene Johnson for stepping up to this most challenging task. Be sure to tap into our VMTA website for Theory, Sight reading, and Skills Syllabi. John Winsor is moving VMTA into the 21st Century with his savvy Internet skills. Log on to see what is new and available for all members of VMTA. [www.music-usa.org/vmta]

During our upcoming Spring Conference in June 7, 2008, I would like to set some yearly plans in motion. Martha Smith, our Certification Chair, has started the ball rolling with incentives towards your own Certification. I believe we can follow that leadership by nominating our fellow VMTA members for significant recognition as MTNA Fellows and MTNA Teacher of the Year.

The future of VMTA lies in your hands, the capable hands of Virginia Music Teachers Association members. Keep music in your hearts and a part of everyone's agenda. ■

Certification Profile: Dr. Phyllis Vickers

by Anne James, NCTM



Not long after taking the comprehensive exams towards completing her D.M.A. degree at Catholic University, Phyllis Vickers took the t h r e e - h o u r

MTNA certification exam. "It was a fabulous exam, very thorough, with well-framed questions. It was more intense than the comprehensives," she states. There were three major areas of focus: managing the business aspect, understanding students of different ages, and understanding music, all in relation to teaching. Within each section the applicant could choose among several questions. "I needed every bit of the three hours."

A class with Thomas Mastroianni on the subject of performance anxiety ten years ago piqued her interest and Phyllis

decided to take it for credit. As other courses presented themselves, she continued amassing credits until she arrived at the point of performing the necessary recitals and decided to complete the D.M.A. degree. Three recitals were required for the piano pedagogy degree: a memorized solo recital, a chamber music recital and a memorized lecture recital. For the latter she chose as her topic the use of blues in American piano music.

In addition to the formal recitals she was required to learn and perform in informal recitals all the pieces on a repertoire list running into the hundreds. When her husband taught at M.I.T. for two years she studied the listed repertoire with Michael Lewin at the Boston Conservatory.

A graduate of the Preparatory Department of the New England Conservatory, Phyllis earned her undergraduate degree at Manhattanville College. Her Master of Music degree was taken at the

University of Maryland with Santiago Rodriguez. As part of her D.M.A. degree she studied chamber music with Jim Litzelman and pedagogy with Marilyn Neeley.

Since returning to Great Falls from Boston Phyllis has started her studio over with many beginners. She says her doctoral work has made her feel much better as a teacher. "It answered questions I didn't know I had."

Phyllis is active in the Fairfax Loudoun Music Fellowship, an organization she helped to found. The group sponsors recitals and holds monthly teachers' meetings. It fills a need for teachers who live too far away to attend NVMTA or WMTA meetings.

"We have such a responsibility to our students, whatever their age, goals and abilities, to give a solid foundation for understanding how music is put together and how to play the piano with a technique that is injury-free." ■

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(starts Fall 2007)
- New Piano Faculty**
Canadian pianist, Dr. Lori Piitz (2006)
Brazilian pianist, Dr. Paulo Steinberg (2007)
- Kennedy Center Artist Concerts**
2007-08 Season Features:
Gabriel Dobner — Sept. 30 with Beth Chandler, flute; April 30 with Amadi Hummings, viola
Eric Ruple — Nov. 11, "Diabelli" Variations, Sonata Op. 111

Piano Faculty: Patricia Brady • Gabriel Dobner • Lori Piitz • Eric Ruple • Paulo Steinberg



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MINUTES

VIRGINIA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
GENERAL BOARD MEETING • NOVEMBER 3, 2007
SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY, WINCHESTER, VA

Call to Order

The General Board meeting was called to order by President Wanda Hall at 3:45 p.m.

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

The **motion** was made and seconded to dispose of the reading of the minutes from the June meeting; the motion carried.

Reports

President Wanda Hall

Location for 2009 Southern Division competitions: Virginia State Univ. in Petersburg, Jan. 2009.

Betty Ann Spiers was asked to review the yearbook. She came up with 5-page list of recommendations for improvement 4 items of business handled via e-mail since Spring meeting

President-Elect Debra Gunnerson

MTNA summit—stressed certification by all teachers.

We want our music teachers to have a more professional outlook. This will improve our perception in community and help our students to sense academic nature of music study 66 registered for conference plus 15 walk-ins

Membership Chair Denise Adkins

869 members. MTNA has membership management system 895 present membership.

The Treasurer's report (attached)

Julie Slingerland not in attendance. Wanda Hall asked membership to look over treasurer's reports. She will convey any questions to Julie after she gets home. Martha Smith added that we have \$40,000 in CDs and we are solvent. The budget was accepted by oral vote of the membership

Certification Chair Martha Smith

MDs have to be board certified. In 2007, a small percentage of music teachers are certified. We need to work to make NCTM as easily recognizable as MD. She charged every certified teacher in the room to go home and recruit a convert. She mentioned benefits of certification and stressed that MTNA is fully behind us. Note: Virginia only has 12% certified teachers whereas West Virginia has 25%.

IMTF Chair

Chair of Local Associations, Myrenna Kickasola

She was pleased to announce that we had 100% participation from all of our local chapter presidents for the first time. Also reminded presidents of benefits and services MTNA has to offer online and otherwise. Encouraged contacting IMTF chair who is eager to offer assistance.

Reports from Standing Committees

Jr. High WOODWINDS/ PIANO COMPETITIONS:

Lucy Mauro gave report for Lisa Withers who had to leave early (Dr. Lisa Withers) report attached.

Sr. High WOODWINDS/ PIANO/STRINGS AND VOICE COMPETITIONS: Lise Keiter-Brotzman. Still in progress at time of meeting

COLLEGIATE PIANO/WOODWINDS/VOICE/ CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITIONS: (Dr. Jeff Brown). In progress.

STUDENT COMPOSITION COMPETITION is not yet completed. Details will be published later.

CONCERTO COMPETITION: Martha Smith announced that Christopher Newport will be location 2nd week in May. Info on the website soon.

INSTRUMENTAL SKILLS (SINGLE LINE): Lynn Kleisler. Approved changed have been made and will be put on the website soon after final approval.

SIGHTREADING SKILLS-PIANO: Faye Barss. Will be in February.

MUSICLINK: see Martha Smith, state coordinator grateful for VMTA support of music purchases. Almost 1000 students are currently being taught by teachers at tuition less than ½ usual rate.


MTNA FOUNDATION Debra Gunnerson reported on behalf of Belinda Stevens.

NEWSNOTES Jeannette Winsor asked members if any experienced delays in receiving *NewsNotes*. Deadline Jan. 15 for electronic submission of items for spring *NewsNotes*.

New Business

Wanda Hall recommended increase of fees for judges from \$40 to \$50/hour and travel stipend of \$50 if judges travel more than 40 miles. She referred to p. 24 of yearbook. Number 2.

(continued on page 5)



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Our Faculty Is Key

Charles Bath, piano

- AmusD, University of Michigan
- MM, Eastman School of Music
- BM, University of Michigan
- Active performer with violinist Joanne Bath, the Bath Duo

Kerry Carlin, piano pedagogy

- DME, MM, Indiana University
- Certificate in piano pedagogy, New School of Music Study
- BM, Cleveland Institute of Music
- Active author, clinician, panelist, and adjudicator for the Music Teachers National Association

Henry Doskey, piano

- DM, Indiana University
- MM, BM, Southern Methodist University
- Award-winning performer, active recording artist, and the authoritative interpreter of the music of composer William Gillock

Janette Fishell, organ, sacred music, department chair

- DM, Northwestern University
- MM, BM, Indiana University
- Teacher, performer, and church musician of international distinction
- Founder and director of the East Carolina Religious Arts Festival and active recording artist

John O'Brien, piano, harpsichord

- DMA, MM, BM, University of Southern California
- Conductor of the Eastern Carolina Youth Orchestra, codirector of the Early Music Ensemble

Keiko Sekino, piano

- DMA, Peabody Conservatory
- MM, Yale School of Music
- BA, Yale College
- Internationally performing soloist and chamber musician

Ernest Turner, piano, jazz studies

- MM, University of New Orleans
- BM, Loyola University New Orleans
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Minutes... (continued from page 3)

This will cost approximately \$1500 more per year. The proposal came from Julie Slingerland during the Executive Committee meeting. After discussion, this motion was approved.

Proposal for travel grants for state winners increased to \$150 when in VA and \$300 when out of state. Increased from \$300 to \$500 for national competitors. Jeannette Winsor stressed need for this assistance for southern division because some parents cannot afford for their children to compete at the national level. Julie Slingerland expressed need to put our \$40,000 to good use in this way.

The Exec. Com. would like to establish a bylaws review committee to deal with simple changes in the bylaws since these changes will need to be voted on. This committee would also dig deeper to determine if more than superficial changes need to be made.

The Exec. Com. would also like to establish a committee to have the theory test aural component put on CDs.

Wanda Hall pointed out that because VMTA is a 501(c)(3) organization, the exec. Com. Recommends that local associations be permitted to charge up to double the normal fee to students of non-members who wish to take VMTA sponsored tests or participate in VMTA sponsored events. Barbara Taylor Moore amended the motion to clarify that additional fees will go to the local association. The amendment passed. The amended motion also passed.

Deadline for local associations to submit VMTA teacher of the year nominations will be established as May 1 of each year.

Teacher of the Year Award

Lucy Mauro of the Highlands chapter announced the winner, Nitza Kats, a 30 year member of Highlands. Nitza started 2 events 25 years ago in honor of a former student, Rebecca Orr, who was tragically killed by a drunk driver. One is a well attended yearly benefit concert; the second is an annual adjudicated Technique Festival. She has taught at Radford University and Virginia Tech. President Wanda Hall presented Nitza with a plaque from VMTA.

Report of the Nominating Committee Denise Adkins, Chair presented for vote the following slate of officers:

President – Debra Gunnerson
President-Elect - Lisa Withers
Membership – Denise Adkins
Secretary – Sarah O'Brien
Treasurer – Julie Slingerland

The slate was elected as presented.

Announcements (See agenda)

The Spring Conference will be June 7 in Charlottesville

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah O'Brien for Jacqua Yeomans

Reports on File (list)

VMTA Membership report
Treasurer's Report: Budget summary for fiscal yr 2007
Proposed fiscal year 2008 budget
State Chair for Local Associations
Parliamentarian report (corrections/proposed changes)
VMTA Theory Chair ■

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Saturday, April 19, Bradley Hall

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10 am Teachers' workshop, Talmadge Recital Hall, Bradley Hall

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Associate Professor
Nitza Kats, 2007 VMTA
Teacher of the Year

RADFORD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Reports

VMTA MEMBERSHIP REPORT NOVEMBER 3, 2007

Denise Adkins, Membership Chair

The membership report of September 30 reached 869 members. This total has the break down of 1 star member, 25 student members, 728 active members and 115 senior members. MTNA has a membership management system on its website that allows for updating the membership count between mailings. VMTA have gained 26 members during October bringing the present membership to 895. ■

BUDGET SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007 NOVEMBER 21, 2007

Julie Slingerland, NCTM, Treasurer

	Income	Expense
Accounting		\$1,800.00
Advertising	\$3,000.00	
Executive Committee		\$3,400.00
Fall Conference	\$4,000.00	\$8,300.00
Judges		\$8,300.00
Membership Dues	\$13,700.00	
MTNA Events	\$3,700.00	
NewsNotes		\$4,000.00
VMTA Events	\$19,700.00	
Web Site		\$300.00
Yearbook		\$3,000.00 ■

VMTA YEARBOOK DEADLINE

Bonnie Western, Yearbook Editor

This is a reminder to all Committee Chairmen. The DEADLINE to receive any information that is to go into the Yearbook is JULY 1. This is the same date every year. Debra Gunnerson and I need your information by that date so that we can put things together and get to the printer. The deadline will be strictly adhered to this year.

We have had problems getting the books out early enough and that has been due to the fact that we have waited for dates to finish the calendar with. Some chairmen haven't gotten dates set and we tried to wait as long as we could. If we do not have dates, you will be referred to find those dates on the Website. ■

SOUTHERN DIVISION WINNERS

Debra Gunnerson, NCTM, VMTA State President

Our winner from VMTA was in the MTNA Junior Piano Competition, Fifi Zhang, student of Marjorie Lee. Peggy McNulty student, Jennifer Suragiat received an honorable mention in the MTNA Senior Competition for Voice. ■

MTNA SENIOR COMPETITIONS

Lise Keiter-Brotzman, MTNA Senior Competition Coordinator

The MTNA Senior Competitions were held Nov. 1-3, 2007 at Shenandoah University (during the VMTA Fall Conference).

The Senior Woodwind competition was held on Thursday, Nov. 1. Eleven students participated. The results are: Winner—Robert Bogart, clarinet (student of Ken Lee); Alternate—Britney Polites, flute (student of Judith Lapple); Honorable Mentions—Ashley Kong, flute (student of Judith Lapple) and Katherine Anderson, bassoon (student of Sue Barber). Judges were Randall Riffle (Marine Band), Mark Gallagher (Frostburg State University), and Stephen K. Johnston (Shenandoah University—retired).

The Senior Piano competition was held on Saturday, Nov. 3. Seven students participated. The results are: Winner—Alan Woo (student of Scott McBride Smith); Alternate—Hanbo Liu (student of Rosita Mang); Honorable Mention—Alex Gunnarson (student of Marjorie Lee). Judges were Gerald Lee (West Liberty State University), Tracy Cowden (Virginia Tech), and Amanda Halstead (Old Dominion University).

The Senior Voice competition and the brand-new Senior Piano Duet competition had only one entrant each, so no competitions were held in those categories, in accordance with the MTNA guidelines. The Senior Voice State Representative is Jennifer Suragiat, soprano (student of Peggy McNulty). The Senior Piano Duet Representatives are Gloria and Anna McMillen (students of Suzanne Guy).

Winners and Representatives will compete at the Division Competition in January. ■

(continued on page 9)

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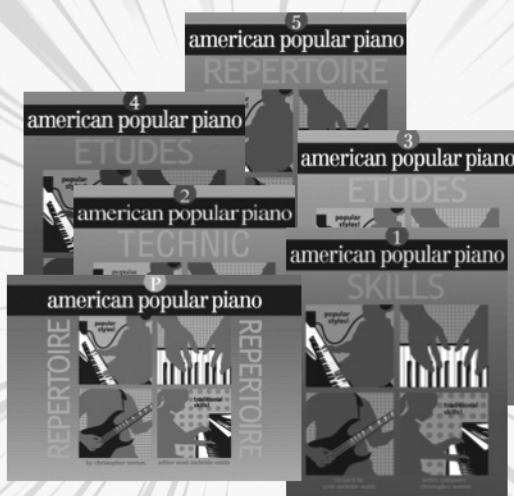
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Reports... (continued from page 7)

FALL FESTIVAL RESULTS

Debbie Sacra, VMTA Fall Festival Coordinator

Thanks to the hard work and devotion of the local MTA Chairmen and members, 841 students registered and 778 students played in the five Fall Festivals across the state in 2007. This is an increase over 2006. Thank you all for making the Fall Festival so successful!

Lynchburg (CVMTA) November 17

Registered: 9* Teachers; 51* Students: All Piano*, 50* Solos, 1* Duet

Level	Sup.	Ex.	VG	Good	Fair	Not Rated	TOTAL
Level 1A							3
Level 1B							18
Level 2							18
Level 3							9
Level 4							2
TOTALS Played:	17	31	2	0	0	0	50

Northern Virginia (NVMTA) November 10

Registered: 69* Teachers; 535* Students: All Piano Solos*

Level	Sup.	Ex.	VG	Good	Fair	Not Rated	TOTAL
Level 1							
Level 2							
Level 3							
Level 4							
TOTALS Played:	294	154	38	2			488

Richmond (RMTA) November 17

Registered: 19* Teachers; 115* Students: All Piano Solos*

Level	Sup.	Ex.	VG	Good	Fair	Not Rated	TOTAL
Level 1A	20	5	3				28
Level 1B	19	5					24
Level 2	27	10					37
Level 3	13	2					15
Level 4	1						1
TOTALS Played:	80	22	3	0	0	0	105

Roanoke (RVMTA) November 17

Registered: 20* Teachers; 124* Students: All Piano Solos*

Level	Sup.	Ex.	VG	Good	Fair	Not Rated	TOTAL
Level 1	37	7					44
Level 2	28	14					42
Level 3	20	10	2				32
Level 4	1						1
TOTALS Played:	86	31	2	0	0	0	119

Winchester (Shenandoah) November 17

Registered: 4* Teachers; 16* Students: All Piano Solos*

Level	Sup.	Ex.	VG	Good	Fair	Not Rated	TOTAL
Level 1	1	4					5
Level 2	2	2	1				5
Level 3	1	5					6
Level 4							0
TOTALS Played:	4	11	1	0	0	0	16

STATE TOTALS

Registered: 121* Teachers; 841* Students: 840* Piano Solos, 1* Duet

Sup.	Ex.	VG	Good	Fair	Not Rated	TOTAL
481	249	46	2	0	0	778

*Represents Registration Information ■

(continued on page 10)

**Visit VMTA's web site at
www.music-usa.org/vmta**



Excellent student pages and efficient auditors kept NVMTA's Fall Festival running smoothly on Nov. 10.

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VMTA STATE PIANO AUDITIONS

Gabriella Ryan, Chairman VMTA State Auditions

The 2007 VMTA State Piano Auditions were held on November 3 at Shenandoah University. Eleven teachers sent 21 students representing the 2007 District Auditions winners and alternates. The judges were Elizabeth Caluda, Joanne Haroutounian, and Landon Bilyeu.

Level IA (grades K-4) winners are as follows:

First Place Tie: Elizabeth Hu and Lyric Yu, both students of Marjorie Lee

Second Place Tie: Melissa Zhu and Beatrice Liang-Gilman, both students of Jolanta Scewczyk

Honorable Mentions: David Lu and Kevin Chung, both students of Kim Cho

Level IB (grades 5-6) winners are as follows:

First Place: Elizabeth Bell, student of Ruta Smedina-Starke

Second Place: Stephanie Hwang, student of Kim Cho

Honorable Mention: Ashley Yuan, student of Walter Noona

Level II (grades 7-9) winners are as follows:

First Place: Kimberly Hou, student of Marjorie Lee

Second Place: Donna Anselmo, student of Jolanta Scewczyk

Level III (grades 10-12) winners are as follows:

First Place: Risa Kaneko, student of Marjorie Lee

Second Place: Stephanie Woods, student of Teresa Compos-Falk

Third Place: Angelina Savoia, student of Rosita Kerr Mang

Honorable Mentions: Nicole Tackeff, student of Kay Pitt and Marianna Cutright, student of Content Sablinsky

Five of our first place winners performed on Sunday's Winners' Recital. Three of our second place winners participated in Sunday's Masterclass with Dmitri Shteinberg. The Auditions exemplified a high level of playing and all of our participating teachers should be commended. Congratulations to all our winning students! ■

The World of the Piano
2007 - 08 CONCERT SERIES



Ian Hobson
Sunday, Oct. 21 at 3 P.M.
Sponsored by The Adams Foundation



Konstantin Soukhovetski
Sunday, Nov. 18 at 3 P.M.



Moscow Conservatory Trio
Sunday, Feb. 10 at 3 P.M.
Paul Ostrovsky, piano
Yuri Kharenko, violin
Stanislav Orlovsky, cello



John O'Conor
Sunday, April 20 at 3 P.M.

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1. Glenn Caluda, husband of Beth Caluda and faculty member at Shenandoah University, entertained Banquet guests on Saturday evening.
2. Ava Salehi, Pedagogy student of Joanne Haroutounian at George Mason University, presented research on ways to teach diverse students.
3. The Best Western motel put our name in lights for the Banquet.
4. & 5. Two pairs of duettists from the studio of Gayle Brubaker participated in the Saturday afternoon master class with Robert Vandall.
6. Shenandoah Symphony conductor Jan Wagner conducted Alexander Stabile, student of Nancy Breth, and winner of the High School Concerto competition.
7. President-elect Debra Gunnerson is pictured with her students who participated in the Vandall Master Class.
8. Lynn Kleisler NCTM, VMTA Keyboard Skills Chair, and Carolyn Bryan NCTM are members of Tidewater Music Teachers Forum.
9. Past President Joanne Haroutounian and GMU Student Chapter President Ava Salehi represented George Mason University.
10. Kathyryn Rapiere, NVMTA, and Conference Clinician Robert Vandall
11. Ken Lee, shown here with wife Marjorie Lee, administered the MTNA Woodwind competitions on Thursday.
12. Lisa Withers, Emory-Henry College, chaired the MTNA Junior Performance Competition; Jeffrey Brown, Christopher Newport University, chaired the Young Artist and Chamber Music Competitions; Gerald Lee served as a piano judge.
13. Amy Work's students, Cameron Woo and Rohan Punnoose, participated in the Ensemble master class with Robert Vandall.
14. Tonya Menard NCTM of Tidewater congratulates Alexander Stabile on his performance of Prokofiev's Piano Concerto.
15. Duettists at three pianos participated in the Master Class with Robert Vandall.
16. Conference Clinician Robert Vandall and teachers of students in ensembles: Debra Gunnerson, Beverly Teague, Belinda Stevens.
17. President Wanda Hall was joined by her sister at the VMTA Banquet.
18. VMTA Commissioned Composer William Averitt presented "The Memory of Shadows" performed by a flutist, violinist, violist and cellist.
19. Wanda Hall named Nitza Kats NCTM as VMTA Teacher of the Year 2007. Nitza is a member of Highlands MTA and a professor at Radford University.

Virginia Music Teachers Association

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