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NewsNotes

President's Notes

Debra Gunnerson, NCTM, VMTA President

As my two years as your President comes to a close, I wish to thank everyone for their support, encouragement, and wisdom. I could not have achieved success without all of you.

Many of you know my last year contained numerous personal family emergencies, some on going to this day. VMTA is in our extended family as musicians. It functions with leaders, workers, and innovators on various levels, just like your family.

When the new leaders of VMTA are elected in November, I charge you with supporting them as family members just as you have supported me. Treat each other with respect. Nurture new members and new ideas so we may continue our growth in Local Associations, as a progressive State Affiliate and with recognition at the National level for great achievements in our businesses and our students.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve such a grand organization as the Virginia Music Teachers Association. ■

VMTA CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 5-8, 2009

Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, Virginia
Lisa Withers, President-elect

Join other VMTA members in attending this year's conference at Virginia Tech University from November 5-8, 2009. We have a fantastic array of artists, clinicians, and guests that should appeal to everyone! It has been a great pleasure for me to plan this event with so many quality presenters. **John Salmon** (faculty member at UNCG and noted jazz and classical pianist) will present the conference artist recital on Friday night. **Gail Berenson** (Ohio University faculty and past president of MTNA) will present two diverse sessions on piano teaching. In addition, **Christine Kefferstan** (West Virginia University faculty) will share her 30+ years of teaching in a pedagogy session as well as presenting a recital with flutist **Francesca Arnone** (also on the WVU faculty). **Gary Ingle**, Executive Director of MTNA, will visit us and present a keynote address at the banquet on Friday night as well as a

Q&A session for our members about the national organization on Saturday. VMTA members **Tracy Cowden** and **Lisa Withers** will present workshop sessions on pedagogy and collaborative performance, respectively. As usual, the **Virginia Tech University Orchestra** will accompany the **VMTA Concerto Competition winners** on Saturday night. As you can see, this conference will be full of opportunities for professional development and fun! Please send your reservations in soon and join us in beautiful southwest VA for a wonderful conference. ■

SPRING CONFERENCE UPDATE

Lisa Withers, President-elect

At the spring conference in Charlottesville this past June, it was suggested that we might look into the possibility of holding our annual spring conference as a teleconference between executive board members and any other interested parties. The cost of travel and lodging for some members and the low numbers of attendees from throughout the state were cited as reasons to explore the issue. As a result, Sarah Reasor O'Brien, VMTA Secretary, organized a trial teleconference in July on free conference.com, a website designed to allow people to use phone and desktop computers to hold meetings and share information. This teleconference was attended by Martha Smith, Debra Gunnerson, Lisa Withers, and Sarah Reasor O'Brien and was a success. The technology allowed us all to use our personal computers to share documents and to talk "voice-to-voice" over the phone. There is the possibility of having over one hundred participants in one of these teleconferences and the cost is quite reasonable (although not "free" as the name of the website suggests!). We recognize that this is an issue for discussion at the full business meeting at the VMTA fall conference, but we wanted to prepare the membership for this discussion with this description. Matters to be decided about the use of such technology would include the inclusion or exclusion of the local presidents and their reports at this conference. Some suggest that it would be possible to simply share these reports online or in future *NewsNotes* without a formal meeting. Please bring your questions and ideas to the fall conference business meeting! ■

2009 Conference: Schedule

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2009

12:00pm–5:00pm MTNA Competitions
6:00pm Executive Committee Dinner Meeting

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2009


8:00am–4:00pm MTNA Competitions
8:00am–3:00pm Registration/Vendors
9:00am–10:00am Lisa Withers—For Children: Amy Beach's pedagogical works
10:00am–11:15am Gail Berenson—The Art of Communication: Nurturing Resourceful and Spirited Students
11:15am–12:15pm IMTF Forum—Samantha Luck
12:15pm–2:00pm Local Association Presidents Luncheon
Lunch on own
2:00pm–3:15pm Christine Kefferstan—What works, What doesn't work: 30 years of studio teaching
3:15pm–4:30pm Tracy Cowden & Theodore Sipes—Words, Words, Words: The Challenges of Working with Singers
6:00pm–7:30pm VMTA Banquet: Gary Ingle, Keynote Speaker
8:00pm John Salmon, Recital

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2009

8:00am–5:00pm VMTA State Competitions
8:00am–5:00pm MTNA Competitions
8:00am–1:00pm Registration/Vendors
9:00am–10:00am Gary Ingle, MTNA Q&A session
10:00am–11:15am John Salmon – Ornamenting Bach
11:15am–12:15pm Commissioned Composer Concert
12:15pm–1:30pm Lunch on own
1:30pm–2:45pm Christine Kefferstan and Francesca Arnone—Flute and Piano Recital
2:45pm–4:00pm Gail Berenson—Discoveries that have transformed piano teaching in the 21st Century
4:00pm–5:30pm VMTA Business Meeting
5:30pm–7:30pm Dinner on own
8:00pm Concerto Winners Concert—Virginia Tech University Orchestra

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2009

9:30am–11:00am Masterclass with John Salmon
11:30am–12:30pm Winners Recital



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2009 Conference: Artists & Clinicians



Francesca Arnone is Assistant Professor of Flute, member of the Laureate Wind Quintet, and Director of the WVU Flute Choir. She earned flute performance degrees from Oberlin (BM), the San Francisco Conservatory (MM), and the University of Miami (DMA). Her primary teachers include Robert Willoughby (Cleveland Orchestra), Julia Bogorad (St. Paul Chamber Orchestra),

Tim Day (San Francisco Symphony), Christine Nield (Florida Philharmonic), and Sandra Church (New York Philharmonic).

She served as Principal of the Boise Philharmonic for four seasons, and as Piccolo of the Palm Beach Opera Orchestra since 1997. Prior to this, she was Co-Principal and Piccolo of the Orquesta Sinfonica de la Universidad de Guanajuato (Mexico). She has performed with the Florida Philharmonic, Florida West Coast Symphony, Moscow Chamber Orchestra, Missouri Chamber Orchestra, and the Orquesta Sinfonica de Tenerife (Spain), among others. She has been both a flute and piccolo concerto soloist in the United States and Mexico, including three subscription performances of Rodrigo's *Concierto Pastoral* with the Boise Philharmonic.

During the summer, she teaches at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan, directs the WVU High School Flute Camp, and organizes and is Associate Faculty for the Trevor Wye U.S. Seminars. Before coming to WVU, she taught at Northwest Nazarene University, Boise State University, and Idaho State University.

A winner of the National Flute Association's Doctoral Dissertation and Convention Performers competitions, she has appeared in the Dallas, Las Vegas, San Diego, and New York annual conventions, and also performed with the Pittsburgh Flute Club at the Pittsburgh and New York conventions. She has performed and presented at the regional, national, and international conferences for the College Music Society; International Double Reed Society conferences, and at national conferences for MENC, Society of Music Teacher Education, and the Association for Technology in Music Instruction. Highlights of her career include performing in recital at St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London, and also being a year-long participant in Bobby McFerrin's Creativity 101 Class in San Francisco. ■



Gail Berenson is Professor of Piano at Ohio University, Athens, and Co-Chair of the Keyboard Division. She was awarded the "Distinguished Teacher of the Year" Award in 2000. Prior to coming to Ohio, she was on the faculty of the University of Illinois, Urbana. An active performer and passionate chamber music collaborator, she performs with flutist, Alison Brown Sincoff,

as a member of the Ohio University Lyric Duo. As a result of her distinguished work as a piano pedagogue, along with her reputation as an expert on musician wellness issues, she is much in demand as a performer, clinician, master class artist, adjudicator, author, reviewer and pedagogy consultant. She has performed and lectured in over thirty states, as well as Great Britain, Belgium, Switzerland, Israel, Portugal, Taiwan and Canada. She was a presenter at the European Piano Teachers Conference in Manchester, England in 2005 and in Funchal, Madeira in 2006. In

July 2010, Professor Berenson will travel to Beijing, China to represent the United States and the area of piano as a member of the International Society of Music Education's newly established Forum on Instrumental and Vocal Studio Performance Teaching.

Ms. Berenson began to build a reputation as a performing artist early when at age eleven she began accompanying the forty-member male chorus conducted by her piano teacher, appearing in concert throughout Wisconsin and Illinois. A native of Kenosha, Wisconsin, she continued her education at Northwestern University, completing degrees in piano performance, studying piano with Louis Crowder and Guy Duckworth. She also performed in master classes with world-renowned accompanist Gerald Moore, baritone Pierre Bernac, duo-pianists Vronsky and Babin and, at the Lucerne International Music Festival, with pianist and accomplished chamber musician, Mieczyslaw Horszowski.

Ms. Berenson is one of the co-authors of *A Symposium for Pianists and Teachers: Strategies to Develop Mind and Body for Optimal Performance* and, as a member of the Lorenz Advisory Board she contributed to the innovative piano method, *Piano Discoveries*, and is co-author of "Ask the Professor." She also authored a chapter entitled, "Music Medicine and Today's Piano Teachers," for the third edition of James Lyke's book, *Creative Piano Teaching*. A frequent author for *Keyboard Companion*, she has also written for the on-line journal, *Piano Pedagogy Forum* and served as a contributing editor to *Piano & Keyboard*.

She is the Immediate Past President of Music Teachers National Association, an association of 24,000 members. She has also held the position of President-Elect and President, Vice President, Chair of the 2002 and 2003 MTNA National Conference Committees, has served on the 1996 and 1997 Conference Committees and was one of the founding members of the MTNA Pedagogy Committee. She has held several national posts with the National Conference on Piano Pedagogy and the World Piano Pedagogy Conference and has chaired National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy's Wellness for Pianists Committee. A past president of the Ohio Music Teachers Association, she holds MTNA's Master Certificate in piano and piano pedagogy and was the recipient of the 1999 OMTA "Certified Teacher of the Year" award and the 2004 OMTA "Collegiate Teacher of the Year" award. In recognition of her significant contributions to the music world and the music teaching profession, she was awarded an MTNA Foundation Fellow Award in 2007. Her students are performing and teaching in independent studios and on college faculties throughout the world. More information can be found at www.gailberenson.com. ■



Tracy Cowden joined the music department faculty at Virginia Tech as Assistant Professor of Piano and Vocal Coach in 2004. She received the D.M.A. and M.M. degrees in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music from the Eastman School of Music, and a B.M. degree in Piano Performance from Western Michigan University.

As a collaborative pianist, Tracy has performed with the Cavani Quartet, the Audubon Quartet, the Carpe Diem String Quartet, and the Marble Cliff Chamber Players, and in recitals with principal musicians from the Mon-

(continued on page 4)

2009 Conference: Artists & Clinicians

treal, Vancouver, Boston, and Columbus symphony orchestras. She has been featured as a concerto soloist with the Central Ohio Symphony Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of Southwest Virginia, the Ohio Wesleyan University Chamber Orchestra, and the Virginia Tech Symphonic Wind Ensemble.

Tracy has presented lectures on the art of collaborative piano in Ohio, Michigan, and Virginia, and she was selected to present at the College Music Society National Conferences in Québec City and at the Music Teachers National Association National Conferences in Seattle, Washington (2005) and Austin, Texas (2006).

In collaboration with Dr. Nancy Gamso from Ohio Wesleyan University, Tracy released a CD entitled *"With Blackwood and Silver,"* which features modern duo repertoire for flute with piano and clarinet with piano. She also can be heard with the Eastman Wind Ensemble in its 50th anniversary recording, released in 2002.

Tracy has previously served as a faculty member at Ohio Wesleyan University, and as an adjunct faculty member at Kalamazoo College and Hope College in western Michigan. Her principal teachers have included Jean Barr, Douglas Humpherys, Fernando Lares, Phyllis Rapoport, and Marilyn Sluka. ■



Christine Kefferstan, pianist, maintains an active performing career as soloist, chamber musician, and accompanist. Dr. Kefferstan graduated from the College-Conservatory of Cincinnati where she studied with David Bar-Illan. Recent international performances include recitals in London at St. Martin-in-the-Fields with flute colleague Francesca Arnone and a solo recital at the National Institute of Culture and History in Belize City, Belize. Interested in collaborations of all kinds, Kefferstan's invited presentations in national venues include:

- 2003 MTNA conference, "Issues of Dance and Duality in Maurice Ravel's two-piano transcription of La Valse"
- 2004 National Women and Creativity Conference, "Clara Schumann's Trio in g minor"
- 2006 National Conference of College Music Society, "A Work of Assimilation and Originality: Mozart's Sonata for Violin and Piano in A, K. 526"
- 2007 International Conference for MTNA-Canadian Federation of Music Teachers and the Royal College of Music in Toronto, "Clara Schumann's Trio in g minor"
- 2007 Sarasvati Trio featured on the Taft Museum of Art Chamber Music Recital Series, Cincinnati, OH.
- 2009 MTNA conference "Dvorak's Dumky Trio: Czech and Balance"

Additional solo performances include recitals on the Stifel Fine Arts Series, Wheeling, WV; the Silver Series, Plymouth, NH; and the Steinway Society Series in Pittsburgh.

Recognized by the WVU Division of Music and by the West Virginia Music Teachers Association for her excellence in teaching, Kefferstan is professor of piano at West Virginia University, Morgantown, where she teaches graduate and undergraduate piano majors and a number of pre-college students. She is justifiably proud of her students who hold university, church

and studio positions throughout the country. Prize-winning students include laureates of the Van Cliburn Amateur Competition; French Piano Music Institute, Paris; Greensboro, NC Music Academy Competition; Bartok-Kabalevsky Competition in Radford, VA.; in the Stravinsky competition in IL; in the Fite Family Piano competition in MO.; Eleanor McCann Piano Competition, Dayton, OH; in the Pittsburgh Young Artists competition; and in the state and division levels of Music Teachers National Association. Dr. Kefferstan's articles have appeared in *Keyboard Companion*, *Clavier*, and *Piano Quarterly*. An active member of Music Teachers National Association since 1982, Kefferstan has served as WV State President, Eastern Division President, and member of both the National Foundation Board and the Board of Directors. ■



Pianist John Salmon has distinguished himself on four continents, as both a classical and jazz artist.

In the United States, he has given recitals for the Dame Myra Hess Series in Chicago, the Discovery Series in Indianapolis, the Van Cliburn Foundation in Fort Worth, and a Busoni Gala at Symphony Space in New York. He has also appeared as recitalist at many colleges and universities across the United States, including Tulane, Vanderbilt, Cincinnati College Conservatory, and San Francisco State University.

His broad repertoire covers the classics—Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Brahms—though his involvement with contemporary music is equally strong. Salmon has championed and been at the forefront of performing new works by such celebrated composers as Dave Brubeck, Nikolai Kapustin, and Lalo Schiffrin.

His performances have been heard on many radio stations in the U.S., including National Public Radio, WNYC in New York, WFMT in Chicago, and KUSC in Los Angeles; and on the national radio stations of Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the Ukraine.

Salmon is a frequent guest performer at festivals in the U.S. and Europe, having appeared at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival (Charleston, South Carolina), Piano Festival Northwest (Portland, Oregon), Interlochen Piano Festival (Interlochen, Michigan), International Festival for Creative Pianists (Boise, Idaho), Festival Internacional de Música del Mediterráneo (Cartagena, Spain), and the International Bartók Festival (Szombathely, Hungary). Other special appearances include an all-Liszt recital in Mexico City for the American Liszt Society and an all-Brubeck recital in Washington, DC for the Music Teachers National Association.

His versatility often produces striking juxtapositions. In one concert with the Wilmington (North Carolina) Symphony in 2001, Salmon performed Beethoven's *Second Piano Concerto* in the first half, and then, in the second half, Dave Brubeck's *Elementals* for orchestra and jazz trio (with Brubeck's sons, bassist Chris and drummer Dan).

He has recorded three compact discs of Dave Brubeck's classical piano music, Dave Brubeck's *Compositions for Piano*, Brubeck: *Chromatic Fantasy Sonata / Rising Sun*, Brubeck: *Nocturnes*, and one CD of Nikolai Kapustin's piano music.

2009 Conference: Artists & Clinicians

As guest lecturer, Salmon has spoken on a wide array of topics—"Beethoven's Shadow" (The Juilliard School), "September 1828: Schubert's Last Three Piano Sonatas" (Boston Conservatory), "Adding Notes to Classical Scores" (Conservatorio de Música, Morelia, Mexico).

As author, he has covered such subjects as "What Brubeck Got From Milhaud" and "Urtext, que me veux tu?," appearing in *American Music Teacher*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Clavier*, *College Music Society Newsletter*, *Piano & Keyboard*, and *Piano Today*. His book, *The Piano Sonatas of Carl Loewe* was published by Peter Lang Publishing in 1996.

John Salmon has been a member of the faculty of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro School of Music since 1989. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The University of Texas at Austin; the Master of Music degree from The Juilliard School; the Solistendiplom from the Hochschule für Musik, Freiburg, Germany; and the Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Arts (philosophy) degrees from Texas Christian University. His awards include the Premio Jaén (1979), the Gina Bachauer Award from Juilliard, a fellowship from the Beethoven Foundation (known nowadays as the American Pianists Association), and prizes from the 1979 University of Maryland (William Kapell Competition) and 1984 Busoni competitions. He was born in Fort Worth, Texas in 1954. ■



Theodore Sipes, baritone, was appointed Assistant Professor of Voice at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in the Fall of 2006, where he teaches applied voice and voice related courses. He received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in vocal performance from the University of Michigan School of Music in 2004 where he studied with Freda Herseth. He has also studied with

Leslie Guinn, Martin Katz, Robert Spillman, Gustav Meier, Edward Berkley, Jay Lessinger, Edward Parmentier, Robert Shewan and Allan Mosher.

Dr. Sipes' operatic experience includes productions of *La Cenerentola*, *The Consul*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, *The Tender Land*, and *Die Zauberflöte*. While teaching at the Lionel Hampton School of Music at the University of Idaho he was involved in the Palouse Opera Project, taking an opera about the adventures of Lewis and Clark to elementary school children in Idaho and Washington. In oratorio he has been heard as baritone soloist in Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, Vaughan William's *Dona Nobis Pacem*, Haydn's *The Creation*, Handel's *Messiah*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* and *Magnificat*, Schubert's *Mass in G*, and David McCullough's *Holocaust Cantata*. He has appeared recently with Bluefield College's *Variations* ensemble, the Bay Chorale and the Saginaw Valley State University Choir and Orchestra, the New River Valley Symphony Orchestra and Virginia Tech Choirs and the Blacksburg Master Chorale and Orchestra. He has given recitals in Virginia, Washington, Idaho, Kansas, New York, San Francisco and Michigan, and has participated in the Ann Arbor Festival of Song.

From 2004-2006 Dr. Sipes was a Visiting Lecturer in Music at the University of Idaho's Lionel Hampton School of Music, where he taught applied voice, vocal literature, operatic literature and lyric diction. Dr. Sipes has also taught at Central College of Kansas, Concordia University-Ann Arbor and Spring Arbor University.

Before beginning his academic career Dr. Sipes was a church music director in churches in Kansas and Rochester, New York.

Dr. Sipes has recently premiered several new works. Two of these works were written expressly for Sipes' voice. "Soul" for baritone, computer and audience was written by Ico Bukvich in collaboration with Dr. Sipes and was most recently performed at the National Convention of the College Music Society. "Three Songs for a Wedding," settings of English translations of Pablo Neruda sonnets by Manly Romero, was premiered in December 2008 in Virginia and then again in April 2009 at the University of the Streets in New York City. A Niles Research Grant from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia Tech covered expenses related to the commissioning of "Three Songs for a Wedding." Dr. Sipes also recently premiered a song cycle by Kent Holliday entitled "Seasonal Sketches." ■



Lisa Withers is associate professor of piano and music at Emory & Henry College. She has served as music department chair at E&H for six years and is currently enjoying a year long sabbatical for research and practice. She received an Appalachian College Association Fellowship to study the works of Amy Beach, Ruth Crawford Seeger, and Libby Larsen. In addition to her regular performances as a solo and collaborative pianist, Lisa serves as president-elect of VMTA and is secretary/treasurer of the BRMTA. Lisa holds degrees from Alderson-Broadus College (Philippi, WV), the University of Michigan, and West Virginia University. Her research interests include French piano repertoire from the early twentieth century, American women composers, and interdisciplinary connections between literature and music. ■

Thomas Albert has been an active composer for more than four decades; his music has been performed throughout the United States as well as in Europe, Brazil, Japan and Korea. He received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for *Lizbeth*, a one-act music drama, which was a finalist in the National Opera Association's Chamber Opera Competition. Two of his works, *A Maze (With Grace)*, and *Devil's Rain*, are included on the CD, *On Edge*, by the Philadelphia new music ensemble, Relâche; the group's version of *Devil's Rain* was developed with the composer during a joint residency at the Charles Ives Center for American Music.

His music has been described as "absolutely stunning" (*The Washington Post*), "transporting and exquisite" (*Pittsburgh Post Gazette*) and "fanciful, glistening and sparky" (*Plain Dealer*). His best-known work, *Thirteen Ways*, was the first commission offered by the Grammy-winning ensemble, eighth blackbird. The piece is based on Wallace Stevens' poem, "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird," from which the ensemble derived its name and is the title work of their premier recording for Cedille Records, *Thirteen Ways*. Eighth blackbird also commissioned his incidental music for the Cincinnati College-Conservatory's production of *Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches*.

In 2006, the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble commissioned *Night Music* for its 30th anniversary season, and released a recording of the work a year later.

(continued on page 12)

2009 Conference: Registration

Please mail this registration with check for total amount no later than **October 1** to Tracy Cowden, VMTA Treasurer, 502 Mabry Lane, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Daily registration will also be available at the Conference.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

VMTA Member Student Member Non-Member First time attendee Will help monitor

I will need a parking pass for (check the days needed): Thursday Friday

Conference Registration Fee (VMTA Member \$30; Non-Member \$45; Daily \$20) _____

Thursday Executive Board Dinner (pay at restaurant) I will attend: Yes No

Friday luncheon for Council of Local Association Presidents (\$10-Box Lunch) \$ _____

Please check here if you require a vegetarian option:

Saturday Banquet Buffet at the Old Dominion Ballroom, Virginia Tech: \$24.50 \$ _____

Total amount of your check payable to VMTA \$ _____

(Keep copy for your records)

THE OCTOBER 1 DEADLINE WILL BE STRICTLY FOLLOWED

The Hampton Inn

380 Arbor Drive
Christiansburg, VA 24073
(540) 381-5874

Convention Rate: \$75 + 10% tax if reservations are made by **October 5, 2009**. When making your reservation, please ask for the VA Music Teachers Association block. Each room has 2 double beds and is equipped with iron and ironing board, hair dryer, cable television. A fitness center is available. Parking is free. Continental breakfast is provided. Virginia Tech is approximately a 15 minute drive from the hotel.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Arrival date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Guarantee by Check (enclosed) or Credit Card

Card No. _____ Exp. _____ Signature _____

2009 Conference: Directions & Parking

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO THE HOTEL

Directions to the Hampton Inn Christiansburg/Blacksburg from Interstate I-81:

- Take exit **118B** towards Blacksburg.
- Follow the **460 Bypass West** for approximately 3 miles.
- Take the **Peppers Ferry Road Exit**.
- Bear **right** off the exit.
- Take a **right** at the first light onto Arbor Drive.
- The hotel is on the right.
- Our address is 380 Arbor Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073.
- Our phone number is 540-381-5874. ■

PARKING AT VIRGINIA TECH

It will be necessary to have a visitor's parking permit for everyone who drives a vehicle onto the campus. This includes judges for the competitions, the competitors, and all attendees, those who pre-register as well as those who register at the conference. Be sure to indicate on the registration form which days you will need to park your vehicle on campus by checking the day/days needed. We need to know exactly how many passes to obtain from the school. There is also metered parking on campus. However, you must still pay the parking meter (even though you have a parking pass) if you chose to use the metered parking.

Parking permits will be handed out at the Virginia Tech Visitor's Center, which opens at 8:00 o'clock each morning. If you need to be on campus before the Visitor's Center opens, please make arrangements with Tracy Cowden (tcowden@vt.edu) or Wanda Hall (wmhstudio@charter.net) so that you may get your parking permit the day before.

Directions to the Visitor's Center from the hotel:

From Hampton Inn, turn left onto Arbor Drive. This becomes Drieling Drive. Turn left onto Pepper's Ferry Road (114). Take 460 West until you reach the traffic light at Southgate Drive. Turn right onto Southgate Dr., and stop at the Visitor's Center on the right. From there, you will receive a Visitor's Permit and directions to the available parking areas near the Squires Student Center. You may park in the Shultz Lot, along the Alumni Mall (but you must pay for a metered parking spot, even with the Visitor's Permit!), the Squires Lot, the Architecture Annex Lot, or any other parking area designated faculty/staff/visitor.

The following websites have maps of Blacksburg and of Virginia Tech. Please look at them before the conference to help familiarize you with the parking areas: www.parking.vt.edu/lotmap.htm and www.bev.net/visitors/map.php. ■

Certification Profile: Lai-Lan Ko

by Anne James, NCTM



Chantilly piano teacher Lai-Lan Ko began her teaching career in her native Hong Kong, where she participated in the Royal Board of London examination system. Since her immigration to the U.S. in 1994 she has continued her affiliation with the Royal Board at its examination center in Northern Virginia. The yearly examinations take place after Thanksgiving. Lai-Lan's elaborate annual recital is scheduled for the last Sunday in January, after the results of the examinations have been received. This event, lasting about 3 1/2 hours, is a very formal performance with a program in both English and Chinese.

As part of the recital Lai-Lan invites one MTNA member to serve as judge, with awards of 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each level, beginner, intermediate and advanced. There are also trophies for 1st through 12th place in the duet category, to be engraved after the event. Each student plays solos as well as duets with siblings or other partners. Graduating seniors each play a concerto at two pianos, and there is special music performed. Certificates from the various Royal Board examination levels are presented.

In addition to the solos and duets, former students are invited to perform. Awards are given for theory, Junior Festival, and participation in VFMC's Mary Smart Competition. This year one of Lai-Lan's students won 3rd place in the state competition. Weekly lesson grades based on practice, accuracy in performance and careful theory preparation are added together and an award is given to the student with the most 100's. There is a graduation ceremony for the diploma students in which they receive their Royal Board certificates and the students and their parents both talk about what their experiences in music study have meant. After photos a big reception of Chinese food is the culmination of this event, which is recorded so each family can later receive a CD.

Recently certified by portfolio, Lai-Lan received an Associate Degree in 2002 from Northern Virginia Community College and is a piano student of Joanne Haroutounian as she pursues a Bachelor's degree at George Mason University. She attends GMU's piano pedagogy seminar every summer, has participated in the piano pedagogy sessions at the National Piano Conference in Canada, and will be present at this year's Piano Pedagogy Conference in Chicago. As an NVMTA member she has worked on the Sonata Festival and VMSC's Spring Festival. Her students do community service twice a year, in May and at Christmas, for a nursing home in Annandale. ■

MINUTES

VIRGINIA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION GENERAL BOARD MEETING • JUNE 6, 2009

Westminster Canterbury of the Blue Ridge, Charlottesville, VA

Submitted by Sarah Reaser O'Brien, Secretary

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dee Booth, Fay Barss, Kama Miller, Geraldine Seibert, Ellis Dunton, Melissa Marren, Vernon McCart, Patricia Daugherty, James Litzelman, Corky Sablinsky, Galla Matekova, Tracy Cowden, Martha Smith, Denise Adkins, Betty Ann Spiers, and Sarah O'Brien.

CALL TO ORDER

The General Board meeting was called to order by Vice President Denise Adkins at 11:06 a.m.

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the General Board meeting of November 6, 2008, as printed. Betty Ann Spiers made one correction: the word "minutes" should be replaced with "bylaws" in the Parliamentarian's report. The corrected minutes were approved.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Debra Gunnerson was not present due to illness.

President-Elect Lisa Withers was not present. Her report was read by Martha Smith. Fall Conference will be at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, and Tracy Cowden will be the on-site coordinator. John Salmon will be the conference artist; Christine Kefferstan will present a session on reinvigorating and refreshing techniques for teachers; Gail Berenson will discuss nurturing students & 21st century teaching advances; Gary Ingle will give the keynote address at banquet; Tracy Cowden and Lisa Withers will also be presenting. Details will be posted on the website soon.

Vice President/Membership Chair Denise Adkins reported that we have 91 new members and 27 reinstated former members. There are 755 active members, 135 senior members, 23 student members, and 1 star member. Total membership is 914, which is 22 less than last year's sum. This is the first year in several years that membership has been down, and this may be due to the economy.

Secretary Sarah O'Brien. No report.

Treasurer Tracy Cowden distributed copies of the Income/Expense Report reflecting activity since February.

Certification Chair Martha Smith reported that we have two new certified members: Lisa Powell Carter (Piano) and Lai-Lan Ko (Piano). Martha administered two certification exams this past week. She announced a new face of certification which includes these features: 1) A streamlined process, and 2) Renewals on an annual basis once your current renewal comes up. Annual renewals will cost \$15 per year instead of the former \$75 every 5 years. Members wishing to obtain certification via the old method(s) must do so by December 31, 2009.

Local Associations Chair Galla Matekova reported that she has reminded all of the local presidents of the spring and fall conferences, and notified them that Tracy Cowden is the new treasurer.

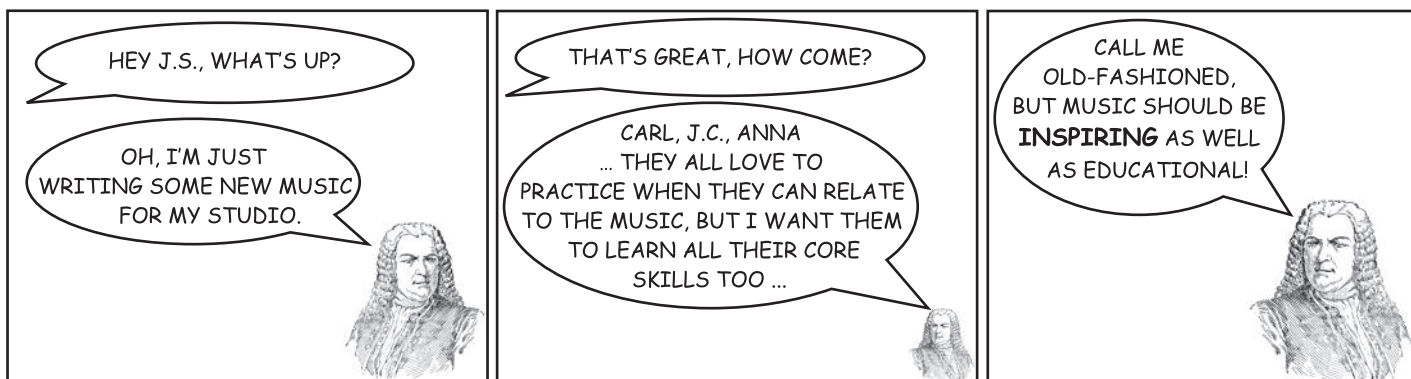
NEW BUSINESS

1. The Executive Committee made a recommendation to keep District auditions open only to pianists, and to encourage single-line instrumentalists to enter the MTNA competitions. After a discussion that included recommendations such as allowing single-line district winners to perform in the State recital, and allowing district winners to be declared state winners in cases where there are no additional single-line competitors at the State level, the Executive Committee recommendation did not pass. Fay Barss moved that if there is a single competitor in a non-piano category in a district, there can be a local judge to decide if that student should be sent to the State to perform in the winners' recital. The motion passed.
2. Melissa Marrion moved that the yearbook should state that competitors in non-piano categories are not required to memorize for State competitions and festivals. The motion passed.
3. Nominating Committee Chair Fay Barss presented a new slate of officers for the term beginning December 1, 2009 and ending November 31, 2011: President: Lisa Withers, President-elect: Gabriella Ryan, Vice-President: Denise Adkins, Secretary: Sarah Reaser O'Brien, and Treasurer: Tracy Cowden.

(continued on page 9)

The Novus Via

CN/SMS



Minutes... (continued from page 8)

REPORTS FROM LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

The following associations presented reports.
Blue Ridge (Lisa Withers, Pres., read by Tracy Cowden)
Central Virginia (Dee Booth, Pres.)
Charlottesville (Patricia Dougherty, Co-Pres.)
Harrisonburg (Kama Miller, Pres.)
Highlands (Sonya Ho, Pres., read by Tracy Cowden)
Northern Virginia (James Litzelman, Pres.)
Peninsula (Samantha Luck, Pres.) No report.
Piedmont (Mary Helen Cameron, Pres.) No report.
Richmond (Ellis Dunton, president)
Roanoke Valley (Lynne Kessler, Pres., read by Sarah Reaser O'Brien)
Shenandoah (Lee Ann Dransfield, Pres.) no report.
Tidewater (Josephine Jones, Pres., read by Vernon McCart)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Deadline for submitting reports and articles to Jeanette Winsor for *NewsNotes* is July 15, 2009.
2. Southern Division Competitions, January 15-18, 2010, Samford University, Birmingham, AL
3. MTNA Conference, March 20–March 24, 2010, Albuquerque, NM
4. VMTA 2009 Fall Conference—Virginia Tech, Nov. 5–8
5. MTNA Health and Medical Insurance, check www.mtna.org for information
6. Deadline for yearbook submissions: July 1, 2009
7. Commissioned Composer: Thomas Albert, Winchester, VA
8. Search for a VMTA Collaborative Chair: Tracy Cowden volunteered
9. Dee Booth shared CVMTA's findings on filing with the IRS with non-profit status. Marge Bengle at MTNA said that local chapters must use the MTNA EIN if they are going to file as non-profits under the MTNA umbrella.

REPORTS ON FILE

Blue Ridge, Central Virginia, Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Highlands, Northern Virginia, Richmond, Roanoke Valley, Tidewater, Chair for Local Associations, Central District Auditions, District Auditions, Eastern Division Auditions, Valley District Auditions, Membership, Nominating Committee, President-Elect, Sightreading tests, Treasurer.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:26 pm. ■

VMTA Fall Festivals

Debbie Sacra, VMTA Fall Festival Coordinator



It's time again for the Fall Festival! Encouraging your students to participate is a great way to get them off to a fast start this fall. In Lynchburg, Richmond, Roanoke, and Winchester, the festival will take place Saturday, November 21, 2009. In Northern Virginia, the festival will take place Saturday, November 14, 2009. See below for the postmark deadline and chairman for each location. No late applications will be accepted.

You may enter students in piano, piano duets, organ, strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, classical guitar, accordion, or voice. Students must play one piece from the Contemporary Period containing at least one contemporary idiom. The second piece must be chosen from any historical period other than the Contemporary Period. In certain localities, pieces which are traditionally composed (perhaps from a method book) are accepted for the non-Contemporary piece, but only for beginning students. Please check with your local Fall Festival Chairman concerning this. Both pieces must be memorized. There are only two exceptions to this rule: 1) students in Levels III or IV who play an avant garde piece may use their music if this has been cleared by the local chairman prior to the registration deadline or 2) entries in piano duet or organ. No photocopied music is allowed. Only originally composed music is accepted, no simplifications or popular music.

Festivals will be held in the following locations with these postmark deadline dates:

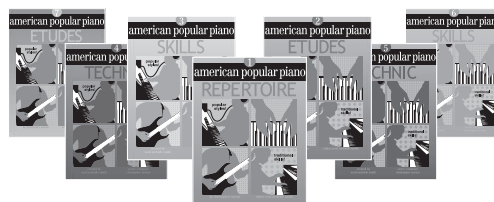
- **Lynchburg (CVMTA):** November 2; Beverly Henkel, Chairman; place TBA.
- **Northern Virginia:** October 2; Laura Marchisotto Bogart and Martha Smith, Chairmen; held at Cherrydale United Methodist Church, Arlington, VA.
- **Richmond:** October 19; Deborah Martin and Lynn Redford, Chairmen; held at the University of Richmond, Modlin Center.
- **Roanoke:** October 9; Peggy Schaaf, Chairman; held at Hollins University.
- **Winchester (Shenandoah):** November 6; Karen Colley, Chairman; held at Shenandoah University, Chapel. ■

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Reports

VMTA MEMBERSHIP REPORT JUNE 6, 2009

Denise Adkins, Membership Chair

VMTA welcomed 91 new members and reinstated 27 former members. We have 755 active members, 135 senior members, 23 student members and 1 star member. Our membership is 22 less than last year's membership. The total membership is 914. ■

VMTA CHAIR FOR LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS 2009 SPRING CONFERENCE REPORT

Galla Matekova, State Chair for Local Associations

The VMTA State Chair for Local Associations served this year as a bridge between local association presidents with MTNA headquarters and established close communications with State president. All e-mails from MTNA headquarters were forwarded to all local presidents plus state president, like "Building Bridges" the first student's artwork, "Best Communities for Music Education," MTNA Independent Music Teacher Top Issues Project (survey). There have been reminders of the MTNA National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, and Spring Conference in Charlottesville, also election of a new VMTA Treasurer.

Local Presidents will be submitting their annual reports at the Spring Conference on June 6, 2009. They will be updated on any proceedings from the executive meeting of the day. ■

MTNA COMPOSITION COMPETITION

Libby McConnell, MTNA Student Composition Chairman

It's time to think about composing for the MTNA Composition Competition. Registration begins online at www.mtna.org in August. The online application and four copies of the score must be postmarked by midnight September 15, 2009.

Entrant Information:

- A student may submit only one entry.
- A student may enter the competitions in only one state.
- Only one student per entry is allowed.

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- Competition financial obligations are the responsibility of the entrant.

Teachers: Current active membership dues for MTNA must be paid on or before August 31, 2009. *Nonmembers have the option of becoming a member of MTNA or paying a Teacher Entry Fee of \$150.

Complete submission requirements can be found on the MTNA website at www.mtna.org. Click on Competitions from the Programs column, then choose Composition.

Have questions about requirements? Contact the Virginia state chairperson, Libby McConnell at clayandlibby@comcast.net or 703-444-2669.

Mail entries to Libby McConnell at:
1220 Bishopsgate Way
Reston, VA 20194

NORTHERN DISTRICT AUDITION RESULTS

Lori Santos, Northern District Auditions Chairman

Level IA	Student	Teacher
First Place	Rena Cai	Jun Yang
First Place Alternate	Bookyung Shin	Marjorie Lee
Second Place	Maggie Chen	Nancy Breth
Third Place	Anthea Li	James Litzelman
Honorable Mention	Yukinori Kinoshita	Yoshinori Hosaka
Honorable Mention	Jenny Tan	Jun Yang

Level IB	Student	Teacher
First Place	Elizabeth Hu	Marjorie Lee
First Place Alternate	Alec Zhang	Rosita Mang
Second Place	Lyric Yu	Marjorie Lee
Third Place	Jessica Ding	Marjorie Lee
Honorable Mention	Ian Cabacungan	Marjorie Lee
Honorable Mention	Virginia Sun	Nancy Breth

Level II	Student	Teacher
First Place	Clara Guo	Rosita Mang
First Place Alternate	Crystal Luo	James Litzelman
Second Place	Bryan Ho	Marjorie Lee
Third Place	Rachel Chon	Narciso Solero
Honorable Mention	Max Hou	Marjorie Lee

Level III	Student	Teacher
First Place	Michelle Papenfuss	Yoshinori Hosaka
First Place Alternate	Antonia Stabile	Nancy Breth
Second Place	Niki Hua	Nancy Breth
Third Place	Elaine Chen	Rosita Mang
Honorable Mention	Amber Lee	Haewon Moon

(continued on page 11)

Reports... (continued from page 10)

CENTRAL DISTRICT AUDITIONS 2009

Jennifer Scott, Chairman

The Piano Auditions for Central District took place on Saturday, May 16, 2009 in Perkinson Recital Hall, University of Richmond. Twenty-six piano students representing fourteen teachers participated. The judges were Jeanette Winsor, Gary Mullenax, and Dr. Lisa Kinzer.

The winners of the piano competition are as follows:

Level IA	Student	Teacher
First Place	Lynne Bai	Natalya Vornovitsky
Alternate	Lisa Qin	Dr. Paul Hanson

Level 1B	Student	Teacher
First Place	Lora You	Kim Cho
Alternate	Yilong Peng	Kim Cho
Second Place	David Qin	Dr. Paul Hanson
Third Place	Ketty Bai	Ming Lu

Level II	Student	Teacher
First Place	Elizabeth Bell	Ruta Smedina-Starke
Alternate	Eison De Guzman	Dr. Paul Hanson
Second Place	Devin Li	Dr. Paul Hanson
Third Place	Elena Zhou	Debby Lamb

Level III	Student	Teacher
First Place	Matthew Thurber	Dr. Paul Hanson
Alternate	John Weisiger	Hope Armstrong Erb
Honorable Mention	Ruthie Chen	Kim Cho

The Voice Audition for Central District took place on Saturday, May 16, 2009. There was one student and the judge was Rachel Goldenberg.

The winner is as follows:

Level III	Student	Teacher
First Place	Danielle Ashjian	Hope Armstrong Erb

The String Audition for Central District took place on Saturday, May 16, 2009. There was one student and the judge was Anne Bakker.

The winner is as follows:

Level III	Student	Teacher
First Place	Niccolo Seligmann	Teresa Bjornes

COMMISSIONED COMPOSER

David Shaffer-Gottschalk

Congratulations to composer **Thomas Albert** of Winchester. He has been selected to receive the commission for a new work in the 2008–2009 Virginia Music Teachers Association/Music Teachers National Association Composer Commissioning Program. Dr. Albert's entry was one of seven entries from throughout Virginia. Judges for the competition were Kent Holliday of Blacksburg, Geraldine Boone of Chesapeake, and James Wiznerowicz of Richmond. Dr. Albert's new composition will receive its premiere at the 2009 VMTA Fall Conference. See his biography under *Conference Artists & Clinicians* on page 5. ■

VMTA KEYBOARD SKILLS TEST REPORT

Lynn Kleisler, NCTM, Chairman

Four local chapters of the Virginia Music Teachers Association participated in the Keyboard Skills Test for the 2008/2009 school year. A total of 170 students representing teachers participated.

Many thanks to the local chairmen for their work this year and also to all the teachers who participated!

The results of the testing for each chapter are listed below:

Chapters	No. Students							No. Teachers Participated
	Participated	Sup.	Ex.	VG	Good	Poor	Fail	
Tidewater	92	58	29	5	0	0	0	12
Northern	57	29	20	6	2	0	0	21
Richmond	14	4	6	3	1	0	0	3
Central	7	4	3	0	0	0	0	3

Teachers should be using the 2002 revised Keyboard Skills Syllabus. If you are interested in a copy of the syllabus, you can either obtain one from your local chairman or me. The cost of the syllabus is \$10 and should be made payable to VMTA. The state is working towards a revision. ■

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2009 Conference: Artists & Clinicians *(continued from page 5)*

Other recent commissions include *Illuminations* and *The Devil's Handyman* for the 21st Century Consort, *Anonymous Fame* for the Washington Saxophone Quartet, and *Ave Maris Stella* for the Shenandoah Conservatory Choir's 2001 European tour. *O Magnum Mysterium*, for treble choir and organ, was commissioned by the Virginia Music Teachers' Association in 2003.

Albert is Professor of Music and holds the Harold Herman Chair in Musical Theatre at Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, Virginia, where he teaches composition and musical theatre. He has served as music director and conductor for more than 100 musicals and revues and has composed incidental music for several Shenandoah productions including *The Cau-*

casian Chalk Circle, *The Lark*, *The Crucible*, *Dark of the Moon*, and *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*. His arrangements and orchestrations of theatre music include the recent Shenandoah production of Stephen Schwartz's *The Baker's Wife*, and, for eighth blackbird, a thirty-minute set of songs by Stephen Sondheim for Chicago's summer 2006 *Sondheim in the Park* festival.

Thomas Albert was born in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. He was educated at Barton College and the University of Illinois. His principal composition teachers were William Duckworth, Paul Martin Zonn and Ben Johnson. He is a member of the Southeastern Theatre Conference, Musical Theatre Educators Alliance and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. ■

MTNA Conference Highlights • Atlanta 2009 by Martha Smith



Kimberly Hou, winner of MTNA Junior Piano National Competition, and her parents



Corky Sablinsky, 2009 MTNA Foundation Fellow

Virginia Music Teachers Association

Jeanette Winsor, NCTM, *NewsNotes* Editor
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