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President's Notes

Dr. Lisa Withers, VMTA State President

Greetings, VMTA members! I hope that your holidays and New Year celebrations were filled with good health, family, and friends. Now, it is time to start dreaming of spring (especially with the recent weeks of constant winter weather). As I write this President's Note, I am listening to Schubert's setting of "Frühlingslaube" by Ludwig Uhland. My favorite lines translate as follows: "The world becomes more beautiful with each day/One does not know what may yet happen/The blooming doesn't want to end." What a beautiful sentiment! My wish for each of you this spring is that your studios and personal lives are filled with the possibilities inherent in each relationship and each bright new day. I imagine that our students will surprise us, as they always do, with undiscovered insights and musical connections.

Before we look ahead to next year's VMTA Fall Conference (October 27–30, 2011) at Virginia Commonwealth University, let's take a moment to thank our colleagues at James Madison University and our wonderful President-Elect, Gabriella Ryan, for a spectacular 2010 Fall Conference held jointly with our neighbors in WVMTA. What a wonderful weekend that was for renewing friendships and professional connections, as well as celebrating student and teacher talent in our state. I hope that many of you are planning to join me in attendance at the MTNA National Conference in Milwaukee, WI on March 26–30, 2011. We will want to cheer on our own National Finalist in the Junior Woodwind Competition, Alison Dettmer! She and her teacher, Jennifer Lapple, should be congratulated for their hard work and wonderful representation of our state in the Southern Division Competitions this past January in Columbus, GA.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon and will hopefully "hear" your thoughts during our June 4 Spring Teleconference. Be on the lookout for details about calling in to that conference!! ■

YEAR OF COLLABORATIVE MUSIC

Tracy Cowden, Collaborative Chair for VMTA



As we conclude the Year of Collaborative Music at the MTNA National Conference in Milwaukee this March, I would love to hear from VMTA members about the events that you participated in this past year to celebrate collaborative music-making. Did you hold an event on January 22, 2011, the International Day of Collaborative Music? Please send details to me at tcowden@vt.edu, and I will include this in the next issue of *NewsNotes*. ■

VMTA 2010 FALL CONFERENCE

Martha Smith, NCTM, Certification Chairman

VMTA and WVMTA presented a wonderful, stimulating collaborative conference November 11–14, 2010. Check out Gabriella Ryan's report and more conference photographs on page 10.



Wilson Hall, James Madison University

MARTHA SMITH

MINUTES

VMTA GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2010 – 1:00 PM MUSIC BUILDING, ROOM 142 JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

Sarah Reaser O'Brien, Secretary

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tracy Cowden, Gabriella Ryan, Betty Ann Spiers, Lisa A. Withers, Sarah O'Brien, Sharron Whealton, Kim Peachy, Samantha R. Luck, Galla Matekova, Myrenna Kickasola, Suzanne Guy, Bittsy Hall, Lynne S. Kessler, Catherine Valley, Roma Scriven, Denise Adkins, Sharon Stewart, Anne James, Ellis Dunton, Lisa Stogoski, Trish Dougherty, Wanda Hall, Donna Halleck, Susan Atkins, Julie Slingerland, Martha K. Smith, Joan Moore, Virginia Moore, and Debra Gunnerson.

CALL TO ORDER

President Lisa Withers called the general business meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Martha Smith moved to accept the minutes from the June 5, 2010, Administrative Board Teleconference as printed in *News-Notes*. The motion was seconded and passed.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

President Lisa Withers

1. Southern Division Conference/Competitions will be held from January 14–17, 2011, at Columbus State University in Columbus, GA.
2. MTNA Leadership Summit has been reorganized to occur during the MTNA National Conference in Milwaukee, WI, on Monday, March 28, from 1:00 PM–5:30 PM at the Frontier Airlines Center. Local Association and State Association Presidents are invited.
3. MTNA National Conference will be held March 26–30, 2011, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
4. Award Possibilities include: State Affiliate of the Year, MTNA Teacher of the Year, Collegiate Chapter of the Year, Local Association of the Year. All deadlines are December 1 (except for the Collegiate Chapter of the Year, which is February 1).
5. Nominations for Foundation Fellows can be accepted anytime.

President Withers encourages local chapters to make nominations for Teacher of the Year.

President-Elect Gabriella Ryan reported that 118 people were registered for the Fall Conference. 28 of these are from West Virginia. This may be a record high. She credited Martha Smith for the idea of sending web fliers to membership to generate

(continued on page 3)



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Minutes... (continued from page 2)

interest. Ad sales yielded \$1700, and Kim Peachy is credited with soliciting these. There were some workshops scheduled simultaneously, so attendees had more than one option. There was a reception for Barbara Nissman following her recital. Because Ms. Nissman is a Steinway Artist, Steinway gave us \$500 to assist with the reception. The Banquet was held in the Montpelier Room in the East Campus Dining Hall. There were 12 vendors at this conference. We made a small amount of money from them. There have been a few unusual expenses, such as an Internet Wireless fee (\$100), a fee for table skirts, and balloons and flowers for the stage (\$200). President-Elect Ryan pointed out that a joint conference does result in extra work in the areas of double-checking to verify decisions are acceptable to both states and accounting. West Virginia is sharing expenses with us. They are paying half of the Steinway artist fee of \$3000, and 27% of other costs that affect them. Next year's conference may be at VCU, William and Mary, or GMU. We will know soon.

Vice President/Membership Chair Denise Adkins reported that as of October 31, 2010, VMTA membership has 75 new members, 18 reinstated members, and 9 members by transfer. Membership includes 730 active members, 136 senior members, and 17 student members for a total of 883. This is 12 greater than at this time last year.

Treasurer Tracy Cowden reported that our checking account balance is \$10,925, and we have Certificates of Deposit totaling \$29,567. The interest rate on our CDs is very low, and she believes it would be smart to invest funds from maturing certificates in a money market account. Our biggest budget shortfalls each year occur in Fall Conference, MTNA Competitions, *Yearbook/NewsNotes*, and District/State Auditions. The treasurer's complete report and budget were distributed in handouts and are attached to the minutes.

Certification Chair Martha Smith. The rebate program seems to be working well. VMTA refunds \$100 of the certification application fee to newly certified members, and we have five of these: Jeri Bennett, Peggy Newhall, Linda Gutterman, and Jim Litzelman from NVMTA, as well as David Shaffer-Gottschalk from Virginia State University.

VMTA Concerto Competition Chair Wanda Hall reported that next concerto competition will take place on May 21, 2011, at Shenandoah University.

Theory Chairman Virginia Moore reported that there are a few pages missing on the website syllabi. She says that this issue has yet to be resolved, but it should be fixed by Christmas time. She brought copies of the missing pages for members who need them. The total number of participants in the Theory Test statewide was 1,168. Chapter participation was as follows:

Central Virginia (Samuel Wellman, Chair): 20
Charlottesville (Gayle Brubaker, Chair): 20
Harrisonburg (Kama Miller, Chair): 17

Northern Virginia (René Johnson/Virginia Moore, Co-Chairs): 457
Peninsula (Jolanta Szewczyk, Chair): 67
Piedmont (Mary Helen Cameron, Chair): 1
Richmond (Sharon Stewart/Gabriella Ryan, Co-Chairs): 123
Roanoke Valley (Roma Scriven, Chair): 143
Shenandoah (Judy Connelly, Chair): 31
Tidewater (Marilyn Forman, Chair): 289

Galla Matekova announced the newly elected local association presidents. They are:


Central Virginia: Patricia Jo Webb
Charlottesville: Lisa Stogoski and Patricia Dougherty
Highlands: Mary Louise Hallauer
Harrisonburg: Paulo Steinberg

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. The Executive Board recommended changing the bylaws language to allow for Spring Teleconferences. Betty Ann Spiers read a condensed version Article 7, page 10, Section 3, with sentences 3 & 4 revised to be replaced as follows:

"These meetings and other communications may be conducted by any means of communication that is considered appropriate and efficient, such as electronic mail or teleconference. The results of such meetings must be recorded by the secretary and incorporated in the minutes. Such means of communication are also permissible for the Administrative Board."

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Certification Profile: Peggy Newhall

by Anne James, NCTM



“I enjoy my students very much. I share my love of life and learning as well as my love of music. I want them to experience music as a powerful tool for creative emotional expression and have the joy of sharing music with others.” This enthusiasm led Annandale piano teacher Peggy Newhall to become certified in 2009. As part of her portfolio she developed a two-week course for special needs students. “I liked the challenge of it and I wanted to inspire my students to set goals and meet them.”

After a B.S. in Music Education at Longwood, Peggy Newhall began a career as a 4th- and 5th-grade teacher in Fairfax County. Only when she retired did she devote herself full time to piano teaching. At present she has seventeen students, mostly in middle school and high school. She takes every opportunity to go to workshops and seminars and often attends the MTNA Conference. She is Fairfax County MusicLink Coordinator for NVMTA and has served as both Secretary and Treasurer of the Springfield Music Club.

“I like to do a special emphasis to keep the students interested.” Sometimes it is a sight-reading challenge, or perhaps a one-minute club. One-minute clubs could be for key signatures or note recognition, for example. Upon successful completion of the task, the student has her picture taken and it is posted in the studio.

Collaborative playing is important in Newhall’s studio. At the spring recital each student plays with another musician. Some of her students play a second instrument or have a family member who does. One student wrote and performed an arrangement of the Pachelbel Canon in D for guitar and piano. Others formed chamber ensembles. Twice a year the students play at retirement homes, and they are encouraged to accompany at school and to play at church.

For one of Peggy Newhall’s studio challenges the students had to play ten scale routines, at least four of which had to be minor. The reward for completing the challenge was a T-shirt with the studio logo on the front and a quotation chosen by the students on the back. The vote was close but the winning citation from Rachmaninoff sums up her philosophy: “Music is enough for a lifetime, but a lifetime is not enough for music.” ■

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Reports

RESOLVED FOR 2011: GAIN NATIONAL CERTIFICATION

Martha Smith, VMTA Certification Chair

As we contemplate where we are and how we might improve ourselves, why not make a commitment to yourself to start (and complete!) the process of becoming a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music through MTNA? It won't take long to realize such benefits as:

- Knowing yourself better as a teacher and musician because you have taken the time to hone your teaching philosophy
- Polishing your knowledge of music theory, history, and form and analysis
- Possessing a clearer vision of your strengths and weaknesses in guiding a student through the process of mastering a piece of music
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- Successfully expanding your own performance repertoire
- Improving your skill in communicating with your students, their families and your professional colleagues
- Rejoicing with students and families who are pleased to have been part of the process and very proud that they study with a nationally recognized professional educator

Any one of these is good and worthwhile, and going through the whole process is a truly rewarding experience. Infor-

mation on the certification process is found on the MTNA Certification website at <http://www.mtnacertification.org/>

If you need help getting started, contact your local association's Certification Chair. I wish you the best in your endeavor! ■

STATE CHAIR FOR LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Galla Matekova, State Chair for Local Associations

Virginia Music Teachers Association Fall Conference, 2010

The VMTA local association presidents met on Friday, November 12, 2010 for their annual meeting during VMTA Collaborative Fall Conference at James Madison University.

VMTA has 12 chapters, eight presidents and two representatives were present from Blue Ridge, Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Highlands, Northern Virginia, Richmond, Roanoke Valley and Tidewater.

After introductions presidents were presenting chapter plans for the 2010/2011 school year and exchanging yearbooks, except Northern Virginia chapter provided the web side www.nvmta.org, they no longer has a printed year book. Chairman announces to Local Presidents corrections in the year book of the newly elected Local presidents names and about Spring Teleconference in June 4, 2011. It was a reminder of deadline January 15, 2011 for submitting chapter reports electronically to NewsNotes Editor.

(continued on page 7)



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Reports... (continued from page 5)

VMTA President Lisa Withers announced to chapter presidents to present a 2010 MTNA Foundation Fund Fellow nominee, also nominee for the Chapter of the year and nominee for Teacher of the year, it was also recommendations from VMTA Executive Board to Change bylaws language to allow for spring teleconferences, Increase District Audition fees, Change language in State yearbook (General Regulation) regarding photocopying. ■

VMTA STATE PIANO COMPETITION RESULTS

Ann Bosch, Chair, VMTA State Piano Auditions

Level IA	Student	Teacher
1st place	Lisa Qin	Paul Hanson
2nd place	Annie Wang	Jolanta Szewczyk
3rd place	Christopher Papenfuss	Yoshinori Hosaka
Honorable Mention	Nathan Wu	Ruta Smedina Starke
Honorable Mention	Stephanie Draughon	Jun Yang
Honorable Mention	Michelle Yue	Josephine Jones

Level 1B	Student	Teacher
1st place	Elizabeth Hu	Marjorie Lee
2nd place	Jeison De Guzman	Paul Hanson

Level 2	Student	Teacher
1st place	Bryan Ho	Marjorie Lee
2nd place	David Qin	Paul Hanson
3rd place	Shelby Cuthriell	Susan Grice

Level 3	Student	Teacher
1st place	Sarah Barham	Rosita Mang
2nd place	Kazune Kitani	David Kosutic
3rd place	Daniel Leibovic	Joanne Kong
Honorable Mention	Eison De Guzman	Paul Hanson

Judges: Christine Watson, David Phillips, Elizabeth Caluda, Fay Bars, Patricia Brady, Nitza Kats. ■

2011 VMTA CONCERTO COMPETITION

Wanda Hall, Chairman

The 2011 VMTA Concerto Competition will be held at Shenandoah University in Winchester on Saturday, May 21, 2011. See the VMTA Website for details. ■

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COMMISSIONED COMPOSER COMPETITION WINNER

David Shaffer-Gottschalk, Chairman

Congratulations to composer Greg Bowers of Williamsburg. He has been selected to receive the commission for a new work in the 2010–2011 Virginia Music Teachers Association/Music Teachers National Association Composer Commissioning Program. Dr. Bower's entry was one of eight entries from throughout Virginia. Judges for the competition were Kent Holliday of Blacksburg, Richard Schwartz of Colonial Heights, and James Wiznerowicz of Richmond. Dr. Bowers's new composition will receive its premiere at the 2011 VMTA Fall Conference. ■



MARTHA SMITH

David Shaffer-Gottschalk, Virginia State University, VMTA Commissioned Composer Chairman, and Lisa Kinzer, Longwood College, at the 2010 Fall Conference at James Madison University.

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The James Madison University School of Music welcomes the first joint Fall Convention of the West Virginia and Virginia Music Teachers Association to the new Forbes Center for the Performing Arts, November 11-14, 2010. The JMU piano area is looking forward to the most exciting year in our history as we celebrate:

- The opening of the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts, including three major music performance venues - a 600 seat Concert Hall, a 200 seat Recital Hall, and a 475 seat Theatre for opera
- The first D.M.A. graduates in piano performance in the spring of 2011
- New Scholarship opportunities for undergraduate piano majors
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- A new Jordan-Kitts/Steinway Piano Concert Series featuring in 2010-11 Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz, Barbara Nissman, Menahem Pressler, Caroline Hong, and Alexandre Dossin
- JMU piano faculty concerts for the bi-centennials of Chopin and Schumann

PIANO FACULTY MEMBERS:

Gabriel Dobner: Associate Professor. B.M. Chicago Musical College of Roosevelt University, M.M. and D.M. from Indiana University
Lori Piitz: Assistant Professor. B.M. University of Ottawa, M.M. and D.M. from Indiana University
Eric Ruple: Professor and Steinway Artist. B.M., M.M. Arizona State University, Artist's Diploma the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and a D.M.A. from the University of Michigan
Paulo Steinberg: Assistant Professor. B.M. Universidade de São Paulo, Performer's Diploma from the Conservatório Musical Carlos Gomes, and a D.M. from Indiana University

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For information on the School of Music's Kennedy Center series, see www.jmu.edu/music/calendar/KennedyCenter.html

Minutes... (continued from page 3)

Betty Ann Spiers moved to accept the wording as read. The motion was seconded and passed.

2. The Executive Board recommended increasing the District Audition fees to \$25. The motion did not pass.
3. Martha Smith moved to decrease the number of judges at District Auditions from three to two. The motion was seconded and passed.
4. Julie Slingerland moved to make the decrease in judges effective in 2012. The motion was seconded and passed.
5. The Executive Board recommended changing the language in the yearbook under "General Regulations" regarding photocopying to match the wording from MTNA, which is: "All entrants and accompanists must abide by the federal Copyright Law. Photocopies are strongly discouraged. All scores must be submitted to competition officials prior to the entrant's performance." The motion was seconded and passed.
6. The Executive Committee made a recommendation to increase membership dues by \$10 in 2011–2012. Denise Adkins moved to amend the motion to apply only to Active Members. The motion to amend was seconded and passed. The amended motion did not pass. Virginia Moore moved to increase the dues for active members by \$5 for the year 2011–2012. The motion was seconded and passed.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Roma Scriven suggested allowing Christine Hermanson, developer of Music Learning Community (www.musiclearningcommunity.com), to purchase the VMTA Theory Test

Syllabus in order to correlate the activities and games on the website with the various levels of the VMTA State Theory Test. Roma believes that the Ohio Music Teachers Association has already done this. The Executive Board will discuss, via email, an appropriate fee for granting this permission.

2. MTNA Student Composition Competition: This year there was only one entry. Page 25 of the VMTA *Yearbook* lists the application fees for the four levels of this competition: Elementary, Junior, Senior, and Young Artist. The national composition chair has offered to attend one of our future conferences to speak about and generate interest in the composition competition. Within the VMTA membership, Natalie Steinbach was suggested as a good workshop leader on this topic.
3. Discussion about Commissioned Composer eligibility. Martha Smith presented a recommendation from David Shaffer-Gottschalk to implement a pilot program in 2012 wherein we would remove the minimum age requirement for the VMTA Commissioned Composer Competition. The general consensus was positive, so Gottschalk will be urged to enact the idea as a pilot for next year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. There will be a discussion about converting to an online yearbook during the Spring Teleconference.
2. Spring Teleconference is scheduled for June 4, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Withers adjourned the meeting at 2:17 p.m. ■



SAVE THE DATE!

VMTA FALL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 27 – 30, 2011

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

GUEST ARTIST: ANN SCHEIN

www.annschein.com





Dr. Scott Beard presented *Folk Elements in the Music of Frederic Chopin* at the 2010 Fall Conference at James Madison University.

MARTHA SMITH

VMTA 2010 FALL CONFERENCE

Gabriella Ryan, VMTA President-Elect

Thank you to all who helped to make the VMTA Fall Collaborative Conference such a huge success! VMTA doubled its attendance this year to a record number of 97 Virginia registrants! With the inclusion of West Virginia, our registration totaled 124.

The facilities at James Madison University were state-of-the-art at their newly built Forbes Center for the Performing Arts. There were 16 great workshops, 7 recitals and concerts, 2 master classes, and countless competitions to attend during the 4-day conference. Barbara Nissman, our guest artist, performed a powerful recital, including Liszt, Prokofiev, and Rachmaninoff major works. With such great stamina, she returned for an encore, saying, "I'm not tired if you're [the audience] not tired!" And there were so many piano competitors that the competitions had to run all day Thursday as well as Friday and Saturday!

Some other highlights included Tracy Cowden's piano performance of "Toccata Diabolica," written for her by our commissioned composer, Kent Holliday; the Opening Ceremonies Collaborative Concert, with 13 Virginia and West Virginia performers amidst a stage of flowers and balloons; the amazing VMTA Winners' Recital featuring our state's best students; the students who won the concerto competition in performance with the JMU Orchestra; and Lori Piitz' performance of the new concerto written by John Hilliard. This does not even mention all the wonderful workshops like Scott Beard's "Slavic Soul of Chopin," which got all the teachers in the room dancing the Mazurka!

Thanks to the JMU faculty who hosted these events, Dr. Eric Ruple and Dr. Paulo Steinberg, along with many others who made this conference possible, including Vicki Berneking Cavendish, President-Elect of West Virginia Music Teachers Association.

And don't forget to mark your calendars for the last weekend in October, 2011, when VCU will host the VMTA Conference in Richmond, Virginia. Don't miss it! ■



Robert Hallahan, Jazz Pianist on JMU Faculty at the JMU Steinway



Kent Holliday, VMTA Commissioned Composer; Scott Beard, pianist; Brooke Evers, soprano; Tracy Cowden, pianist; Kipyn Martin, WVMTA Commissioned Composer



Tonya Menard, pianist & Melissa Sumner, soprano performed at the opening ceremonies



Gabriella Ryan, VMTA; Vicki Cavendish, WVMTA, Co-Planners of Collaborative Conference



Barbara Nissman, Pianist & Conference Artist; Donald George, Tenor & Presenter

PHOTOGRAPHS: MARTHA SMITH

ADVERTISING INFORMATION FOR VMTA'S *NEWSNOTES* AND YEARBOOK

Please send your electronically* prepared ad on CD with a printout, a check made payable to VMTA, and the completed form to: Kim Peachy, 11506 Crestmoor Court, Richmond, VA 23236, 804-897-3727.

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*Any combination of QuarkXPress (preferred), Illustrator, InDesign, and PhotoShop files are accepted. Do not send PDF, Microsoft Word or Publisher files. Include all fonts and imported graphics and a printout.

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‡Combo 1: Yearbook and one issue of *NewsNotes*; Combo 2: Yearbook and two issues of *NewsNotes*.

AD DEADLINES

July 15—Fall Issue *NewsNotes* & Yearbook

January 15—Spring Issue *NewsNotes*

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