

VIRGINIA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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NewsNotes

President's Notes

Lisa Withers, VMTA President

Welcome to the beginning of another school year! I hope that all of you have had fun-filled and productive summers and are ready to greet your students for another year of adventure at the piano. I always find that having my pencils sharpened and my desk organized (at least for a few days) gets me in the mood for a new beginning with my students.

I've recently been reading a book called "The Happiness Project" by Gretchen Rubin. The author describes her year-long project to enjoy life more and be more "present" in her life and relationships. She sets small achievable goals as each month's focus and finds, at the end of her year, that she has learned to be more grateful for what she has and feels more successful and satisfied in her work, her family, and her own spiritual life. I was thinking that I might set up a similar project for myself focusing on my piano studio (both college and pre-college students), so here is a list of my academic year goals:

- September – Assign music that is new to me.
- October – Get to know something new about each of my students.
- November – Focus on sightreading at every lesson.
- December – Have students invite one friend to a dress rehearsal for jury or recital.
- January – Have more fun in lessons. Play some musical games!
- February – Have each student bring in a favorite CD to share with me.
- March – Play some duets with my students.
- April – Work on composition at every lesson.
- May – Have a post-recital picnic at my home.

These items are fairly simple, but I'm hoping that they will give a new energy to my teaching each month and will help me to keep looking at the big picture rather than constantly focusing on the little deadlines and projects! Maybe this could be a good idea for all of us?

One thing that you'll want to mark on your calendars is our first-ever joint conference with WVMTA in November! This is a year of firsts for

VMTA—a new spring teleconference and a collaborative fall conference! Let's keep striving for a balance between tradition/experience and innovation/new ideas! My best to all of you as you embark on another year in this wonderful profession of ours! ■

INVITATION TO ATTEND VMTA'S FALL CONFERENCE

Gabriella Ryan, President-elect

As President-elect of VMTA, I'd like to personally invite you to attend our Collaborative Fall Conference **November 11–14, 2010**. Since MTNA has declared this to be the Year of Collaboration in Music, we in Virginia are collaborating with West Virginia for a combined states' conference. Our theme is "In Concert," which means we will also be collaborating musically. So invite your single-line friends as well—there will be lots of vocal and instrumental discussions and performances. Check the Schedule of Events in this newsletter, and use the Registration Form to sign up. The schedule and registration forms are also on the web, at www.music-usa.org/vmta. And let the members of your local association know that you'll be there too!

Our Guest Artist will be Steinway Artist **Barbara Nissman**, renowned for her artistic performances as well as for her excellence in Master Classes. You can check her biography and discography in detail at www.barbaranissman.com. Our first lecture-recital is on Thursday evening, Nov. 11, at 8 pm. Many other sessions are planned through Sunday, Nov. 14. Don't miss our Opening Ceremonies Collaborative Recital at 11:30 on Friday, Nov. 12, in which Virginia and West Virginia teachers will be featured.

VMTA is YOUR organization, and this Conference is for you! Remember, Certified Teachers earn 1 point per day when attending the conference. But more than that, we all become better teachers and performers by opening our minds to new ideas about teaching and performing. The cost of this conference is minimal when you consider your professional growth. So plan on letting your students know that you are not giving lessons, and clear your calendar for November 11–14. You and your students will be happy you did. I'm looking forward to seeing you there! ■

Collaboration in Music: Schedule of Events

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2010

12:00pm – 7:00pm MTNA Competitions
 6:30pm – 7:45pm Executive Committee Dinner Meeting
 8:00pm Gabriel Dobner, Kevin McMillan, Randall Wheaton – Piano Effects in Benjamin Britten's "Songs and Proverbs of William Blake"

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2010

8:00am – 5:00pm MTNA Competitions
 8:00am – 3:00pm Registration/Vendors
 8:00am – 9:00am VMTA/WVMTA NCTM Breakfast for Certified Teachers
 9:00am – 10:00am Christie Kefferstan – "Busoni 2-Piano Transcriptions of Mozart Works"
 10:00am – 11:00am Scott Beard "Expressions of the Slavic Soul – Folk Elements in Chopin's Music"
 11:30am – 12:30pm Opening Ceremonies VA/WVA Combined Collaborative Recital
 12:30pm – 2:00pm Local Association Presidents Luncheon
 Lunch on your own
 2:00pm – 2:30pm Janice Mauroschaft – "Power of Perception – The Professional Studio"
 2:30pm – 3:00pm Barbara Nissman – Video – "Franz Liszt: The Elvis of the Keyboard"
 3:00pm – 4:00pm Mary Lynne Bennett, Sam Spears – "Interpreting American Ballads with Art Song Accompaniment"
 4:00pm – 5:00pm West Virginia Winners' Recital
 5:30pm – 6:00pm Cash Bar/Cocktails
 6:00pm – 7:30pm VMTA/WVMTA Banquet in the Montpelier Room at JMU

8:00pm Barbara Nissman, Steinway Artist Recital – Forbes Performing Arts Center

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2010

8:00am – 4:00pm VMTA State and MTNA Competitions
 8:00am – 1:00pm Registration/Vendors
 9:00am – 10:00am Gabriel Dobner – "Collaborative Piano Master Class"
 9:00am – 10:00am Marlene Ford, Jeanette Winsor – "Lady Composers-Music for Horn and Piano"
 10:00am – 11:00am Lucy Mauro, Donald George – "Liszt as Collaborator"
 11:00am – 12:00pm VMTA/WVMTA Commissioned Composers Concert
 12:00pm – 1:00pm VMTA/WVMTA IMTF Forum and Box Lunch – Luck/ Mullenax
 1:00pm – 2:30pm VMTA Business Meeting
 2:30pm – 4:30pm Master Class with Barbara Nissman, Guest Artist
 4:45pm – 6:00pm VMTA Winners Recital
 6:00pm – 8:00pm Dinner on your own
 8:00pm VMTA Concerto Winners Concert with JMU Orchestra and Premier of JMU's Composer John Hilliard's Piano Concerto No. 3 - (2nd mvmt. – Quickly) to dedicate the Forbes Center; Lori Piitz, Pianist

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2010

9:00am – 10:00am Tonya Menard – "Teachable Compositional Techniques of Ravel"
 10:00am – 11:00am Eric Ruple, Paolo Steinberg "Teaching Liszt and Schumann"
 11:15am – 12:15pm VMTA/MTNA Winners Recital



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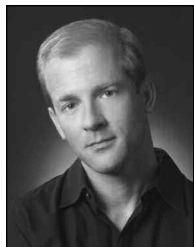
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Artists & Clinicians



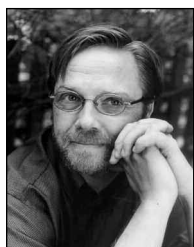
Dr. Scott Beard is a nationally recognized pianist, teacher, clinician, author and recording artist. Recognized for his outstanding teaching abilities, he was named 2006 West Virginia Music Teacher of the Year and runner-up for West Virginia Professor of the Year in 2009. His students have been top prize winners in competitions at the state, regional, national and international level, including the Beethoven Society, Ithaca, Oberlin International, MTNA and National Symphony Concerto competitions.

Concerts as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral soloist have taken him throughout the United States and to Canada, Croatia, France, Italy and Spain. Recent recital appearances include Weill Recital Hall, the Tenri Cultural Institute (NYC), the Polish, Belgian & Danish Embassies, the Russian Cultural Institute and numerous universities throughout the East Coast. He recently completed his second European tour, performing in Palermo, Nice, Marseille, and Barcelona. His concerts have been praised for their poetry, passion and innovative programming.

Dr. Beard has published articles in several national publications. His anthologies of ensemble music for piano are published by Alfred Publishing. He is currently Professor of Music and Coordinator of Keyboard Studies at Shepherd University (WV), as well as Acting Dean of Graduate Studies. Active in MTNA since his high school days, he has served as President of WVMTA (2007-2009), Eastern Division Competitions Chair and is current Director-elect of the Eastern Division of MTNA. ■



Dr. Mary Lynne Bennett, NCTM, teaches piano and music education at Fairmont State University, Fairmont, WV. She holds degrees from Oberlin College (B.A., B.M.), West Chester University (M.M.), and the University of South Carolina (D.M.A.). She recently developed and taught an online course in piano pedagogy focusing on preparing students to be nationally certified through MTNA. In addition to enjoying collaborative music making with FSU faculty and colleagues from the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra on a regular basis, she also directs a piano ensemble at FSU that has performed at the WVMTA state conference. She frequently presents research on assessment and continuing education at state and national MTNA conferences and is currently serving as President of the West Virginia Music Teachers Association. ■



Pianist **Gabriel Dobner** first appeared in concert in Europe in 1991 as part of the *Villa Musica Chamber Music Festival* in Mainz, Germany. 1993 marked the beginning of his eight years in Germany, after having been awarded a German Academic Exchange Scholarship (DAAD) to study Lied accompanying in Munich with Helmut Deutsch. The

following year he won the special collaborative pianist's prize in the *International Hans Pfitzner Lieder Competition* in Munich.

While living in Augsburg, Mr. Dobner quickly established himself as a successful collaborative pianist performing regularly with such notable singers as Cornelia Kallisch, René Kollo, Christiane Oelze, Kevin McMillan, Alan Bennett and Alexandra Petersamer. He has also performed with instrumentalists such as Lawrence Dutton (Emerson Quartet), Allan Vogel (Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra), Ulf Rodenhäuser (formerly of the Berlin Philharmonic), Eugenia Zukerman, Vladimir Mendelssohn, Nancy Ambrose King and Paul Ellison. In addition, Mr. Dobner performs regularly (including an appearance at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.) with pianist Lori Piitz as part of a piano duo team. These musical collaborations have led to performances in many of the major concert venues throughout the United States, Europe and Japan.

Gabriel Dobner has recorded for the Ottavo, MDG and Kannevas labels. His first recording for MDG, consisting of songs of Liszt, Dvorák and Mahler with mezzo-soprano Cornelia Kallisch, won high praise from BBC Music Magazine, Fono Forum and the West German Radio in Cologne, who referred to him as a "master among Lieder pianists." In addition to studio recordings, radio broadcasts include those for Saint Paul Sunday, the Bayrischer Rundfunk, Südwestfunk, Westdeutscher Rundfunk, Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk and the Chubu-Nippon Broadcasting Company in Japan.

Mr. Dobner received his Bachelors Degree in piano performance from Chicago Musical College of Roosevelt University, where he studied with Ludmila Lazar. He then went on to Indiana University in Bloomington to earn his Masters Degree with James Tocco, as well as his Doctoral Degree with Leonard Hokanson.

Gabriel Dobner joined the faculty at James Madison University in the fall of 2001. Previous teaching engagements include Indiana University and the Nürnberg/Augsburg Hochschule für Musik in Germany. ■



Marlene Ford, horn, is a long-time resident of the area. She has music degrees from Ohio University and Norfolk State University. Her teachers were Martin Morris and Ernani Angelucci of the Cleveland Orchestra and Edwin C. Thayer of the National Symphony. Ms. Ford was for many years a member of the Virginia Beach Pops, the Virginia Opera Orchestra and Virginia Symphony. Active as a chamber musician and soloist, she currently performs with the Eastern Virginia Brass, the Hardwick Chamber ensemble, the Williamsburg Symphonia and the Lakeside (O.) Summer Symphony. She is horn instructor at Old Dominion University and music appreciation instructor at Tidewater Community College.

Linear Lines by Liz Lane, part of the current Lady Composers series is set to be broadcast by Soundart Radio in Great Britain this fall. ■

(continued on page 5)



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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
- Graduate assistantships in piano of full tuition plus a \$15,000 stipend
- 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

For more information, see www.jmu.edu/music

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

Collaboration in Music: Artists & Clinicians



Donald George, tenor, is an Associate Professor of Vocal Music at the Crane School of Music—SUNY Potsdam, Honored Professor at Shenyang Conservatory in China, Master Teacher with the International Performing Arts Institute (IPAI) in Munich Germany

and Director of Opera and also presents Master Classes at Schloß Laubach Opera Festival, (Laubach Castle) Germany, and the Hochschule in Hannover. He has performed at La Scala, Paris Opera Bastille and Théâtre du Châtelet, Royal Opera of Brussels, Kennedy Center, the State Operas of Berlin, Hamburg and Vienna, the Festivals of Salzburg, Buenos Aires, Jerusalem, Istanbul, Perth (Australia) and Blossom USA, has sung with such conductors as Bernstein, Masur, Menuhin and Tate and has recorded for Sony, Naxos, Phillips Classic, Teldec, and Bavarian Radio, among others.

Lucy Mauro, Assistant Professor at West Virginia University and the Director of Collaborative Piano for the International Performing Arts Institute in Germany, frequently performs, conducts master classes, workshops and other presentations with tenor Donald George. Their recent performances include those for CMS Conferences in Portland, Kansas City and Burlington, the Chopin Club in Providence, RI, and Eastern Michigan University. They have published articles in *Die Tonkunst* and *American Music Teacher* and their upcoming CDs of songs of Margaret Ruthven Lang will be released by Delos. She is also the co-editor of *Essential Two-Piano Repertoire*, *Essential Keyboard Trios* and *Essential Duet Transcriptions* from Alfred Publishing. ■



Born into a family of musical amateurs, **John Hilliard** began his musical training by studying piano at the age of 6 from his cousin, a local piano teacher. By age 11 Hilliard showed an interest in composing. At the age of 8, he had begun playing trumpet in the elementary band and was taught by the same elementary music teacher as President

Bill Clinton, who was a childhood friend. They later both shared another influential music teacher, Virgil Spurlin, during their years together in the Hot Springs High School Band. Hilliard would earn his Bachelor of Music degree there in 1969 in horn performance, education and theory-composition. He studied piano, horn, trumpet, cello and conducting during these years at Ouachita. Hilliard later, in 1972, received his Masters of Music degree in composition and conducting at Virginia Commonwealth University. During his years at VCU, Hilliard studied briefly with famed African-American composer William Grant Still.

Hilliard has composed four symphonies; three piano concerti; a trumpet concerto; sonatas for piano, violin, and cello; works for wind ensemble; and various other chamber works, including two song cycles. In 1973 he studied composition with George B. Wilson, University of Michigan at Interlochen. Hilliard received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Cornell Uni-

versity, Ithaca, N.Y. in 1983. From 1981-1985 he did four years post-doctoral composition study at Southern Methodist University with Donald Erb, and one year of study at the University of Texas, Austin with the American expatriate French composer, Eugene Kurtz, of Jobert publications, Paris, France.

Former President Bill Clinton requested Hilliard to compose a fanfare for his first inauguration in 1993. ■



Kent Holliday received a B.A. in music and philosophy from Hamline University in 1962, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in music theory-composition from the University of Minnesota in 1964 and 1968. His major composition teachers have been Paul Fetler and Dominick Argento at the University of Minnesota, Pietro Grossi, S2FM Studio De Fonologia, Florence, Italy, and Witold Szalonek, Hochschule der Kunst, Berlin, Germany. He currently teaches in the music department at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, where he received two Educational Foundation grants for research in Germany on his book *Reproducing Pianos Past and Present*, published by Mellen Press in 1989. An avid hiker and mountain climber, he has travelled extensively in Europe, Central America, the United States, and New Zealand in search of “peak experiences,” believing that the spiritual qualities of music and mountains are not nearly so dissimilar as might at first seem apparent. ■



Dr. Christine Kefferstan is professor of piano at West Virginia University. An active performer, her collaborations have recently taken her to London and Rio. She has presented to MTNA Conferences in Utah, Toronto and Atlanta. ■



Janice Mauroschat teaches beginning through advanced violin and beginner piano in her home studio in Charlottesville, VA. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Ithaca College and has received Suzuki violin pedagogy training with Sanford Reuning and Teri Einfeldt of the acclaimed Ithaca Talent Education school in Ithaca, NY. Ms. Mauroschat has also studied extensively at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins with Teo Tetel.

After three years of private studio teaching right out of college, Ms. Mauroschat decided to pursue a graphic design career and was accepted into Virginia Commonwealth University's communication arts and design program. Following her education at VCU, Ms. Mauroschat accepted a position as Art Director for the Council for Advancement of Education and then later worked as a designer for Levine and Associates. A year later Ms. Mauroschat launched Janice Mauroschat Design, a full service professional graphic design firm in Washington, DC. She suc-

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The School of Music is proud to welcome acclaimed artist **Benjamin Hochman**, assistant professor of piano, to the music faculty.

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2010-2011 AUDITION DATES

December 4, 2010
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February 12, 2011
March 26, 2011
April 9, 2011

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Collaboration in Music: Artists & Clinicians

cessfully operated JMD for over 18 years serving clients such as Time-Life Books, World Bank, Georgetown University, the Folger Shakespeare Library and a host of advertising agencies and public relations firms. Ms. Mauroschaft returned to private music studio teaching and moved back to Charlottesville in 2005 where she maintains a private teaching studio.

Ms. Mauroschaft is uniquely qualified to share proven sales and marketing techniques from a private music studio owner's perspective. Ms. Mauroschaft is now offering business coaching to private music studio owners who are interested in projecting a more professional business image and increasing profits through attracting more valuable clients. ■

Kipyn Martin graduated from Shepherd University, Summa cum laude, in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music. She received her first commission in 2007 from the Antietam Women's Ensemble, directed by Dr. Georgiann H. Toole, while still an undergraduate at Shepherd. Since graduating, she has maintained a steady composition schedule. She has received commissions from schools in northern Virginia and the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, as well as commissions from Shepherd University music students. Ms. Martin plans to attend graduate school for music composition in the near future, with hopes to write art music or to eventually teach composition at the college level. She enjoys living in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. ■



Kevin McMillan is a renowned performer and vocal pedagogue. His performing career has spanned over 25 years with more than 750 concerts, 15 professional recordings, a Grammy award, a Gramophone award and numerous Juno award nominations.

Critics have praised his "elegant lyric baritone voice" and "singularly remarkable interpretive skills" in appearances with virtually every major North American orchestra, including the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the San Francisco Symphony.

He has also established a presence in Europe, with appearances in centers such as London, Berlin, Barcelona, Paris, and Prague. He has worked with such conductors as Herbert Blomstedt, Pierre Boulez, Raphael Frühbeck de Burgos, Sir Andrew Davis, Charles Dutoit, Neeme Jarvi, Jesus Lopez-Cobos, Kurt Masur, Sir Roger Norrington, Hellmuth Rilling and the late Robert Shaw and Sergiu Commissiona.

After preliminary schooling at the Universities of Guelph and Western Ontario in Canada, Mr. McMillan studied at the Britten-Pears School in England, and attained a Master's Degree at the Juilliard School in New York. His primary focus has always been the oratorio and orchestral repertoire, and his vocal flexibility and scholarly musicianship have afforded him a broad range of styles and periods—from Monteverdi and Bach to Britten and Penderecki.

Despite an unfortunate farming accident 30 years ago that

left him a partial paraplegic, he has had the opportunity to perform a number of operatic roles in concert/semi-staged performances. Mr. McMillan is a pre-eminent recitalist. He has been described as an "outstanding Schubertian" whose "voice of glowing freshness and beauty is at the service of an intelligent, lively and distinctive personality."

Professor McMillan joined the faculty of the James Madison University School of Music in 2009. ■



Tonya Menard is currently a full scholarship student at JMU, pursuing a Doctorate in Piano Performance, Literature and Pedagogy. A Nationally Certified Teacher through the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), she is a past President of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum. For sixteen years she coached singers and taught piano and theory as co-owner of the Menard Music Studio. Mrs. Menard is active as an adjudicator at competitions and festivals throughout Virginia. She has collaborated with Soprano, Melissa Sumner, for the past year giving performances for Tusculum College, James Madison University, and Mary Baldwin College. ■



Described as "a pianist of a bygone era," **Barbara Nissman** continues the grand bravura tradition of romantic pianism, making it relevant to our century. Her recordings of twentieth-century composers, Prokofiev, Ginastera and Bartók are considered "definitive," and her ongoing series for the Pierian label of the nineteenth-century composers Liszt, Chopin, Beethoven, Schumann, Brahms, and also Rachmaninoff, has garnered critical praise. "One of the last pianists in the grand Romantic tradition of Liszt, Rachmaninoff, and Rubinstein," Barbara Nissman connects the souls of the composers of the past to the lives of today's listener.

Barbara Nissman's international career was personally launched by Eugene Ormandy who had previously engaged her as soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra. She has performed with the leading orchestras of Europe and America including the London Philharmonic, the Royal Philharmonic, the BBC Symphony, the Rotterdam Philharmonic and the Munich Philharmonic; in the US she has appeared with the New York Philharmonic, the Pittsburgh Symphony, the St. Louis Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony, the National Symphony and the Cleveland Orchestra among others. She has worked with some of the major conductors of our time including Eugene Ormandy, Riccardo Muti, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski and Leonard Slatkin.

Ms. Nissman has long been associated with the music of Argentine composer, Alberto Ginastera, and is the dedicatee of the composer's final work, the *Sonata No. 3*. In 1976 she was invited by the composer to play his *Piano Concerto No. 1* with l'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande in celebration of his sixtieth birthday. She will present the premiere of his *Concierto Argentino*

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Shenandoah University

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Studies in Another Discipline
Certificate in Church Music
Certificate in Ethnomusicology
Certificate in Music Therapy
Master of Music Education
Master of Music in Church Music
Master of Music in Composition
Master of Music in Conducting

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Collaboration in Music: Artists & Clinicians

no in 2011. Both *Gramophone* and the *American Record Guide* chose her Ginastera recording as one of the best releases in 1989. Recently, Barbara was invited by the BBC to co-host a five-part radio series that featured Ginastera as Composer-of-the-Week on Radio 3.

Nissman made history in 1989 by becoming the first pianist to perform the complete piano sonatas of Sergei Prokofiev in a series of three recitals in both New York and London. *BBC Music Magazine* in their recent cover story on Prokofiev recommended Nissman's recordings as the best recordings of Prokofiev's piano music.

Barbara Nissman recently appeared on stage with Don Henley of the Eagles and Billy Joel, performing on the "Walden Steinway" in a gala fundraiser for the Walden Woods project, held at Jazz at Lincoln Center. She was also one of the participants with Leonard Slatkin at the Kennedy Center's 25th Anniversary Gala Concert that was broadcast on PBS Television. She has also been involved with the Robert James Frascino AIDS Foundation benefit concert series, "A Concerted Effort" since 2002. To date these concerts have raised well over one million dollars for AIDS service organizations worldwide. ■



Pianist **Lori Piitz** enjoys a performance career that includes solo, four-hand and chamber music. She has performed in numerous festivals and venues, including the Festival of the Sound in Canada, the Schubert Club in Minneapolis, Steinway Hall in New York City and the Schleswig-Holstein festival in Germany. In addition to CD recordings, Ms. Piitz has been heard on radio and television broadcasts. She received her doctorate from Indiana University where she studied with Menahem Pressler and Leonard Hokanson. Lori Piitz is currently on the piano faculty at James Madison University. ■



Eric Ruple, a piano professor and Coordinator of the Piano Area at James Madison University, enjoys an active career as a soloist, chamber musician, and teacher. He has performed several times recently at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. including a solo concert of the music of Beethoven in 2007. He has been a pianist with both the Richmond Symphony and the Virginia Symphony. He was also a long-time faculty member at the Virginia Governor's School.

In March 2010, Dr. Ruple traveled to Hong Kong, China as an adjudicator, and this August was a guest pianist (solo and chamber music concerts) and teacher in the "Opusfest" Festival in Cebu City, the Philippines. He received his DMA in Piano Performance from the University of Michigan, and is a Steinway Artist. ■

Dr. Sam Spears is the Director of Choral and Vocal Activities at Fairmont State University. He directs the Collegiate Singers and Chamber Choir and teaches voice, conducting, and choral methods. He earned a DMA in Choral Conducting from the University of Miami. Dr. Spears is also a



professional singer and a founding member of Seraphic Fire, Miami's professional chamber choir. He is an active member of several professional organizations, including the American Choral Directors Association, the National Association of Teachers of Singing, College Music Society, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. He has also been an adjudicator for choral festivals and vocal competitions at the high school and college level. ■



Dr. Paulo Steinberg is an active recitalist and collaborative pianist, having performed in a variety of musical settings in the United States, Canada, Iceland and Brazil, his home country. He is Assistant Professor of Music at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, where he teaches piano and piano literature for both undergraduate and graduate programs.

He holds a Doctorate in piano performance from Indiana University, where he studied with pianist and professor Evelynne Brancart.

Dr. Steinberg's recent studies and interests include Brazilian music and piano technique. His future projects embrace recording a CD, teaching master classes, lecturing and performing in the USA, Canada and Sweden. ■



J. Randall Wheaton, Assistant Professor, James Madison University B.A., Ohio Wesleyan University; B.M. (cum laude), Ohio State University; M.M., University of Michigan; M.Phil., Ph.D., Yale University.

Formerly an organic chemist involved in cancer research at the Yale Medical School, Professor Wheaton's undergraduate work in music at Ohio State included studies in clarinet performance with Robert Titus and in conducting with Donald McGinnis. John Clough and William Benjamin were his main teachers at the University of Michigan, where his master's thesis focused on Alexander Scriabin's piano miniature *Désir*, op. 57, and he spent a year in private study with clarinetist David Shifrin. His principal mentors during his Ph.D. studies at Yale were Allen Forte, David Lewin, and Claude Palisca, and his 1988 dissertation was on the phenomenon of symmetry in pitch-class sets and their role in tonality. A former Editor of the *Journal of Music Theory*, he has served on the faculties of Yale, the University of Connecticut, and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM). Nominated for distinguished teaching awards at both Yale and CCM, he was Chair and Associate Professor of Music at Northern Kentucky University in 2001 and returned to CCM as Visiting Associate Professor of Music in 2002. Among his many research papers given at local, national, and international conferences are studies on segmental invariance in the twelve-tone system, Mahler's
(continued on page 16)

Collaboration in Music: Registration

Please mail this registration with check for the total amount by **OCTOBER 15** to Tracy Cowden, VMTA Treasurer, 502 Mabry Lane, Blacksburg, VA, 24060. Daily registration will also be available at the Conference.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ e-Mail: _____

Conference Registration Fee:

VMTA Member\$40.00

Non-member\$50.00

Daily\$25.00

Thursday, Nov. 11, Executive Board Dinner\$21.00

Friday, Nov. 12, Certified Teachers Breakfast (complimentary) ☐ I will attend

Friday, Nov. 12, Association Presidents Luncheon\$18.50

Friday, Nov. 12, Catered Banquet\$30.00

☐ Herb-Roasted Chicken ☐ Vegetarian

Saturday, Nov. 13, IMTF Forum/Lunch\$10.00

☐ Turkey Caesar Wrap ☐ Greek Salad Pita ☐ Roast Beef/Ham/Cheddar on Croissant

Total Amount of your check payable to VMTA

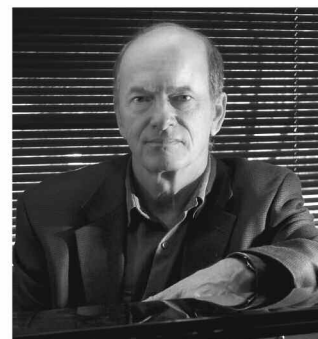


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Collaboration in Music:

Directions & Hotel Information

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO JMU

James Madison University
800 S. Main St., Harrisonburg, Va. 22807 • (540) 568-1735

From the South:

- I 64 West to I 81 North (Exit 87) for about 25 miles

From the North:

- I 66 West to I 81 South (Exit 1A) for about 55 miles
- Once you are on I 81, (from both south and north), take Exit 245 – Port Republic Road (VA 253).
- Take a right onto VA 331, Port Republic Road, and continue on Port Republic Road.
- Take a right on S. Main (Route 11) to JMU. Turn left on Warsaw Avenue. Follow it around behind the large parking deck. The parking deck leads right to the entrance of the Forbes Performing Arts Center.

Registration will be at the Forbes Performing Arts Center. No parking passes are required. Campus maps can be found at www.jmu.edu/map/bluestone.shtml. ■

HOTEL INFORMATION

The following hotels have been reserved for conference attendees:

Jameson Inn Harrisonburg, 1881 Evelyn Byrd Drive, Harrisonburg, VA 22801, 540-442-1515 (Call by Oct. 10). Convention Rate \$75 plus 11% State and Local Tax.

http://www.jamesoninns.com/Hotel_Detail.asp?HotelID=SJ1397

Comfort Inn Harrisonburg, 1440 East Market Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801, 540-433-0793 (Call by Oct. 20). Convention Rate \$89 plus 11% State and Local Tax.

<http://www.comfortinn.com/hotel-harrisonburg-virginia-VA429?promo=gciva429>

Ask for the T.A.M.C. (Teachers Association Music Conference) block when calling to register.

**Both hotels include complimentary breakfast.
This is a football weekend, so call early.**

Certification Profiles:

Noemi Szigeti Otto and Dr. Cynthia Burch Ramsey

by Anne James, NCTM

Lynchburg College faculty members **Noemi Otto** and **Dr. Cynthia Ramsey** are among Virginia's newest certified members. These two CVMTA members were joined by five others from around the Commonwealth gaining certification during the past year.



Dr. Cynthia Ramsey, an Altavista native, earned her bachelor's degree in band directing at JMU. Piano was her major instrument and Dr. Patricia Brady her major professor. After teaching algebra and band in the Bedford County public school system for some years Cynthia Ramsey embarked on graduate work at Shenandoah University. By dint of distance learning plus summer school and Saturday classes she was able to complete her MmusEd and DMA without leaving her public school or church music job.

Early in her graduate study Cynthia Ramsey began teaching class piano at Lynchburg College. A questionnaire she created asking her students to rank themselves as to various skills showed improvisation as 23rd on the list. This led to her Master's these topic: a study of keyboard proficiency requirements in

NASM schools in Virginia and several surrounding states. The doctoral dissertation subject built on this work: Development and Implementation of a Beginning Improvisation Curriculum for Freshman Group Piano Classes.

At the 2007 National Keyboard Pedagogy Conference in Chicago Dr. Ramsey presented her doctoral research. It was here she first became aware of MTNA's certification program. Joining the organization in 2008 she began the certification process and completed it in 2009.

At Lynchburg College, Dr. Ramsey teaches piano as well as courses in music history, form and analysis and conducting. "I wanted to give back," she says. Beginning in 2008 she began partnering with the College Hills Neighborhood School, an inner-city preschool, to bring kids on campus for piano lessons taught by college students in a piano lab under Ramsey's supervision. As part of the program the preschoolers eat lunch on campus. In 2009 she began a program funded by several local charities to offer after school group piano to middle school students once a week. Piano majors and minors are the teachers.

Like Cynthia Ramsey, **Noemi Otto** became certified last fall. Born and raised in Cluj, the third largest city in Romania,

(continued on page 15)



FALL FESTIVAL

Debbie Sacra, Fall Festival Coordinator

Fall Festival information can be found on the VMTA web site, www.music-usa.org/vmta, or in the 2010–2011 VMTA Yearbook. ■

MINUTES

VIRGINIA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD WEB/TELECONFERENCE JUNE 4, 2010, 10:00 A.M.

Sarah Reaser O'Brien, NCTM, Secretary

CALL TO ORDER:

President Lisa Withers called the Administrative Board Teleconference to order at 10:12 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lisa Withers, Gabriella Ryan, Denise Adkins, Sarah O'Brien, Tracy Cowden, Debra Gunnerson, Betty Ann Spiers, Patricia Jo Webb, Wanda Hall, Lynne Kessler, Bittsy Hall, Ellis Dunton, Lisa Moxley, Kama Miller, Corky Sablinsky, Denise Adkins, Barbara Moore, Martha Smith, Donna Halleck, Susan Adkins, Vernon McCart, Lisa Stogoski, and Patricia Dougherty

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Patricia Dougherty made a motion to accept the minutes from the November 7, 2009, General Business Meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND CHAIRS:

President Lisa Withers

- Southern Division meeting and competitions were held January 15-18, 2010, at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. There were two division winners from Virginia. The Division Chair did a survey of conference costs and other items among the states in the Division. The survey revealed that Virginia's conference costs are lower than most of the other Division states' conference costs.
- MTNA National Conference was held March 20-24, 2010, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Congratulations to Virginia's newest MTNA Foundation Fellow, Suzanne Guy. The winner of the MTNA Senior Piano Competition was Virginia's Fifi Zhang, a student of Marjorie Lee.
- 2011 National Conference will be held March 26-30, 2011, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- The MTNA Leadership Summit has been cancelled due to economic concerns, but one day of the 2011 National conference will incorporate meetings and sessions that are simi-

lar to those of the Leadership Summit for the benefit of State presidents.

- VMTA Fall Conference will take place November 11-14, 2010, at James Madison University. It is a joint conference with West Virginia Music Teachers Association. The Harrisonburg and Charlottesville MTAs will be co-hosting the event.

President-Elect Gabriella Ryan

- Conference plans are going well. Two hotels have been reserved for the conference: the Jameson Inn and the Comfort Inn.
- Barbara Nissman, a Steinway artist, will be the conference Guest Artist. She will present a concert and two master classes.
- Approximately nine responses have been received as a result of the call for clinicians previously issued.
- The theme for this year's conference is "Collaboration in Music."
- There will be a collaborative concert on the first day of the conference.
- JMU Banquet Services have been contracted and will be used for our banquet and other food needs.
- JMU has a beautiful new music building that we will be using, and they are now an All Steinway School.
- Conference costs will be shared between Virginia MTA and West Virginia MTA.
- A draft schedule of the conference will be published in *NewsNotes* along with the registration form.
- Vendors will be contacted about selling music at the conference.

Vice President/Membership Chair Denise Adkins

There are 735 active members, 136 senior members, 32 student members, and 1 star member. This year we added 86 new members and reinstated 32 former members. Total membership is 10 less than last year. As of the end of April our membership total reached 904.

Secretary Sarah Reaser O'Brien

No report.

(continued on page 13)

The Novus Via

CN/SMS



Minutes... (continued from page 12)

Treasurer Tracy Cowden

The Treasurer reported on the organization's current financial condition and gave a summary of factors impacting this condition. The checking account balance is approximately \$6400, and certificates of deposit total \$36,327. We have a deficit of about \$9000 which includes \$4000 that was cashed in from a CD this past year, as well as the balance detailed at the bottom of the Income/Expense Comparison Report of \$5014.02. This does not reflect income and expenses that will be reported from 6/3/10 – 6/30/10.

- Advertising income dropped from \$3115 to \$1760.
- Membership dues were lower.
- Conference expenses exceeded our conference income, part of which was due to the absence of vendors at the last conference.
- Travel grants were higher this year because the division competition was held out of state, and two of our students competed in the national conference. One of these, Fifi Zhang, was the national winner.
- The concerto competition costs us an average of \$200 each year.
- Certification reimbursements were significantly higher this year.

Immediate Past President Debra Gunnerson

No report.

Certification Chair Martha Smith

Certification is up this year. We have seven newly certified teachers. Martha recommended continuing to offer the \$100 certification rebate because that appears to be having a positive impact on our certification numbers. A new, streamlined process of certification went into effect on January 1, 2010. Our non-certified members are encouraged to look at the certification guidelines on the MTNA website (mtnacertification.org) and to begin the certification process.

IMTF Chair Samantha Luck

No report. President Withers reported that there will be a joint IMTF session between VMTA and WVMETA at the upcoming fall conference.

Chair of Local Association Presidents Galla Matekova

Galla's report was read by Lisa Withers, and all local presidents were invited to participate in the spring teleconference during which they will be asked to share their reports.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The bylaws need to be changed to allow for various types of meetings and conferences, including in-person meetings, teleconferences, etc. Parliamentarian Betty Ann Spiers will compose wording for this and share it with the membership in advance of the fall conference at which time a vote will be taken.
2. The Executive Board recommends raising the Fall Conference fee to \$40 this year (2010-2011), and the membership dues by \$10 next year (2011-2012) in order to close the gap between our income and expenses. Barbara Moore made a motion to separate the issue of raising conference fees from that of raising membership dues. The motion was seconded and passed. Martha Smith made a motion to amend the conference fee recommendation to also raise the one-day conference fee to \$25 and the non-member conference fee to \$50 this year. The motion passed. Barbara Moore moved that we table the issue of raising membership dues until the fall conference.
3. Barbara Moore made a motion to extend the membership dues postmark deadline on page 11 of the yearbook under General Regulations from August 1 to August 31. The motion was seconded and passed.
4. The Executive Board recommends adding the Keyboard Skills and Sightreading syllabi to the website. The recommendation was voted on and passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The deadline for *NewsNotes* submissions is July 15, 2010.
2. The deadline for *Yearbooks* submissions, including ads and articles, is July 15, 2010.
3. The VMTA joint Fall Conference with WVMETA is scheduled for November 11-14, 2010. The location is James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia.
4. The MTNA National Conference will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from March 26-30, 2011.

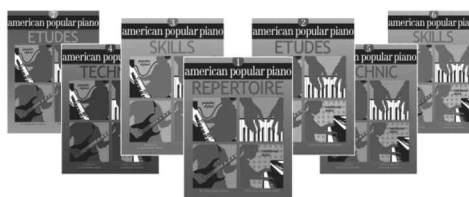
The meeting adjourned at 11:49 A.M. ■

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Reports

VMTA MEMBERSHIP REPORT JUNE 5, 2010

Denise Adkins, VMTA Membership Chair

The membership categories for 2010 are 735 active, 136 seniors, 32 students, and 1 star member. This year we added 86 new members and reinstated 32 former members. Total membership is only 10 less than last year. As of the end of April our membership reached 904. ■

VMTA CHAIR FOR LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS 2010 SPRING CONFERENCE REPORT

Galla Matekova, State Chair for Local Associations

The VMTA State Chair for Local Associations sent all the information from MTNA headquarters and established close communications with State Chapter presidents. All e-mails from MTNA headquarters were forwarded to the all local presidents plus state president including Music Instrument Insurance and 2010 Directory of Summer program. Also invitations from RMTA Chapter for the Bernstein Seminar and RVMTA for the John Salmon hands-on workshop were sent to VMTA members. There were reminders of the VMTA Fall Conference at Virginia Tech, MTNA National Conference in Albuquerque, NM and Annual Chapter Reports.

Local Presidents will be submitting their annual reports before teleconference on June 5, 2010. All Local Presidents invited to participate at the first VMTA Teleconference on June 5. ■

VMTA CERTIFICATION REPORT

Martha Smith, NCTM, Certification Chairman

Welcome to **nine** members of VMTA who have become Nationally Certified Teachers of Music this year:

MaryEllen Bock	Northern Virginia
Anya Campbell	Richmond
Noemi Szigeti Otto	Lynchburg
Cynthia Burch Ramsey	Lynchburg
Lisa Moxley	Blue Ridge
Jeri Bennett	Northern Virginia
Peggy Newhall	Northern Virginia
Linda Guttermann	Northern Virginia
Jim Litzelman	Northern Virginia

The new "Teacher Profile" method for becoming certified took effect January 1, 2010. While the standards remain the same, the new process involves documenting your teaching philosophy and videotaping your teaching. More information can be found at www.mtnacertification.org. Once you apply, you will have one year to complete the five required projects.

The renewal process has been streamlined. You will still have to accumulate renewal points, but you can sign your own docu-

mentation. From now on, NCTMs will renew their certification every year for a fee of \$15, rather than every 5 years for \$75. ■

VMTA KEYBOARD SKILLS TEST REPORT

Lynn Kleisler, NCTM, Chairman

Five local chapters of the Virginia Music Teachers Association participated in the Keyboard Skills Test for the 2009/2010 school year. A total of 189 students across the state representing 26 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	112	73	29	9	1	0	0	13
Northern	46	18	20	7	1	0	0	6
Richmond	17	9	6	0	2	0	0	3
Piedmont	8	4	4	0	0	0	0	2
Central	6	4	1	1	0	0	0	2

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. ■

VALLEY DISTRICT AUDITION RESULTS

Pat Brady, Valley District Auditions Chairman

The Valley District Auditions were held on April 24, 2010 at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. Nine pianists participated in the auditions. The judges were Lori Piitz and Scott Zane Smith, both JMU School of Music faculty. Winners and Alternates were as follows:

PIANO

Level IB

Winner
Alternate

Student

Neal Visvalingam
David Sun

Teacher

Paulo Steinberg
Nicole Yang

(continued on page 15)

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Reports... (continued from page 14)

Level II	Student	Teacher
Winner	Carolyn Manion	Beverly Carow
Alternate	Devan Visvalingam	Paulo Steinberg

Level III	Student	Teacher
Winner	Perry Maddox	Pat Brady
Alternate:	Howard Zou	Eric Ruple

CONCERTO COMPETITION

Wanda Hall, NCTM, Chairman

The 2010 VMTA Concerto Competition was held on Saturday, April 24, at Virginia State University, Petersburg. There were a total of eight entrants. The winners are as follows:

College Piano

Winner: Wei-Li Suen, Mozart – Concerto No. 24 in C minor, K491 (I. Allegro)

2nd Place: Andrew Miller, Gershwin – Concerto in F Major (I. Allegro)

High School Piano

Winner: Sarah Barham, Liszt – Totentanz, Paraphrase on “Dies irae,” S. 126
2nd Place: Marika Yasuda, Chopin – Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11 (I. Allegro maestoso)

3rd Place: Antonia Stabile, Saint-Saens – Concerto in G minor (III. Presto)

Honorable Mention: Stephanie Leontiev, Mendelssohn – Concerto No. 2 in D minor, Op. 40 (I. Allegro Appassionato)

High School Strings

2nd Place: Lydia Sohn (cello), Haydn – Concerto in C Major, Hob. VIIb:1 (III. Allegro molto) ■

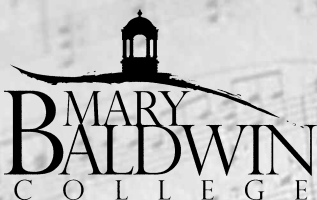
Certification Profiles (continued from page 11)



she grew up attending many of the weekly Friday concerts of the local symphony orchestra as well as performances by Cluj's two opera companies. Auditioning in the first grade she was selected to attend the local music school. Here she was prepared for a professional career right from the start, with two one-hour lessons a week from first grade through graduation from conservatory. Starting in fifth grade the training became more concentrated and at seventh grade there were very tough auditions to pass in order to continue. Work increased, with lots of practicing, performing, ensemble, choir and chamber music.

In 1996 Noemi Otto received a full scholarship to attend Brevard Music Center, where she studied with Dr. Bruce Murray. Her Master's degree in Piano Performance was earned at the University of Alabama under Dr. Murray. She also spent two summers at the chautauqua Institution, where Dr. Rebecca Penneys was her teacher.

Noemi Otto finds Lynchburg a great place to flourish professionally. In addition to teaching and concertizing she has accompanied ballet classes, which helped her improvise and be freer. She is music director of St. Thomas More Catholic Church and is part of two chamber groups, one of them an eight-hand piano quartet. A CMVTA member, she has served as its secretary and vice-president and will have students competing at the VMTA Conference in November. “My biggest passion is for my students to find music within themselves and express that. As Rebecca Penneys says, ‘We all need to tame the piano to be our friend and not our enemy.’” ■



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Dated Material Inside

Collaboration in Music: Artists & Clinicians *(continued from page 9)*

Der Abschied, and Schumann's *Carnaval*. He delivered a paper at Columbia University in 2002 entitled "Looking Glass into the Vagaries of Improvisational Style: Structural Levels in C. P. E. Bach's 'Free' Fantasia in E-flat Major." His main areas of interest are Schenkerian analysis, set theory, the history of theory, music-theory pedagogy, and compositions from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. ■



Jeanette Winsor studied piano with Clifford Herzer, Lois Rova Ozanich, and Shirley Harrison. She received a Bachelor of Music degree *cum laude* from Heidelberg College and a Master of Music degree in piano performance from Kent State University. She has occasionally coached with Thomas Schumacher. She teaches piano in her studio in Virginia Beach and music appreciation, theory and piano at Tidewater Community College, accompanies the Virginia Beach Chorale, and serves as an adjudicator for the National Guild of Piano Teachers. She frequently appears as a soloist and lecturer. She is also the pianist for the Hardwick Chamber Ensemble. Lecture topics include *Why Piano Teachers Should Practice*, *Music by Clementi for You and Your Students*, *How to Deal with the ADHD and LD Student in the Private Studio*, and *Music by Women Composers for You and Your Students*. Jeanette holds permanent National and State Professional Teaching Certificates from MTNA and VMTA as well as certification through the American College of Musicians. Jeanette is listed in the 21st edition of **Who's Who of American Women**. She is the past MTNA Southern Division Competitions Chair, past president of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum and the Virginia Music Teachers Association. Her articles on piano pedagogy have been published by **Piano Guild Notes**. Recent

performances include the College Music Society/NACUSA National Conference in Kansas City, MO, Salon Concert Series in Princeton, NJ, NACUSA concerts in Philadelphia, New York City and throughout Virginia, and soloist with the Virginia Beach Symphony. ■

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