



Washington Music Teachers Association

www.wmta-dc.org

Newsletter - November 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

As we watch the colors of autumn turn we know that music lessons are in full swing! Promote the fall colors to inspire your students to develop a wider palette of sound which, in turn, can enhance performances. Encourage students to strive for more dynamic variety to help them express their music and sustain the learning experience so that the music continues to interest them. As teachers we should stress the musical qualities of playing an instrument. While students are busy learning new pieces, demonstrate for them so that they can feel your love and understanding of the music. They can also observe the physical movements necessary to produce the desired effects while honing their listening skills. Other pedagogical goals can include instilling proper practicing skills, mastering proper bowing techniques, exploring a deeper depth of musical perception, revealing efficient ways to memorize, and, if involved in piano studies, experimenting with pedaling and colors. Performing repertoire will be infinitely more satisfying if the performer feels a connection to the music. You, the teacher, can facilitate this process.

Upcoming Events:

- * The next Judged Recital and Student Musicale will take place on November 15. If you want to find out what repertoire is suitable or what level of performance expected, feel welcome to stop by Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church. The recitals start at 2 and 3:30 p.m. Bring your students too, so that they can hear their contemporaries perform.
- * The Hood Competition for Strings is coming up on December 19th; see also page 3 of this newsletter for an announcement.
- * Please contact the Chairs of any of these events for further details.

Directory Corrections:

Please see elsewhere in this newsletter for corrections to the 2009-2010 Directory. Apologies to the membership for any inconveniences.

Dealing with the economic situation:

Many teachers are experiencing a decrease in their enrollment this year due to the downswing of the economy. This situation affects all the independently employed, and music lessons are often at the top of the list when people have to cut expenses. Be sure to refer potential students you cannot accommodate to your fellow teachers. If you can, offer discounts to your students. Everyone will be making sacrifices, but we certainly do not want to lose any of our valued teachers.

Thanks again to our Board and Chairs for their support and dedication to the organization.

Cordially,
Bonnie Kellert

WMTA NEWS AND EVENTS



WMTA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS:

Annie Hou (piano)
13927 Rockingham Rd
Germantown MD 20874
(240) 654-9830
anniehou7@hotmail.com

Douglas Harrington (piano)
1546 Davidson Rd
McLean VA 22101
(703) 984-9869
djh@radix.net

Holly Hamilton (violin)
6005 Kingsford Rd
Bethesda, MD 20817
(301) 571-1962
hollykids@comcast.net



Additions to the Board:

*Please welcome new member Karen Dalley-Jesson
as she joins the Board to serve in two capacities
(see below).*



New Chairs:

❖ Lichtenberg Competition:

Julie Slingerland, Chair

Junko Takahashi, Co-Chair

Karen Dalley-Jesson, Assistant

❖ Judged Recitals:

*Karen Dalley-Jesson will be Co-Chair
with Barbara Wing, Chair*

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

- **In the Calendar, June 2 Annual General Meeting: There is no election held in 2010. The next election will be held in 2011.**
- **Inadvertently, the new By-laws, passed by the membership earlier this year, were not published in the present Directory. Members can access the WMTA website to download them or contact the Corresponding Secretary, Ruth Rose, for a hard copy.**
- **Please adjust instrument listings for the following members:**
 - Duck Hee O'Donnell, strings: cello**
 - Emil Chudnovsky, strings: violin**
 - John Touchton, choral**

We apologize for the errors.

HOOD STRINGS COMPETITION

Dear Strings Teachers,

I would like to inform you of the Washington Music Teachers Association 2009-2010 Gretchen Hood Strings Competition, generously sponsored by Potters Violin Shop. It will take place on Saturday, December 19, 2009 at the Women's Club of Arlington. The categories are Junior HS (Grades 7-9) and Senior HS (Grades 10-12). There will be a First and Second place in each category with cash awards generously sponsored by Dalton Potter of Potters Violins in Bethesda.

Teachers do NOT need to be members of WMTA, however the application fee of \$22/27 is doubled for non-members. If you already are a member of MTNA, membership in WMTA is only \$30 for the year. WMTA welcomes string members to enter their students in other WMTA competitive and non-competitive events. Membership information as well as rules and information for the Hood Competition are available on our website, www.wmta-dc.org.

I have chaired this event for 10 years and would like to see it grow into a larger, Washington, DC area landmark strings competition. Please feel free to contact me for any reason regarding this event.

*Sincerely,
John Kaboff
Event Chairman
(703) 534-3940*



about the STUDENT MUSICALES

This event is held the same day as the Judged Recitals and encourages students of all levels to participate, but especially those wishing to garner more performing experience. There are no judges. All participants receive certificates and encouraging applause from the audience! Please refer to the directory for repertoire requirements.



about the JUDGED RECITALS

This event, held five times throughout the year, is open to all instrumentalists and vocalists. A highly competitive recital, this judged event is suitable for students with recital experience. Honors are awarded to top performers, and they are invited to perform in the Honors Recital in the spring.



The results of the last JUDGED RECITAL, held on October 25th, and judged by Cecilia Cho and Nancy Longmyer, are:

Honors: Evelyn Mo (J. Yang), Antonia Stabile (Breth),
Michelle Papenfuss (Hosaka)

HM: Annie Bao (Arseniev), John Janezick (McFarlane)

▶ **Conducting a search for a new Directory Editor**

▶ After next year's 2010-2011 edition, Simone Deering will be stepping down as editor of the WMTA Directory. Simone would like the new editor to work with her to prepare the 2010-2011 Directory from start to finish. This will be a great way to learn what is expected.

▶ *Suggested qualifications:*

- ▶ → Computer skills
- ▶ → Strong proofreading skills
- ▶ → A sharp eye for accurate spelling
- ▶ → Ability to pay attention to small details
- ▶ → Strong follow-up abilities
- ▶ → Available block of time, particularly in the summer
- ▶ → One-to-one personable skills
- ▶ → Some knowledge of printing process (but not a necessity)

▶ *If you are interested in this position, or if you would like to recommend someone in the WMTA membership, please contact Bonnie Kellert (bkellert@comcast.net).*

▶ *The Board is extremely appreciative of all the long hours that Simone has devoted to overseeing this project in the past eight years. Please join me in thanking her for her dedication to the organization!*

– Bonnie Kellert, president

FROM MTNA

- ❖ MTNA has formed a partnership which allows members' businesses to begin accepting **credit cards for payments**. For more information, visit: <http://www.mtna.org/Programs/MerchantServices/tabid/598/Default.aspx>.
- ❖ Check out MTNA's "**Music for Everyone Programs**." Maybe you can develop a studio festival or extra recital program! To find out more, you can go to: <http://www.mtna.org/Programs/MusicForEveryone/tabid/280/Default.aspx>.
- ❖ Did you know that the **MTNA Marketplace** offers a variety of publications and musically themed items for use in your studio? Titles include *Making the Connection: A Guide for Talking to Parents and Students*, *Teacher Assessment Tool*, *Brief Legal and Tax Guides*, *Proceedings from Pedagogy Saturdays I–X*. Stationery and program covers with AMT artwork are also available. Check it out at: www.mtna.org/Marketplace/tabid/158/Default.aspx.

WMTA is now a fully tax-exempt organization!

WMTA recently became a 501(c)(3) federally tax-exempt organization under the umbrella of MTNA and on October 7, 2009 our tax-exempt status became official with the DC government.

These steps are crucial in the preservation and enhancement of WMTA. We can now seek revenue from contributions that are tax deductible for both federal and local tax purposes. With this new revenue tool we should be able to continue all our current offerings and keep the dues and fees constant for the foreseeable future.

Already WMTA has received contributions from within and outside the organization. Teachers are urged to contribute to WMTA if possible and to encourage friends, family and students to do likewise.

Contact WMTA treasurer Junko Takahashi (jutaka@verizon.net) for further details.



MTNA Performance Competitions

The 2009-2010 MTNA Junior and Senior Performance State Competitions for WMTA were held on Saturday, November 7th, 2009, in the Chapel of the Presidents at the National Presbyterian Church. There were 15 competitors — 7 juniors, one senior piano duet and 6 seniors — from five different teachers' studios. Congratulations to all the students who prepared and performed beautifully at this competition. WMTA is pleased to have a strong field of winners representing the organization at the Eastern Division Competition on January 8 & 9, 2010, at Ithaca College, NY. The results are as follows:

Junior Piano Solo:	Winner: Lyric Yu (M. Lee) Alternate: Jungcheng Shen (M. Lee) Honorable Mention: Jessica Shen (Litzelman) Honorable Mention: Nakisa Sadeghi (Mang)
Senior Piano Duet:	Niki Hua & Valerie Zetts (Breth)
Senior Piano Solo:	Winner: Sarah Bao (Arseniev) Alternate: Elizabeth Heifetz (M. Lee) Honorable Mention: Ryo Kaneko (M. Lee) Honorable Mention: Alex Li (M. Lee)

Thanks to our judges: Beatrice Botti, Vera Danchenko-Stern and Shaun Tirrell.
Our sincere thanks also to Julie Slingerland and Nancy Breth, who served as monitors.

– Grace McFarlane & Marcel Maican, Co-Chairs

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Ruth Rose, *Newsletter Editor*
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