

Washington Music Teachers' Association Newsletter

Lori McCarthy, President

Barbara Kober, Newsletter editor

www.wmta-dc.org

Nancy Breth student wins Eastman Competition

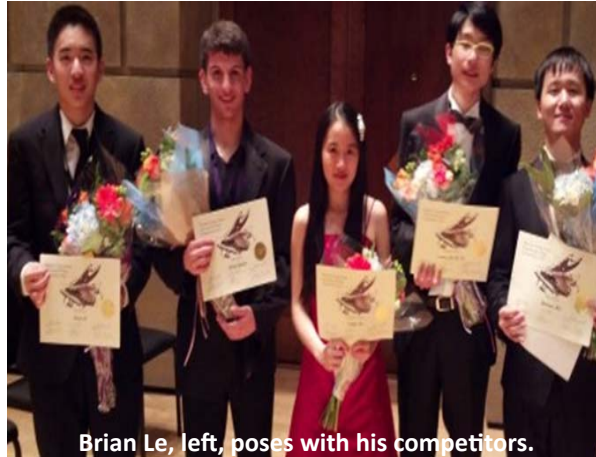
Nancy Breth's student, Brian Le, won first prize in the Eastman Young Artists International Piano Competition in July in Rochester, N.Y.

As top winner among 22 competitors from eight countries, Brian was awarded the Gold Medal, \$10,000 cash, a full tuition scholarship to the Eastman School of Music and a New York City concert debut on October 10, 2015, in the DiMenna Center Piano Concert Series.

To get ready for his New York concert, Brian will play a recital on September 26, at 2 p.m., at Steinway Gallery, 11611 Old Georgetown Rd, North Bethesda.

His program includes a Bach Prelude and Fugue, Beethoven Opus 109 complete, Bartok Sonata complete, Chopin Ballade No. 4, Ravel Ondine and selected short pieces by Rachmaninoff, Bolcom and Chopin.

Brian's reaction to his victory and the competition:



Brian Le, left, poses with his competitors.

"First of all, it was great to be with several of my friends that I had met at other music festivals and competitions. Also, listening to the other participants practice and perform and being able to experience firsthand their dedication and talent was just so inspiring. The competition field was tough and obviously with such a high level of playing, the jury decision was very subjective. Winning the competition was a plus, but also being able to perform in Kodak Hall with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra was simply an unforgettable experience."

To Nancy it was more like shock. Before the competition she and Brian thought "the prize would simply be the fact of acceptance" into this "forbidding" group. Not until afterwards did she even know what was included in the first prize.

I went online and looked and then I nearly passed out," she said. "I had to contact Brian, just to be sure I wasn't dreaming. No, I wasn't. So yes, it is true, but still absolutely amazing."

Brian won the last round of the competition with the Allegro maestoso movement of Chopin's Concerto No. 1 in e minor. He performed with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Neil Varon.

Brian lives in Silver Spring and is a senior in the IB program at Montgomery/Blair High School. His parents are Joanne Zhang and Charles Le.

The DiMenna Concert Series, according to its website, is "a new concert series devoted solely to Distinguished Classical Pianists." Enrique Graf, Agustin Anievas and Jeffrey Biegel are among the artists who have recently performed there.

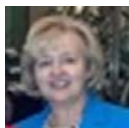
The President's message

As I write this, it is hard to believe the summer is coming to a close soon! It feels like we just wrapped up last year's teaching activities and now it's time to plan for next year.

While I enjoy the slower pace of summer, I also find it a time to explore new activities. I had the opportunity to attend Michiko Yurko's *Music Mind Games* workshop at the beginning of August. Despite the fact that I have been teaching for more than 30 years, it's always wonderful to gain new insights into ways to present theory to students. And I find it remarkable that this internationally acclaimed program is headquartered less than 10 minutes from my home!

This fall, WMTA will hold its second annual Open House on Thursday, September 24 at Jordan Kitt's Music in Rockville, MD from 11am-1pm. All members are invited to stop by

to meet and greet chairs, pick up calendars of events and explore information about all our different programs. A complimentary lunch will be provided. I would especially encourage our new members to come and become familiar with our programs and meet other WMTA members.



Although we no longer put out a printed directory, members can log in to the "Members Only" section of the WMTA website and print off a directory of members. Your login is your last name and password is your membership number. And don't forget about our new WMTA listserv where information about non WMTA local discounts, events and job postings will be available. Please feel free to email me with any questions.

I look forward to the start of the new teaching year, although September will be a busy one for the McCarthy household since our oldest son is getting married, the first of our five children to tie the knot. Luckily, he and his fiancé are extremely organized, so the wedding details are all worked out. For my part, I found my dress this summer so I feel like I'm all set. Oh wait, there is the rehearsal dinner to plan as parents of the bridegroom, isn't there?

Hope to see everyone at the Open House on September 24.

Lori McCarthy
President, WMTA

WMTA



September 24, 2015

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Jordan Kitts Music

12303 Twinbrook Parkway Rockville, MD

Meet WMTA chairs
Discuss events

Pick up paper copies of application forms and calendars

Get advice on how to navigate the WMTA website

Bring a friend or colleague!

Complimentary lunch

PLEASE RSVP:

Lori McCarthy

lorinmccarthy@verizon.net

2015-2016 CALENDAR

Adult Musicales	February 20, April 30
Adult Recital	January 23
Bartok Competition	January 30
Chanaka Festival	March 12
Hartman Competition	May 8
Honors Recital	June 7
Potter (Hood) Strings Competition	TBD
Lichtenberg Competition	May 8
MTNA Audition	November 7 (deadline Sept. 16)
Novik Competition	March 19 and 20
Shop Talk	Sept. 17, Oct. 22, Dec. 3, Jan. 14, March 4, April 21
Student Musicales/Judged Recital	Oct. 25, Dec. 6,
January 24, February 21, April 3	
WMTA Young Competition	April 1 (deadline)

WMTA Young Composers Competition

By Janet Peachey

Do you have students who enjoy creating their own music? Do you value composition assignments as a useful pedagogical tool? Encourage your students to enter the Young Composers Competition.

This competition is open to any student composers, and all submissions are welcome, not just those from students planning college-level composition study. Students will receive constructive critiques from the judges, and first prize-winning students at each level will be invited to have their compositions performed at the WMTA honors recital held in June.

Levels:

- ◆ -Elementary: through the 5th grade
- ◆ - Junior: 6th-8th grades
- ◆ - Senior: 9th-12th grades

Deadline is April 1, 2016

For more information see WMTA website or contact Janet Peachey, janet.peachey@dc.gov.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Linda Bryant
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Chevy Chase, MD 20815
(301) 656-2196
bryantlinda85@gmail.com

Steven Benson
2622 Lake Ridge Court
Oakton, VA 22124
703-539-5656
steve@stevebenson.com
Susanna Barasch
103 31st St, NW Washington,
DC 20007
(202) 802-8383
sbarasch@m4arts.org

Helen Craig
2555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Apt. 408
Washington, DC 20037
(301) 339-4755
hjcraig8@aol.com

Hartman Piano Awards

Viola Hartman served as the WMTA President from 1961-1963. Named in her honor, the Viola M. Hartman Piano Performance Awards has been one of the longest running and most important WMTA competitions, attracting as many as 175 competitors at the pre-college level.

The Hartman Awards consistently attracts a high level of competitors of all ages, from 6-7 year-old pianists through 17-18 year-old performers, many of whom aspire to pursue further musical studies at the college level. Due to the large volume of entrants the competition lasts an entire day.

Each student is required to perform two contrasting pieces and time limits are carefully observed in performance. This event is held in recital format, giving students an opportunity to listen to and learn from one another.

Grace McFarlane is chair

NextNotes Competition

The deadline for the NextNotes High School composition Awards of the American Composers Forum, an organization that has been supporting young composers around the United States for more than 40 years, is January 11, 2016.

Anthony Chanaka Classical Festival

By Bonnie Kellert

The Anthony Chanaka Classical Festival was created to honor the memory of our longtime WMTA member and treasurer.

This event alternates years with the Baroque Festival and will be held March 12, 2016.

Students will perform at Steinway Recital Hall, 11611 Old Georgetown Road, North Bethesda. The venue has a slightly raised stage and a Steinway Grand is available for the pianists. There is ample space for performers, family and friends. I have received complimentary comments from many parents who find the atmosphere warm and friendly. Two judges offer supportive comments that encourage students to continue with their development and gentle criticism to enhance their performance.

The Anthony Chanaka Classical Festival is a non-competitive event held in recital format. Students are assigned to a recital group and are required to stay for the entire recital. All performers receive two critiques and a certificate of participation. This event is open to all instrumental and voice students through the 12th grade.

The repertoire includes any solo or ensemble music written by a composer of the Classical period (born between 1720 and 1800). Each movement of a sonata or sonatina is considered to be one piece. Pianists may not program simplified arrangements and no method book pieces are allowed. Bowed string, wind and brass instrument arrangements and transcriptions are permitted at the elementary level only. Guitar arrangements and transcriptions are permitted at all levels. Piano solo works must be performed by memory. All others may use a score. Students must provide the judges with scores of their pieces.

Application fee: \$20 -- per student or ensemble

Postmark deadline: February 13, 2016

Time Limits: Each performer may play up to two pieces, limited to a total of 8 minutes.

For further details, please contact the chair, Bonnie Kellert (bkellert@verizon.net)Members Forum

What W M T A members are doing in the outside world of music

Barbara Wing will offer a six week pedagogy course beginning in October in her home studio at 7313 Burdette Court, Bethesda. The course will be held on Fridays from 10:30 to 12.

Titled "Practice Games with Grieg," the course features simple procedures that can help students master the many necessary skills in successful piano playing. Each Practice Game will relate to one or more of Grieg's intermediate level piano pieces.

Participants will learn how games can facilitate learning technique, sightreading, memorizing and ensemble.

To apply, email Barbara at bwing56@cs.com.

Steve Schwarz will give an informal, salon-style recital, September 4, 2015, at the Christian Heurich House Museum from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., as part of First Friday Dupont.

First Friday Dupont is a long-standing program in which museums and art galleries in the Dupont Circle neighborhood hold a coordinated open house on the first Friday of every month from 6-8 p.m.

Heurich House is located at 1307 New Hampshire Avenue NW.

For more details, check this Facebook event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/790978667681542>.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE -- DECEMBER 1, 2015

Lori takes a journey to the land of Music Mind Games



Michiko Yurki and Lori McCarthy.



From left: Sara Zentner, Lori, Sven Rainey, Julia Sheriff, Gabrielle Donovan, Karen Christensen, Joanna Jones, Eric Davenport, Kirsten Schoen, Cyrille Magne, Ivan Enrique, Garcia Pascual, Michiko, Alexia Luscher.



Front row from left: Michiko Yurko, Jerian Okoh, Karen Christensen, Ivan Enrique Garcia Pascual; Middle: Sven Rainey, Gabrielle Donovan, Julia Sheriff, Kirsten Schoen; Back row: Eric Davenport, Alexia Luscher, Cyrille Magne, Sara Zentner, Lori McCarthy, Joanna Jones.



Michiko Yurko, Lori, Karen Christensen, Cyrille Magne.

Chords

Triads



Michiko & Student



Michiko with Sara Zentner in the background playing note games.



Joanna Jones, Lori and Kirsten Schoen .



Karen Christensen, Gabrielle Donovan, Sven Rainey, Lori McCarthy ,Michiko Yurk.



Front row from left: Gabrielle Donovan, Lori McCarthy, Michiko Yurko; Second row: Sara Zentner, Julia Sheriff, Jerien Okoh, Karen Christensen; Back row: Ivan Enrique Garcia Pascual, Alexia Luscher, Kirsten Schoen, Eric Davenport, Sven Rainey.

"Learn music theory with joy and enthusiasm."

By Lori McCarthy

This summer, I had the opportunity to attend the week-long *Music Mind Games* Workshop, Unit 1, in Kensington, MD, which is run by MTNA member Michiko Yurko, thanks to a continuing education grant from MCMTA. It was an enlightening and energizing experience. The workshop was attended by teachers from Australia, Spain and several states throughout the United States. Some of the teachers had attended the workshop before but came again to learn new ideas from this ever-evolving program. A few were new to the program like me, but others were experienced and studying to become teacher trainers. It was a great dynamic that nurtured the neophytes and helped the experienced teachers see what games were more challenging to learn.

For those of you who do not know about *Music Mind Games*, it is a program designed to help students "learn music theory and reading skills with joy and enthusiasm". As chair of the MSMTA theory program, I have a particular interest in exploring fresh, new ways to approach the subject and this workshop did not disappoint.

Music Mind Games uses four main components in its teaching method: 1) an innovating teaching sequence; 2) a nurturing philosophy; 3) friendly, colorful materials; and 4) a large variety of creative games. There are 300 games in the curriculum, which is flexible and can be used with preschoolers but older students as well. The games are divided into nine areas: dictation and sight reading, musical alphabet and intervals, reading rhythms, rhythm math, staff and notes, tempo, music symbols, scales/key signatures, and triads/chords. Individual games have different focus, such as teaching, memory, review, or evaluation. In addition to the theory concepts, this program helps to develop skills necessary for studying music, such as following directions, developing a quick and dependable memory, and working well in a group in a noncompetitive way among other things.

Personally, I plan to incorporate many of the games into my early childhood classes and with my piano students in both my group and private lessons. One of the innovative things I found was a new way to teach melodic dictation. I have a few students who have been struggling with dictation as they make their way through the upper theory levels. Many of the interval and dictation games covered in this workshop gave me a fresh perspective on how to work with those students and improve their listening skills. In addition, I think Michiko's unique way of teaching rhythm through the "Blue Jello" vocabulary that assigns words to various rhythms could make rhythmic dictation a fun game instead of the sometimes terrifying and tedious exercise some of my students consider it now.

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A message from WMTA's membership chair:

WMTA was lauded by the MTNA last year for its membership retention efforts, and we'd like to keep up the good work! While the vast majority of WMTA members have renewed their memberships already, we do have a significant number who haven't yet done so — and this is part of a trend seen widely among state organizations, where many states are in worse shape. I've been reaching out recently to those who haven't renewed. If you get an email or phone message from me, please let that friendly reminder urge you on to action to complete your renewal in a timely way. We would really like to have all WMTA members renewed by September 30. Just after that, we plan to go over members' listings on WMTA's web site, to ensure that they contain accurate and current information. We want to be sure to include you, so get your renewal done!

Thanks, Steve

WMTA Officers and Board Members

President	Lori McCarthy
President-Elect	Hedy Bannon
Recording Secretary	Nancy Longmyer
Treasurer	Patricia Palombo
Immediate Past President	Nancy Longmyer
WMTA Board of Directors	
Adult Musicales	Elizabeth Lane
Adult Recital	Jeffrey Beaudry
Archives	John Healey
ASCAP	Janet Peachey
Baroque Festival	Bonnie Kellert
Bartok Competition	Lisa Sarratt
Certification	Nancy Longmyer
Chanaka Classical Festival	Bonnie Kellert
ConcertoFest	Jaewon Lee
Corresponding Secretary	Bonnie Kellert
Hartman Awards	Junko Takahashi, Bonnie Kellert, Grace McFarlane
Honors Recital	Yoon Huh
Independent Music Teacher Forum	Anna Ouspenskaya
Judged Recitals	Julian Trail
Legal Counsel to the Board	Randall Reade
Lichtenberg Competition	Scott Beard
Membership	Steven Schwarz
Mentoring	Bonnie Kellert
WMTA Newsletter	Barbara Kober
Novik Concerto Competition	Grace McFarlane, Nancy Breth
Potter (Hood) Strings Competition	Emil Chudnovsky
Shop Talk	Barbara Wing
Specialty Competition	David Kosutic
Student Musicales	Aglaia Koras, Dmitri Nazarenko
Telephone Referral	Nancy Longmyer
Tselentis Competition	Matthew Harre
Website Liaison	Lori McCarthy
Young Composers Competition	Janet Peachey

Novik Concerto Competition

The **Ylva Novik Memorial Concerto Competition for Pianists** will take place on March 19-20, 2016. The Junior Division is open to students through 9th grade.

The Senior Division is open to students 19 or younger enrolled in any high school, junior high school or elementary school in the Washington area. First place winners from 2014 are ineligible to compete in the same division.

Repertoire Requirements:

Junior Division: Any one movement from any concerto

Senior Division: An entire concerto, except Beethoven #3 and Prokofieff #3.

Awards:

The Senior Division winner will be awarded a cash prize and a performance of the winning concerto with the Capital City Symphony Orchestra. The second place winner will receive a monetary prize. Honorable mentions may be awarded. The Junior Division winner will be awarded a monetary prize.


2014 Senior Division winner, Eric Lin, student of Marjorie Lee, performed the Prokofieff 3rd Concerto with the Capital City Symphony on October 12, 2014 as a result of winning first place in the last competition.

This concerto competition is named for Ylva Novik (1922-1977), former WMTA President from 1965-1967. As a teacher, editor, author, scholar, mentor and friend, she was highly respected not only in the Washington community but in the wider world of music

This biennial competition is held in audition format, according to a Charter that was adopted by the WMTA board in 1980. Held on two days, the Junior Division requires a concerto movement, while Senior Division competitors have to prepare an entire concerto.

Questions? Contact Grace McFarlane, Chair. gbot-telier@gmail.com, or **Nancy O'Neill Breth, Co-Chair.** nancy@brethstudio.com

WMTA



September 24, 2015

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Jodan Kitts Music

12303 Twinbrook Parkway Rockville, MD

Meet WMTA chairs
Discuss events
Pick up paper copies of application forms and calendars

Get advice on how to navigate the WMTA website

Bring a friend or colleague!

Complimentary lunch

PLEASE RSVP:

Lori McCarthy
lorimccarthy@verizon.net

Music Mind Games

Continued from Page 3

And I suspect we all encounter those students who memorize music so quickly and are reluctant to read music, therefore developing reading skills at a slower pace than technical skills. Making reading fun by incorporating *Music Mind Games* into that student's musical study could potentially increase those reading skills in a way that traditional theory programs may not. I can hardly wait for the school year to start to try some of these new concepts out!

For those of us lucky enough to live in the Washington, DC area, we are just a short distance away from this wonderful workshop that is given at locations all over the world. I highly recommend looking at the website www.musicmindgames.com to see all the wonderful things this program offers.