



Washington Music Teachers Association Newsletter – January 2017

www.wmta-dc.org

Lori McCarthy, *President*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear WMTA Members:

It's been a busy year so far for WMTA members. Can you believe we're already almost halfway through the school year?

There are still many wonderful events to come so be sure to check out the WMTA website for more information about all our events.

Sadly, you may have noticed that our newsletter editor, Barbara Kober, stepped down from the position, so I will be filling in for the time being. I know we'll all miss Barbara's professional newsletters!

Mark your calendars for the General Membership Meeting on Thursday, May 11th, 10:30am at Jordan Kitt's brand new location, 11726 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, MD. Do you have any suggestions for a program you might like to see? What would inspire you attend? We've had member performances the last few years and could certainly continue doing those. But if you have any other ideas, let me know!

We have the unique opportunity to attend an MTNA Conference right in our back yard! The next conference will be held from March 18-22 in Baltimore, MD. I plan to attend and hope to see many of our WMTA members at the Conference.

Lori McCarthy, President, WMTA

MSMTA President Connie Fischel and Lori McCarthy at the MNTA Leadership Summit in September 2016



MSMTA President Connie Fischel, Eastern Division Chair Ginger Hwalek, and Lori McCarthy.



MTNA Conference

March 18-22, 2017

Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Baltimore, MD

WMTA is a 501 (c) (3) organization. All contributions are deductible to the full extent of the law.
Checks may be sent payable to WMTA, c/o Patricia Palombo, 11205 Marcliff Rd, Rockville, MD 20852

JUDGED RECITAL RESULTS

WMTA Judged Recital - January 29, 2017

Honors

Tan Nguyen, piano student of Lisa Emenheiser Sarratt

Harrison Benford, piano student of Nancy Breth
Kevin Wu, piano student of Dmitri Nazarenko

Honorable Mention

Karina Aliyeva, piano student of Dmitri Nazarenko

Michelle Lin, piano student of Lisa Emenheiser Sarratt

Michelle Dong, piano student of Marjorie Lee

Judges

Grace McFarlane and Jeongseon Choi

WMTA Judged Recital - December 4, 2016

Honors

Melissa Wu, piano student of Lisa Emenheiser Sarratt

Brooke Bro, piano student of Elena Arseniev

Nathan Mo, piano student of Rosanne Conway

Raelyn Hoang, piano student of Silva Blazquez

Honorable Mention

Brendan Cocchiara, piano student of Soyoon Yim

Alison Wan, piano student of Marjorie Lee

Lauren Joelle Kim, piano student of Lisa Emenheiser Sarratt

Judges

Cha Park and Karen Bartman

WMTA Judged Recital - October 30, 2016

Honors

Joanna Cheng, piano student of Marjorie Lee

Alena Lu, piano student of Elena Arseniev

Hanna Wang, piano student of Lisa Emenheiser Sarratt

Honorable Mention

Isabella Schwartz, piano student of Natalia Efremova

Jason Liu, piano student of Dmitri Nazarenko

Sean Schwartz, piano student of Natalia Efremov

Max Meer, piano student of Caroline Kim

Claire Dantzierward, piano student of Lisa Emenheiser Sarratt

WMTA Adult Recital

The Adult Recital was held on the afternoon of Saturday 12 November 2016 at the home and studio of member Bonnie Kellert in Potomac. Four students participated, from the piano studios of Betty Miller, Maribeth Gowen and Jeffery Beaudry. The program consisted of solo works by Schubert and Marianne von Martinez and a piano duo by Poulenc. Despite the small size of the program, the chair elected to hold the recital nonetheless, since there had been a recent change in timing of the recital (previously in winter, now in the fall). The chair believes that WMTA members will get used to the new timing of the recital and will be better able to enter students in future years. The judge was Elizabeth White who provided helpful written comments to the participants; she received a \$100 honorarium. Eighty dollars in total fees were received from the participating teachers. After the performances were done, participants, teachers and judge enjoyed a potluck reception. The event was a success, and we hope that next year, more teachers will participate!

Respectfully, Jeffery Beaudry



WMTA Members Randy Reade, Junko Takahashi, Lori McCarthy, Hedy Bannon and Annie Hou at the MSMTA State Convention on October 15, 2016 at UMBC.

CONCERTOFEST 2017

ConcertoFest was held on Saturday, January 7th at Jordan Kitt's new location in Rockville.

9 students from 3 studios performed. Participating teachers were Nancy Breth, Irina Koulikova and Jaewon Lee. The judges were Hedy Bannon and Haewon Min.

ConcertoFest is biannual, non competitive event. Students can perform any level of concerto movement and get positive comments from two judges.

The next one will be held in January 2019.

Jaewon Lee, Chair

WMTA Young Composers Competition – Deadline April 1

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

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

TSELENTIS BACH COMPETITION

The **Tselentis Bach Competition** will be held on April 1st at the Steinway Piano Gallery in Rockville, MD; deadline March 4th. The chair of this event is Grace McFarlane. Please note the requirements:

Junior Division (age 12 or under): Each contestant shall be required to play one of the following Two-Part Inventions: No. 2 in c minor, No. 7 in e minor or No. 9 in f minor. The performance of a different Two-Part Invention of the contestant's choice shall also be required.

Intermediate Division (age 17 or under): Each contestant shall be required to play one of the following Sinfonias: No. 7 in e minor, No. 9 in f minor or No. 11 in g minor. The performance of a different Sinfonia of the contestant's choice shall also be required.

Senior Division (age 20 or under): Each contestant shall be required to play one of the following Preludes and Fugues from the Well-Tempered Clavier, Volume 1: No. 4 in c-sharp minor, No. 8 in e-flat minor or No. 22 in b-flat minor. The performance of one movement from the French Suites, English Suites, Partitas or French Overture shall also be required.



WMTA General Meeting

Thursday, May 11, 2017, 10:30am

Jordan Kitt's Music, Rockville, MD

WMTA Website

Please check out the "Members Only" section of the WMTA website, where you can download a PDF of the membership list for printing. Forms available only to members are also there. Your username is your last name and your default password is your membership number. You can also find information about signing up for the WMTA Listserv in the Members Only section. If you have any problems, feel free to contact Lori McCarthy, Web Liaison at lorinmccarthy@verizon.net



WMTA Events for Teachers

Have you ever attended one of the events available to WMTA teachers, *Shop Talk* or *Talk About Teaching*? I was able to attend each this year and they are wonderful opportunities to share ideas. At the last *Shop Talk*, we actually shared a number of problems in our individual studios and it was helpful to get suggestions about solutions. Private teaching can be such a solitary endeavor and chances to share with colleagues can make it feel as if we're all in this together! And we had a fun time working on harmonization ideas. At the *Talk About Teaching* I attended, we shared ensemble ideas. It's so difficult for everyone to know every single piece of repertoire. We all gleaned new knowledge about pieces that might work really well for our students. And one of the best parts – it's like continuing education at no cost to you! *Shop Talk* is held at Barbara Wing's studio in Bethesda, MD (next one on March 9th) and *Talk About Teaching* at Nancy Breth's studio in McLean, VA (next one on March 13th). Hope to see you there!

Lori McCarthy

WMTA Baroque Festival

Featuring Music of Composers Born Between 1600 and 1730

Here is a great opportunity for all instrumentalists through 12th grade to perform in a warm and welcoming atmosphere and receive constructive comments from 2 esteemed members of our organization.

Date: Saturday, March 25

Venue: Steinway Gallery, N. Bethesda

Applications due: March 4 (electronic applications encouraged)

Fee: \$20 per student or ensemble

Performers will receive two constructive critiques and a certificate of participation.

Eligibility: Open to instrumental and voice students through the 12th grade.

Repertoire: Two pieces, total time limit 8 minutes per performer.

Please read the website for further details regarding repertoire.

This is a non-competitive event held in recital format.

For any questions, please contact the Chair, Bonnie Kellert (bkellert@verizon.net)



WMTA Essay Award

Here is another of the wonderful essays we received as part of the WMTA Essay Award for High School Seniors.

Pathétique

By Clare Henderson
Student of Elizabeth Lane

It tastes like dark Valrhona chocolate melting on my tongue- savory, not sweet. It smells like an Elysian field of flowers; they blend together to make my favorite scent, PhiloSykos No. 3. It reminds me of how the Charlevoix sunshine made rainbows of my golden hair one afternoon in August. And how that sunburn offset his dark green eyes like a flat-out masterpiece.

With every stroke of ivory, I pump lifeblood into the notes. The Pathétique is not an intangible holy grail. It's my very own. All of my miniature perfections are strung together in a spectacular symphony of sound and succulence. I can breath it. My stomach drops with each decrescendo. My heart beats to the thump of the pedal. It's indescribably good.

And then it's not good enough. It misses the mark. My new instructor, a fiery, German thirty-something, distresses, "it's not what Beethoven intended!" I've been foolish, naive. I begin to hear the discordance. I've been playing all the right notes—*his* notes—in all the wrong ways. How irreverent of me. How pathetic.

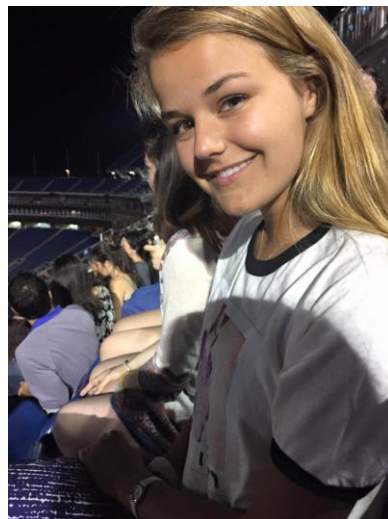
Thus ended my love affair with The Pathétique Sonata. It's been years since we've spoken, but I've been otherwise engaged, speed-dating preludes, courting waltzes, and occasionally flirting with a Nocturne on the side.

Still, nothing is perfect like it was with the Pathétique. I try five pumps of PhiloSykos instead of two, but my nose is numb to it. I sit in the same sunshine, but my hair is now more of a dull bronze. I try to piece back together that composition of eyes and skin and teeth, but the fragments fall apart in my hands.

So, I'm going back. It's been right there on the windowsill in my hazy sunroom, collecting dust, waiting for me. Once I clear the cobwebs from between my fingers, they'll relish in the ancient chords. The melodies will flood every cavity of my chest and the pitches will reverberate with my bones.

For now, it's hard work. My hands creak and tremble; the fluidity they once knew has left them from years without practice. Even still, the keys have a faint warmth to the touch. The chords greet me as an old friend, digging up fond memories from ages long forgotten. The Pathétique and I are simply catching up, making up for 6 years of lost time. Soon it will be like it once was, and we'll forget we ever broke up.

Since returning to the Pathétique, I've learned not to give up on perfection. My rendition of the Pathétique was not perfect for Ms. Livinghaus, and it certainly wouldn't be perfect for Beethoven. But it's perfect for me. I won't give up on something that makes my heart swell with a mixture of unbridled bliss and pride of accomplishment. It's what people spend a lifetime searching for, and I'll never again let someone convince me that's not good enough.



WMTA 2016-2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| Adult Musicales | February 11, May 20 |
| Baroque Festival | March 25 |
| Hartman Competition | May 14 |
| Honors Recital | May 21 |
| Lichtenberg Scholarship Competition | May 14 |
| Modern Piano Music Celebration | February 4 |
| Shop Talk | March 9, April 27 |
| Specialty Competition | February 11 |
| Student Musicales/Judged Recitals | February 19, March 26 |
| Extra Judged Recital this year | April 23 at Steinway Piano Gallery, 3pm |
| Talk About Teaching | March 13, May 8 |
| Tselentis Bach Competition | April 1 |
| WMTA Young Composers Competition | April 1 (deadline) |
| General Membership Meeting | May 11 |

For further information regarding upcoming events, please check the WMTA website.

Welcome New Members

Cecile Khill
2130 P St NW #526
Washington, D.C. 20037
cecilekhill@hotmail.com
(202) 321-4098
Piano

Ping Steimel
14 Summit Ridge Ct
Gaithersburg, MD 20874
pington@yahoo.com
(301) 528-2325
Piano, Piano-Pedagogy, General
Music



Deadline for the next newsletter:

April 5, 2017

Send information to Lori McCarthy at
lorinmccarthy@verizon.net