



Maryland State Music Teachers Association



Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association

www.msmta.org

A bi-monthly publication of the Maryland State Music Teachers Association

December 2015

From the President...



Dear MSMTA Members,
It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is over and the holidays are almost upon us. As I write this letter Hanukkah has begun and Christmas is right around the corner.

It just seems like yesterday that we were enjoying our wonderful conference.

It was a real success thanks to Deborah White-Bondhus and her hard working committee. Things went very smoothly for Debbie's first conference. We enjoyed the advanced Master class with Ramos Santana from Catholic University as well as the intermediate Master class with Jennifer Linn from Missouri. She brought with her new music from Hal Leonard and did a workshop on "Building Creativity into Every Lesson." Our own Bonnie Kellert did a great workshop on Technical Challenges Facing Young Pianists: Discovering Solutions at the Lesson and Maxwell Brown from the UMD Piano Archives brought us Master Teachers and Their Pupils: The Schools of Tobias Matthay, Alfred Cortot and Heinrich Neuhaus, with a selection of recorded examples. In the evening after a delicious dinner we enjoyed a concert performed by our conference artist Ramos Santana. Debbie and her team are now looking at ideas for the conference of 2016.

The MTNA conference will be in San Antonio Texas, April 2-6. The offerings are wonderful

with Master Classes by Bruce Berr, Seymour Bernstein and Barbara Fast to name just a few. We can enjoy the evening recital with a performance by Emanuel Ax. I hope to see many of you there.

I hope you all have a restful holiday. Take care of yourselves and recharge your batteries. The busy season with keyboard and theory testing, competitions, High School Piano Exams and end of year auditions and recitals will be upon us very soon. Please be sure to check the Student Activities calendar for deadline dates.

As our world seems at times to be falling apart remember that music is the balm that keeps us sane.

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all,

Peace,

Constance Fuschel

MSMTA 2015 CONFERENCE THROUGH THE EYES OF A RELATIVE "NEWBIE"

Attending the Maryland State Music Teachers Association 2015 Conference gave me and hopefully all attendees another boost in energy and enthusiasm for our passion in teaching. This was the second conference I have attended, and I cannot wait to attend more. Meeting and networking with fellow teachers, watching clinicians work their magic in masterclasses with students and later hearing one of the clinicians

Continued on Page 2

PRESIDENT

Constance Fischel
6072 Warmstone Court
Columbia, MD 21045-4045

TREASURER & VP FINANCE

Claudette Horwitz
5004 Barkwood Place
Rockville, MD 20853

VP STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Daniel Lau
507 Walker Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21212-2624

VP MEMBERSHIP

Ann McCandliss
4429 Buena Vista Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21211-1206

VP PUBLICATIONS

Richard Hartzell
1817 Arcola Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20902-2830

VP CERTIFICATION

Mary Wolf
12841 Crescent Run Street
La Plata, MD 20646-4178

RECORDING SECRETARY

David Holmes
6586 Dovecote Drive
Columbia, MD 21044-4108

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Douglas Guiles
10359 Cullen Terrace
Columbia, MD 21044

HISTORIAN

Helen Smith Tarchalski
1802 River Watch Lane
Annapolis, MD 21401-2009

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Ann Matteson
5204 Paducah Road
College Park, MD 20724-1138

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Junko Takahashi

LOCAL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS**ANNE ARUNDEL MTA**

Christene Sanders

MTA GREATER BALTIMORE

Wendy Balder

MTA BOWIE

Jeannine Case

CARROLL COUNTY MTA

Nancy Rodo

MTA CHARLES COUNTY

Mary Wolf

GREATER COLUMBIA MTA

Helen Weems

EASTERN SHORE MTA

Raymond Hobbs

FREDERICK COUNTY MTA

Laurel Carroll

HOWARD COUNTY MTA

Bok Hwa Kim

GREATER LAUREL MTA

Wendy Johnston

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MTA

Cynthia Cathcart

PRINCE GEORGES MTA

Janet Swaney

MTA SOUTHERN MARYLAND

Debra Smedley

MSMTA STATE CONFERENCE 2015 UMCP

Continued from Page 1

perform in a solo concert, hearing a live composer share and talk about her own music, being able to peruse and buy music and literature about teaching, and gaining knowledge from clinicians talking about their trade are some of the many benefits of being a part of this conference.

I checked the conference date in my calendar, warned my family that I would be busy all day and night on October 10, and registered online several weeks prior to the conference. The day of the conference came, and I ventured over to the University of Maryland at College Park's Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center excited and curious about the list of conference activities. I checked in, got my name tag, raffle ticket and bag of goodies, and was ready to go.

Jose Ramos Santana's passion for music and musical intensity came through as he worked with the three advanced master class students. After the students each performed their piece, Jose spent time working through and focusing on how the students could better create the music. How the pianist sits, where the feet should be, how to position and move the body, arms and fingers, and how not to move the arms if it does not make sense to move the arms are all important elements to enable the pianists to play the technical passage more accurately, get the desired dynamic and musical feeling across, and get all the notes to sound as they should. Following this masterclass, I had some time to check out the tables of music and piano pedagogy literature set up by Fox Music of Falls Church, VA where I found some great items such as "The Pianist's Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance Literature" by Jane Magrath and Nancy O'Neill Breth's "The Piano Student's Guide to Effective Practicing".

Jennifer Linn, pianist, teacher, arranger and composer, walked, talked and played us through many of her own creative piano pieces from her solo piano collections such as "Just Pink", "Animals Have Feelings Too", "Les Petites Images" and "Les Petites Impressions" written in the French impressionist style, and "Reflections", as well as some other music published by Hal Leonard Corporation such as "Jazz Band Pianist" and "Journey Through The Classics Complete". How lucky were we to have a live composer sharing and talking about her own music with us in person! Following this presentation, many of the conference attendees rushed to the music tables to purchase all of Jennifer Linn's piano books which sold out in a matter of minutes.

The general membership meeting followed during which we ate a delicious boxed lunch. After the meeting, Bonnie Kellert presented "Technical Challenges Facing Young Pianists: Discovering Solutions at the Lesson". Bonnie shared her great teaching ideas and tips with us while using two of her wonderful students. She packed in as much helpful information as she

possibly could before having to stop for the Intermediate Masterclass. Lucky for us, she also gave us a handout containing many of the ideas she presented and more.

During the Intermediate Masterclass, Jennifer Linn's love of music and teaching students, fun sense of humor, and sensitivity of the students' needs was evident. She had the four brave students perform their pieces in recital format one after the other, after which she worked with each. Jennifer stressed the importance of the students feeling confident and good about their efforts and the masterclass experience in general. This was especially clear as she shared a personal story of a masterclass she participated in as a student with Emanuel Ax where she received some initial negative feedback after she played, and as a result, has no memory of anything Emanuel Ax shared with her during the masterclass. Also, after working with the students, Jennifer Linn highlighted the final participant's skilled composing abilities by asking if he would be comfortable doing an impromptu performance of his composition which he did. What an amazing experience for all who were present.

After the Intermediate Masterclass, a bit saturated and chock full of new ideas and information, I headed home to grab a quick nap and have dinner with my family, regretfully missing the Maxwell Brown presentation, before returning for the solo piano concert by Jose Ramos Santana later that evening. As any who were present for the concert know, Jose Ramos Santana's playing was incredibly moving and inspiring. It was especially great to see Jose Ramos Santana put the ideas shared in his morning masterclass into his evening's performance - a great finish to an amazing conference.

Robin Schultz

IN MEMORIAM...



We are sad to convey the news that Connie Fischel's mother recently passed away. All MSMTA expresses its sincerest condolences to Connie and her family. May her mother rest in peace.

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

ADVERTISING

Claudette Horwitz

BYLAWS/PARLIAMENTARIAN

David Holmes

CERTIFICATION

Ann Matteson

COLLEGE FACULTY

TBA

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Deborah White-Bondhus

COMPOSITION COMMISSIONING

Li-Ly Chang

CONFERENCE

Carol Wolfe-Ralph
Junko Takahashi

FINANCE

Claudette Horwitz

FUND RAISING

TBA

INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHERS

Helen Smith Tarchalski

LEGAL ADVISOR

Randy Reade

LOCAL AND STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS

Kathryn Stansbery

MTNA FOUNDATION

Carol Wolfe-Ralph

MSMTA FOUNDATION/ FUNDRAISING

TBA

MEMBERSHIP

Ann McCandliss

NOMINATIONS

Ann Matteson

PUBLICATIONS

Kathryn Stansbery

PUBLICITY

Christine Couch

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Yoon Huh

TECHNOLOGY

Cynthia Cathcart

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

COMPOSERS/IMPROVISORS CIRCLE RECITAL

Students of MSMTA teachers played their original compositions at the Composers/Improvisors Circle recital held on December 6, 2015 at University United Methodist Church in College Park. The students' compositions were creative and delightful and they were played very professionally. The large audience was receptive and appreciative.



The purpose of this event is to provide a venue and encourage students and teachers to develop their compositional/improvisational skills. From the composition titles, we heard everything from hummingbirds, ivory waltzes, odysseys, season's changes, and beautiful autumns to sweet dreams, and scintillation!! Composers received a printed booklet of all the compositions performed, each performer received a certificate and a biographical sketch of each student was included in the program notes. After the concert, a festive reception was held to honor the students.

Participating teachers in this event were: Anna H. Chen, Elena Eliseeva, Joanna Greenwood, Ann Matteson, Ruth Peng, Junko Takahashi and Deborah White-Bondhus.

Teachers who might be interested in having their students compose/improvise might start thinking about preparation for next year's event which will be held later in 2016.

Joanna Greenwood and Ann Matteson, Co-chairs

MEMBER NEWS

CANDLELIGHT CONCERT SOCIETY, INC. VIRGINIA LEE STIEGLER MANCHESTER, FOUNDER



On November 21, 2015, Candlelight Concert Society, Inc., recognized MSMTA member Virginia Lee Stiegler Manchester for being a founder of the concert series. Candlelight (and MSMTA) board member Helen Weems arranged tickets and transport to get Virginia safely to the concert, where Candlelight President Philip Press made an announcement about the special guest in the audience, mentioning that Virginia continues to teach in her home, and thanking Virginia warmly for her lasting contribution to classical music performance. The audience erupted in enthusiastic applause. Virginia entertained many admirers throughout intermission and at the end of the concert. Candlelight is now celebrating its 43rd year, and continues its mission of bringing internationally acclaimed chamber musicians to its Howard County patrons each year, in addition

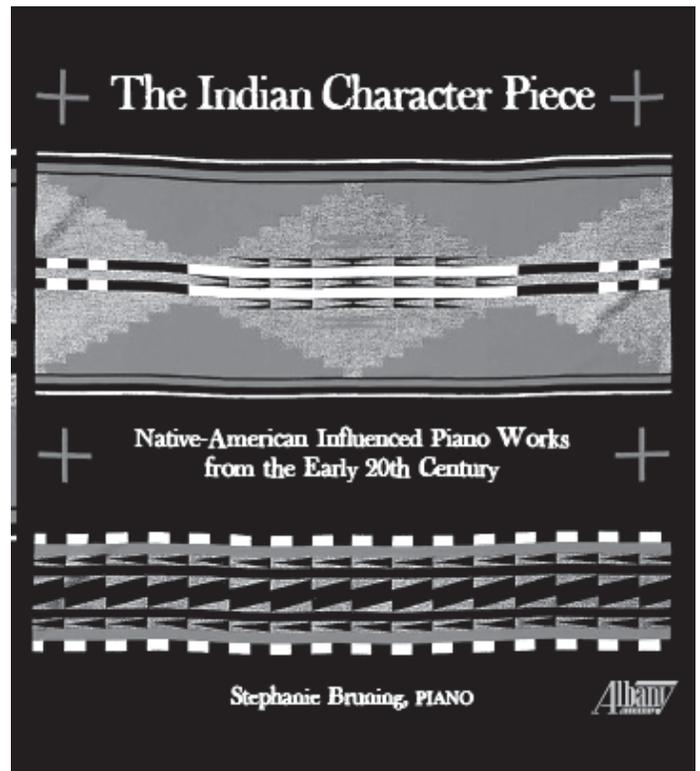


to children's concerts and school outreach programs.

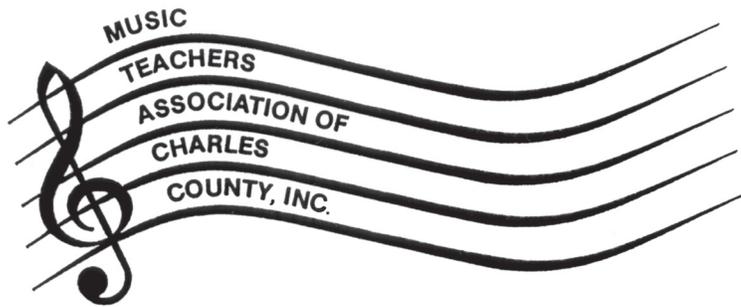
STEPHANIE BRUNING CD

The Indianist Movement is a musical movement from around 1890–1920 describing the surge of compositions related to or based on the music of Native Americans. Hundreds of compositions written during this time incorporated various aspects of Indian folklore and music gathered by ethnologists into Western art music. The Indianist Movement resulted from many factors in our nation's political and social history as well as a quest for a compositional voice that was uniquely American. One prominent genre within the Indianist Movement was the Indian Character Piece. This expressive piano genre was an effective way for composers of the Indianist Movement to portray musical themes and folklore of Native-American tribes. Eventually the enthusiasm for using Native American material died out and left a large body of piano literature collecting dust, out of print, and virtually unrecognized.

This recording features solo piano works by Amy Marcy Cheney Beach, Arthur Farwell, Ferruccio Busoni, and more on the Albany Record label. A few of the pieces had never been recorded. Many were re-published in the Stephanie Bruning books, *The Indian Character Piece: Native-American Influenced Piano Works from the Early Twentieth Century, Volumes 1-2* (available through Ludwig Masters Publications).



LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS



Sounds of the season were heard on Saturday, December 5, when the MTA of Charles County hosted its annual Carols and Cookies recital at Christ Episcopal Church in La Plata, MD, featuring 2 recitals with piano, violin, flute and a flute choir performing Christmas and holiday favorites. Everyone was treated to milk and Christmas cookies afterwards.

After a busy Fall, including hosting events like the MSMTA Keyboard Exam and an Ensemble Concert, members are looking forward to celebrating the holidays with family and friends and anticipating a prosperous and musical 2016.

Mary Wolf, President

What does an organization like MCMTA do when the bylaws require a board meeting, but not enough people can attend to reach a quorum? This was our situation recently, and technology was the answer. We didn't use the latest or greatest technology, just a string of emails utilizing "reply-all." With this format we had double the attendance required as several board members who had to otherwise miss the physical meeting were able to "attend". It did drag on (I closed voting the following morning) but we got business done, no one got stuck in traffic, no lessons had to be canceled, and everyone had complete and equal access to speak...well, to write...their thoughts. Nothing can replace face-to-face interaction, and this only worked because we did not have a lot of business, nor was there anything on the agenda of great urgency or complexity. Still, it worked. We decided that given similar circumstances, we will do it again.

Montgomery County Music Teachers Association



We held our first Ensemble Recital on December 6. This is a new event to provide a place in the schedule for groups of two or more students playing together, whether it is two pianists, a group of string players, or just about anything else. The event was yesterday as I write this report, so I am still waiting to hear how successful it was.

Regarding events, and despite much effort and hope, we have decided that we must retire our Concerto Competition. This saddens me, as attending the winner's concert was always a highlight for me personally; one of the best performances of the year! But notice I write "retire" and not "cancel." Lots of good work went into those competitions, and some good ideas were presented during the past two years of discussion and exploration. I hold out some hope that in the future someone in our group will pick up those ideas and create a new event from them.

Cynthia Cathcart, President

Continued on Page 7



I am pleased by how our 2015 student activities have gone, so far, with a well-attended Fall Student Recital, Adult Student Piano Gathering, Halloween Piano Party, and congenial meetings with colleagues to share music by performing for one another. I look forward to 2016 when MTAGB will sponsor a Master Class with Brian Ganz at the Peabody Towson campus on March 20, our Honors Recital on May 15, and more monthly Music Matinee gatherings.

I am also pleased to announce that two Teacher Enrichment Grants were awarded to MTAGB members Betsy Stocksdale and Joanna Greenwood.

Betsy writes:

“I am so delighted to be the recipient of a scholarship from Jordan Kitts. Their generosity will aid in my pursuit of a long-time goal, coursework and ultimately a Certificate, in Autism Studies. My hope is that I will be able to reach out to that underserved community, with piano lessons tailored to their needs. I have no doubt that these studies will also prove to be profoundly applicable to my neuro-typical students.”

Joanna writes:

“On Saturday October 10th, 2015, at the MSMTA Conference held at the University of Maryland Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts, I was very fortunate to receive a William J. McCormick, Jr. Grant for Teacher Development. I used the grant to help toward the costs of going to the National Piano Pedagogy Conference in Chicago at the beginning of August, which I attended to learn what was most current in the piano teaching world as I will be transitioning back to being a full-time piano teacher after I leave Goucher College in May.”

This Fall has been an active season for us.

The Fall Student Recital was held on November 15 at CCBC Essex. Many thanks to our new Recital Chair I-Wen Tseng for coordinating this event and to Patti Crossman, who again arranged for this excellent, student-friendly venue.

“I’m happy to report that the Fall Recital last Sunday went well. We had a total of 23 participants who provided a wide range of styles of music, from J.S. Bach’s Minuet to Khachaturian’s Etude, a few blues-style pieces and ending with a Tango that sent everyone to the reception. The students’ performances were well prepared, the teachers and parents were very helpful and supportive of the event, which ended in a lively reception. Sincere thanks to our participating teachers: Wendy Balder, Ruth Peng, Yuka Stein, Betsy Stocksdale, and Shisa Suskey.”

I-Wen Tseng

**2016 ROCKVILLE COMPETITION
for Solo Piano & Solo Strings**

Date of Competition: May 1, 2016

Winners Recital: May 7, 2016

**Location: Montgomery College
Rockville, MD**

rockvillecompetition@gmail.com

301-838-5594

Application Deadline: April 1, 2016

**Rockville Competition
966 Hungerford Drive, No. 27
Rockville, MD 20850**

There is NO teacher work requirement.

A Gathering for Adult Students was held at the studio of Marjorie Liss on Sunday, November 1. Students of Barbara Gruver, Marjorie Liss, Ann McCandliss, and Barbara Stumpf played works by Glière, Rebikoff, Rachmaninoff, and Mozart. Barbara Stumpf gave a short presentation (“Advice from Artists”) on the best possible attitudes and positive “self-talk” as we practice and play for others. Approximately 15 students, teachers, and friends were present. Afterwards, Marjorie treated us to a fabulous buffet and offered to host us again in the spring. Thank you, Marjorie!

Halloween Piano Party

The “Spooky Halloween Piano Party” was held at the Roland Park Presbyterian Church on October 30, 2015 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. There were about thirty students at the party of Elementary and Middle School ages. Everyone arrived in their costumes, which added to the great atmosphere already created by the Halloween decorations put up by Ann McCandliss. The students sat on the floor gathered around the piano to hear everyone’s spooky piece. It is wonderful to know that there is so much Halloween music for students to play at all levels. A special thanks to Ann, who organized the

event and went to so much trouble with the Halloween decorations both inside and outside the church.

Teachers represented: Stephanie Bruning, Joanna Greenwood, Ann McCandliss, and Barbara Stumpf.”

– *Joanna Greenwood*

FALL MUSIC MATINEES:

“Our fall Matinees have gotten off to a great start, with a growing group and lots of enthusiasm around this year’s theme of “Russian Composers.” Many thanks to Barbara Gruver, Elaine Williams, and Wendy Balder for your gracious hospitality at our first three meetings of the season. Here’s a peek at some of our line-up: Wendy is bringing a monthly tour of Moussorgsky’s “Pictures at an Exhibition,” Barbara Gruver and I have brought Rachmaninoff preludes in D major (op. 23) and b minor (op. 32). We have been treated to several duos by Arensky (Ann McCandliss and Barbara Gruver, Deanna Hauser and Elaine), and speaking of duos, we welcome Yuka Stein and her piano partner Miri Terashima to our group. They have played a number of pieces for us, most recently a Bach Air, a Mendelssohn Consolation, and a gorgeous “Fantasy of Cherry Blossoms.”

Barbara Stumpf

ADVERTISEMENTS

MSMTA is now accepting advertisements in its newsletter. Space is limited to two pages total, so ads will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Rates are:

	Member	Non-member
1/8 page	\$20.00	\$30.00
1/4 page	\$40.00	\$50.00
1/2 page	\$80.00	\$90.00
Full page	\$135.00	\$150.00

For more information, contact **Richard Hartzell** at:

rlhartzell@verizon.net

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Please email all notices and copy for inclusion in the February 2016 MSMTA newsletter by **February 8, 2016**, to:

rlhartzell@verizon.net or mail to:

***Richard Hartzell
MSMTA Newsletter Editor
1817 Arcola Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20902-2830
Tel: (301)-649-4112***

The MSMTA Newsletter is published five times per year by the Maryland State Music Teachers Association, Inc.

Claudette Horwitz and Elizabeth White, contributing editors
Circulation: 725