



Three Quarter Times

musical growth through evaluation and encouragement

Newsletter of the
New Jersey Music Teachers' Association

FALL 2006

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***President's* MESSAGE**

I am very happy to report to you that NJMTA has had a banner year! Inside this issue, you will find articles on NJMTA events of the past few months and of the months to come. We would like to keep the membership informed of all the programs NJMTA has to offer.

The overflowing number of students and teachers involved in the Annual Spring Auditions/Recitals and the Spring Piano Festival show that these programs continue to be popular throughout the state. I would like to thank Grace Chang, Christina Xie, Jessica Tsai, Ruth Pasquariello, Chiung-yin Cheng Liu and Flora Newberry for their many hours of dedicated work in successfully overseeing the Spring Auditions and Recitals. Also, thank you to all the monitors, runners, recital hosts and helpers. The Auditions and Recitals cannot take place without many helping hands. After many years of service, Ruth Pasquariello will be stepping down as North Jersey Audition/Recital Chair. Thank you Ruth for your wonderful work with this event! We thank Gloria Chu and Lana Chakoff for stepping up to take this position.

With over 800 students involved in this year's Piano Festival, this event took on another look as we moved into two buildings on March 12th to accommodate the numbers. A big thank you goes to our fearless Festival leaders, Kristen Watkins, Laura Amoriello, Teresa Lim, and Ayumi Hashimoto for making this possible. In order to maintain this ever growing NJMTA event, all of us need to help as much as possible.

Again, with so many students involved, many judges were needed this spring. Thank you to Tomoko Harada for calling and arranging for all the judges.

I would like to thank Sondra Tammam for her leadership in the Concerto Competition. On Saturday April 22nd many of us were treated to brilliant performances by our Competition Winners, Katelyn Tran, Melissa Chan, and Jin Nee Lo. Congratulations to them, as well as their teachers Veda Zuponcic and Ingrid Clarfield..

Inside this newsletter, you will be treated to a detailed explanation of our newest program, the Performathon. I would like to thank Patricia Landy and her entire family for their dedication to the "Children Helping Children" Performathon. This non-competitive musical experience for all ages and levels was an overwhelming success. Thank you to Alison Neely and Veda Zuponcic for attaching their programs to this worthwhile endeavor. We are already working on a Performathon to take place in February, 2007.

A reminder to all: this is the last hard copy newsletter that you will receive. After this issue, the newsletter will be online. If you do not use a computer and you wish to receive a hard copy, please inform our Membership Chair, Sarah Chen. All future newsletters will continue to be published online at www.njmta.com. I would like to thank Margaret Sheneman for serving as our Newsletter Editor for several years.

Finally, I would like to thank Seth Rosenthal for serving as co-treasurer the

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President's MESSAGE

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last couple of years. Seth will continue to work with Flora Newberry and Deborah Gers, as we continue to expand the winds,

brass, and strings programs in NJMTA. I would like to thank former NJMTA President Yining Wang for returning to the Board as Co-Treasurer. Welcome Back!

As I have stated before, the Board of NJMTA is always striving to include more students and more teachers. But, we need your help. If you have ideas for new programs and/ or ideas on how to improve existing programs, please contact me or someone else on the Board and we will be more than happy to talk to you.

As we head prepare for a new teaching year, mark your calendars... the next NJMTA State Conference will

be held at Rider University in Lawrenceville on the weekend of November 18th-19th. Look for details inside this Newsletter. I encourage all of our members to attend the always lively, entertaining, and informative NJMTA State Conference.

I look forward to seeing everyone in the Fall.

Sincerely,
Betty Stoloff
NJMTA President

2006 State Conference

Mark your calendars now for November 18 and 19. This is a conference that you will not want to miss. Spread the good word to your colleagues. We promise you a conference that will stimulate, enrich your creative thoughts and experiences.

Our conference will be held at Rider University in the Bart Ludeke Center. Rider University is on Route 206 in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. Lawrenceville is approximately 5 miles south of Princeton. Our facility offers us ample rooms, a beautiful auditorium, excellent parking facilities and plenty of space for exhibits.

I am pleased to announce that our conference artist will be the nationally recognized artist, teacher, and clinician from Indiana University, Karen Shaw. Her lecture recital is entitled "A Romantic Affair." She will discuss trends in the romantic period, and composers that influenced these trends. She also will conduct the advanced master class

Paul Sheftel, nationally famous teacher, author, artist, composer, and clinician from Juilliard will conduct the intermediate master class

We are proud to present our own nationally recognized artists, Ingrid Jacobson Clarfield and Dr. Chiu-Ling Lin. Ingrid Jacobson Clarfield, coordinator of the piano department at Westminster Choir College, author, artist, clinician, and

teacher will present a lecture recital entitled, "Teaching Technique Can and SHOULD be a Musical Experience."

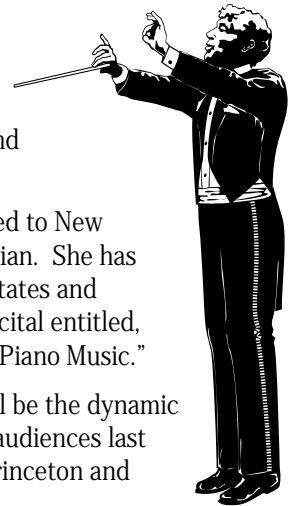
Dr. Chiu-Ling Lin, who recently moved to New Jersey, is an active teacher and clinician. She has concertized throughout the United States and abroad. She will present a lecture recital entitled, "Eastern Delight: Exploring Chinese Piano Music."

Brought back by popular demand will be the dynamic Jayn Rosenfeld, who stimulated our audiences last year. She is principal flutist of the Princeton and Trenton Symphonies.

She was principal flutist in the American Symphony Orchestra under Leopold Stokowski. A clinician and teacher, she will conduct a special master class and coaching sessions in chamber music. Jayn Rosenfeld is an active recording artist, teacher and performer. She is on the faculty of Princeton University.

Look for more offerings and details in the next Three-Quarter Times. This is only the beginning. I hope to see you all at the conference.

Lillian Livingston
President Elect



Congratulations

Julie Braeckman of Bordentown, NJ, received a 2006 MTNA Teacher Enrichment Grant. Teacher Enrichment Grants may be used for private study, college-level course work or special projects in performance, pedagogy, music theory and composition. The grant is not intended to be used to pursue course work

toward a degree, for travel funds or for ongoing projects. However, a grant may be approved for one additional year at the discretion of the Teacher Enrichment Grant Evaluation Committee. The number of grants awarded in any year is determined by the number of qualified applicants and available funds.

Grant applications and guidelines for 2007 will be available September 1, 2006. Applications are due in the MTNA national headquarters office postmarked no later than January 10, 2007, and grant recipients will be announced at the 2007 MTNA National Conference.

Congratulations, Julie!

Student Activities In Review

NJMTA Children Helping Children Performathon

Over 150 young musicians from across the state have come together to raise over \$9,000 for the Child Life Program at Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital. The Hospital is part of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The funds were raised as part of a Performathon organized by the New Jersey Music Teachers Association (NJMTA).

The Children Helping Children Performathon brought together school age students of all levels of advancement to perform for 12 hours over 4 days. On Saturday and Sunday, February 4-5, 2006, NJMTA students and teachers presented 9 different recitals free and open to the public at Williamson Hall on the campus of Westminster Choir College of Rider University. Donations collected for The Child Life Program were brought to the concert by the performers, and additional contributions were accepted at each program.

"The response was overwhelming – both

music and generosity blended to celebrate artistry and community spirit." said Betty Stoloff, President of NJMTA.

On January 22 and 29, 2006, the Young Artist and Young Musicians Programs at Westminster Conservatory of Music dedicated 2 recitals to this beneficiary as another section of the NJMTA Children Helping Children Performathon.

On March 11 and March 12, 2006 NJMTA member, Veda Zuponic of Rider University coordinated a Shostakovich-Mozart Festival with proceeds going toward NJMTA Children Helping Children Performathon.

The success of the Performathon demonstrates how excellence in teaching, student dedication and talent, and parental support can bring the experience of music into a different dimension. Music makes a difference in our lives and the lives of others.

Patricia Landy
Arts Advocacy Chair

2006 Piano Festival

The Spring Piano Festival was great fun this year! Over 800 students and 30 judges participated—a record number for the Festival. There were so many people that we happily expanded into two buildings, a tradition we hope to keep for the future. The students who participated enjoyed a performance opportunity with immediate feedback. Whether playing the smallest of beginner pieces or advanced repertoire, each student received comments and pointers from the judge just after playing. Several adults even participated because they enjoyed the judges' feedback! Of course, the students also enjoy receiving a certificate, 3-year medal, or 5-year trophy too!



Kristen Watkins
Piano Festival chair

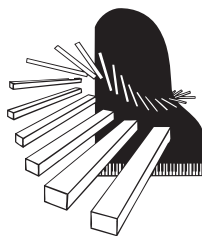
Spring Recital Audition Results

The NJMTA 2006 Piano Recital Auditions for the Princeton/Manalapan area attracted 1156 student entries (238 for Manalapan and 918 for Princeton), representing 129 teachers. 327 students received High Honors, 597 students received Honors and 209 students received Honorable Mention. Thirty one students were absent. Among 1156 students, 150 students received 3-year award, 64 students received 5-year awards, 31 students received 7-years awards, 9 students received 10 to 12-year awards and one student received a 15-year award. There were 43 recitals, 10 at Manalapan and 33 at Princeton.

Grace Chang
*Princeton/Manalapan
Piano Coordinator*

The NJMTA 2006 Piano Recital Auditions for North Jersey attracted 303 students, representing 37 teachers. 108 students received High Honors, 144 students received Honors, 35 students received Honorable Mention, and 16 students were absent. Thirty-six students were awarded 3-year medals, 17 students received 5-year trophies, 11 students earned 7-year trophies, and 1 student was awarded a 10-year plaque. On April 29 and May 6, four High Honors and six Honors recitals were held to celebrate the students' accomplishments.

Ruth Pasquariello
North Jersey coordinator



2006 Concerto Competition

The 2006 Concerto Competition, in collaboration with the Westfield Symphony Orchestra, was a wonderful concert on April 22. The winners were Katelyn Tran in the Beethoven Concerto #1, first movement; Melissa Chan in the Ravel G Major first movement; and Jin Nee Lo in the St. Saens #2, first movement. They are students of Veda Zuponic and Ingrid Clarfield. Honorable Mention was awarded to cellist Courtney Lin Kaita, daughter of Chiu-Tze Lin.

This was the third season that the Westfield Symphony Orchestra and Maestro David Wroe collaborated with the NJMTA. Please encourage your students to participate in the next Concerto Competition, slated for 2008.

Sondra Tammam
Concerto Competition chair

Student Activities Corner

2006 New Jersey Composer Commission Competition

Craig Urquhart composed three interesting piano pieces and one flute-clarinet duet this year for NJMTA. Urquhart's compositions attest to the "continuing renewal of faith in

subtle radiance as an acoustic instrument." Leonard Bernstein wrote, "Craig Urquhart is a truly gifted composer. . . his tonal approach is genuinely moving, with a private beauty of his own."

Moving to New York after receiving his master's degree in composition from the University of Michigan, Mr. Urquhart left some of his music with Mr. Bernstein's doorman. The Maestro called Mr. Urquhart back, and the two became acquainted. In 1985, Urquhart was hired as Bernstein's musical assistant. He also served for many years as a member of the music faculty at the Harlem School of the Arts, and was actor Tom Hulce's musical coach

Pastorale
Craig Urquhart

Moderato

Flute

Clarinet in Bb

mp

mf

7

13

18

Fl.

Cl.

p

p

p

RHAPSODY
CRAIG URQUHART

ROMANTICALLY FLOWING

ff

p

mf

Copyright by Craig Urquhart

beauty and the healing power of music." His latest album, *Streamwalker*, was honored in "Contemporary Instrumentals" and named one of the top ten of 2004 by "Solo Piano Publications." Urquhart creates "rich melodic landscapes which blossom into dramatic journeys from the heart. He is a master of touch, moving beyond virtuosity and returning the keyboard to its original

for the Academy Award-winning film Amadeus. He is a member of ASCAP, serves on the board of directors of the Lotte Lehmann Foundation, and is a voting member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

The commissioned pieces for NJMTA are published in New York by Mr. Urquhart's publisher. Contact Elena Benedict, (609) 279-1975 or lenabenedict@yahoo.com, to acquire the music. Pieces for beginning and intermediate levels are \$5.95 each. The early advanced piece and the duet are \$12.95 each.

The competition will be held November 5, 2006, at Westminster Choir College, Princeton Hall. Registration deadline is October 14, 2006. Winners will perform at the NJMTA Conference

For: Robert Miller
Romance
Comissioned by the New Jersey Music Teachers Association 2006

Craig Urquhart

Slowly, Thoughtfully

For: Margaret Carson
Comissioned by the New Jersey Music Teachers Association 2006
IN THE AFTERNOON
Craig Urquhart

Moderato

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Copyright by Craig Urquhart

on November 19 in the afternoon, and will have the opportunity to meet the composer who will discuss his creative process and each of the commissioned pieces.



Certification Corner



Professionalism certainly has become a buzz word in workplaces across the country, as employers are seeking ways to differentiate between candidates with increasingly greater skill sets. Professionalism truly is what sets apart one potential employee from the rest. This is no different in the music teaching profession as parents and students select a music teacher. With literally thousands of music teachers to choose from, potential music students and their families want to make sure that they make a valuable investment in a teacher who is qualified and has made a commitment to professionalism—in this case the MTNA Professional Certification Program.

MTNA Certification is a process that validates an individual's qualifications for a specific field of professional practice. It demonstrates to employers, clients, and peers that which the individual knows and is able to do. It signifies commitment to continued excellence in professional practice. In addition, it increases visibility, builds credibility, provides a goal for personal professional achievement, and validates expertise for the individual and to those outside the field.

The MTNA Professional Certification program exists for teachers who teach music to students of any age level in private or group settings. The program is based upon a set of five standards defining what a competent music teacher should know and be able to do:

Standard I: Professional Preparation

Standard II: Professional Teaching Practices

Standard III: Professional Business Management

Standard IV: Professionalism and Partnerships

Standard V: Professional and Personal Renewal

Upon fulfillment of these standards, applicants are granted the MTNA Professional Certification credential with the designation, Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM). In order to maintain the MTNA Professional Certification credential and designation, NCTM must continue fulfilling the program's standards through the renewal process.

Certification Standards already should be a part of everyone's teaching. The MTNA Professional Certification Program and the NCTM designation verifies to parents, students and the public that these standards have indeed been met and will continue to be upheld.

With growing competition in the music teaching world, it is necessary to set oneself apart from other teachers and show a commitment to professionalism.

For more information about the MTNA Professional Certification Program, visit the website at www.mtnacertification.org/home.htm.

A few more Certification updates:

1. Congratulations to Tomoko Harada and Teresa Lim, NJ's two newest NCTM (National Certified Teachers of Music)! NJ is moving forward. We now have 31 NCTM in the state with a few more in the process of applying right now.

2. Did you know that there is a \$50 refund of your application fee if you are among the first 10 teachers to become a NCTM in NJ this year? If you are considering certification or have any questions, please contact Ting Ting Lien at tinglien@comcast.net.

3. We will have a Certification Presentation during the NJMTA state convention on November 18-19. Please mark the date and plan to join us. We are inviting Karen Taddie NCTM, who is the Eastern Division Commissioner of National Certification Commission of MTNA to direct the session. She will be able to answer any questions you may have.

4. To all NCTM teachers: please remember to include your NCTM title after your name whenever you submit official documents and registration forms. When printing concert programs, try to emphasize your name and NCTM title. You are a professional, and we want you to be recognized!

If you have any questions, please contact Ting Ting Lien, NJ State Certification Chair, by email: tinglien@comcast.net

New Legal Benefits Available to MTNA members

Beginning July 1, MTNA offers legal consultation services free of charge, exclusively to MTNA members. Assistance in the following areas will be available:

- Zoning issues
- Bill collection
- Business formation (additional fees may be required for filing in your state)
- Non-compete agreements
- Buying and selling existing studios

- Music purchases and resale to students
- Copyright and ASCAP issues
- Ethics issues
- Liability issues
- Tax issues

Call the MTNA National Headquarters to discuss your legal questions and issues. After calling the office, you may be directed to an attorney for further consultation.



Also, new this year is the MTNA Professional Support Line. Assistance provided by the educational services staff is available for pedagogical and business issues.

To use both of these services, contact the MTNA National Headquarters at (888) 512-5278 or mtnatnet@mtna.org.

Remember to renew your membership for the 2006-2007 year to continue enjoying all the benefits MTNA offers and take advantage of these two new services.

National News

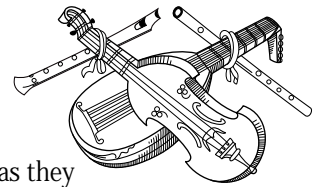
Hurricane Katrina Outreach Update

Did you know you as an MTNA member can still be part of the continuing recovery process for MTNA members affected by Hurricane Katrina? Even though nearly a year has passed, there is still a great need for financial support in the devastated areas. MTNA members in Louisiana and Mississippi have received countless amounts of printed music, but continue to struggle as their insurance claims are denied and they are not able to earn money by teaching.

NJMTA donated hundreds of dollars worth of new copies of favorite teaching materials to our state affiliate in Louisiana. The East Texas Music Teachers Association (ETMTA), based in Tyler, Texas, understood this ongoing need and organized a practice-a-thon.

With a mission to strengthen student's practice habits while supporting MTNA in its effort to raise funds for teachers affected by the Hurricane Katrina disaster, 48 students from 10 teachers' studios participated in the event which was held during the week of February 19–25, 2006. The final tally is in and the 48 students practiced a total 8,798 minutes. The \$2,751.60 raised during the practice-a-thon was contributed to the MTNA Hurricane Katrina Recovery Fund, and the students who practiced 150 minutes or more were eligible for prizes.

While the recovery process for music teachers in the gulf coastal areas is ongoing, MTNA encourages its affiliates and members to continue to remember their colleagues in Louisiana and



Mississippi as they rebuild their lives. Organizing events like this practice-a-thon are great ways to encourage students to practice, in addition to creating a service project opportunity.

Contributions to the MTNA Hurricane Katrina Recovery Fund may be made over the telephone (888) 512-5278 or by U.S. mail (MTNA, The Carew Tower, 441 Vine Street, Suite 505, Cincinnati, OH 45202). Please specify "Hurricane Katrina Recovery Fund" when you call or write. Because MTNA's administrative costs are funded through other means, every dollar contributed to the Recovery Fund goes directly to aid teachers in Louisiana and Mississippi.

2007 MTNA National Conference

Did you know now is the time you should begin your planning to attend the 2007 Collaborative Conference in Toronto, Ontario? This groundbreaking international conference brings together, for the first time, MTNA, the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers Association and the Royal Conservatory of Music—and you will want to be there. If you have ever thought about attending the MTNA Conference or wish you had the resources to make it happen, now is the time to plan. Your preparations will involve both time and money, and MTNA wants to offer suggestions to help make attending the national conference a reality.

As you prepare for the 2006–2007 teaching year, you will determine how many weeks you are going to teach and when. To insure you have the time off to go to the conference and that you are making the same amount of income while you are attending the conference, you need to plan your calendar so you start teaching one week earlier or teach one week later. Another way to set the calendar is to go ahead and schedule the dates that you will be gone and then

plan "make-up" lessons. The 2007 Conference is March 23–27.

Based on current airfare to Toronto, hotel accommodations, food and some miscellaneous spending money, you might want to budget approximately \$2,000 to attend the 2007 Conference. Now is the time that you will be setting your tuition for next year and now is the time that your studio supports you. For example, if you have 20 students and they take lessons for 40 weeks of the year each student would be responsible for \$100 toward your attendance at the national conference—that would be \$2.50 per lesson more to raise your rates to cover the expenses. If you have 30 students and teach 40 weeks that is just \$1.65 per student more that you would need to charge.

It is important to communicate with your students that you are planning to attend the MTNA Collaborative Conference, that it is in Toronto and that this is your time for professional renewal and networking. Isn't it more comforting to know that your physician

continues to go to conferences and reads professional journals and knows the latest information? Students and parents will appreciate the fact that you are going, meeting composers of pieces they play, hearing outstanding young artists, networking with other teachers, exploring new methods and information on teaching and bringing back all of that information to share with them through your own teaching.

Membership

Visit keyboardcompanion.com, the online version of Keyboard Companion magazine. In this issue Phyllis Lehrer provides a veritable online workshop! She supplements her article on Schumann's Romance in F#, Op. 28, #2, with a performance of the piece, followed by fifteen short audio excerpts that demonstrate the points in her article. While you read Prof. Lehrer's ideas in the print magazine, you can listen to her play them on the website.

Group Medical Benefits

The South Jersey Music Teachers Group is in the process of looking into a group medical insurance for all independent teachers. If this meets the criteria with the company, major groups (Blue Cross, Aetna, and others) would be available to all state members who join the local and would be offered to families of the teachers.

A list is being compiled of interested people, this includes a contact phone number and/or e-mail address. The county, age, sex, and # of people needs to be included. The goal is to compile this list over the summer and to present the potential clients to the underwriters for evaluation.

As a group, this priority is top of the list, and your ideas and questions are welcomed. Contact: mypianoteacher@aol.com OR lillian88@aol.com

Countdown to Canada begins now!

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Rachel Kramer,

Director of Educational Services at

rkramer@mtna.org or (888) 512-5278 ext. 242.

Date Slate



■ ***September 12***

MTNA Competition entries due online by midnight

■ ***October 2***

Young Musician, Conference Master Class, Composer Commission, and High School Scholarship Competition entries due

■ ***November 5***

Young Musician (piano) and Composer Commission Competitions, and Conference Master Class Auditions, Westminster Choir College

■ ***November 11***

Young Musician (winds, brass, percussion, string and voice), High School Scholarship, MTNA Student Composition and MTNA Student Performance Competitions, location TBA

■ ***November 18-19***

NJMTA 2006 State Conference, Rider University

NJMTA NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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