

Three Quarter Times

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

Inside this issue:

President's Message	2
2016 NJMTA State Conference	3
Member's News	4
MTNA Eastern Division Winners	5

Special points of interest:

- Sunday, March 26, 2017—Spring Recital Auditions - Piano (Princeton)
- Sunday, April 02, 2017—Spring Recital Auditions - Piano (Princeton)
- Sunday, April 09, 2017—Spring Recital Auditions - Piano (North Jersey)

Happy Belated New Year! It seems that our Winter Newsletter has been coming out later and later each year. A few years ago, it used to come out in January. Many of us at NJMTA have been very busy and time just flies very quickly. Despite the delay, I am glad that all of us are still committed to getting our work done. We had a productive year in 2016, thanks to our board members for their outstanding work. NJMTA is very fortunate to have an excellent group of hard-working members who have dedicated so much of their time and effort to serve this wonderful organization.

We had a successful state conference last November at the new Hillman Hall of Westminster Choir College. This was the first time that we had the conference in this beautiful building. Everyone I talked to told me that they were very impressed with this location and with the presentations. From the minute we walked in, we were greeted by a group of students from the Westminster Collegiate Chapter, who were all formally dressed in black and eagerly waiting to help and welcome all conference attendees. The

long registration table was nicely decorated, covered with white table cloth, with orchids on the table (thanks to Marianne Lauffer who helped us decorate the table!). It felt almost like we had the conference in a five-star hotel! I would like to thank our President-Elect and Conference Chair, Ting-Ting Lien and the Conference Planning Committee for doing such a wonderful job in organizing the conference and for thinking of all the small details that create a more welcoming atmosphere for all of us. I believe this was one of our best (if not the best) conference ever! The conference planning committee includes Ting-Ting Lien, Marianne Lauffer, Chiu-Ling Lin, Wei-Yuh Christina Xie, Betty Stoloff, Lillian Livingston, Deborah Gers, Renae Block, Yuhui Chloris Li and myself.

The conference was highlighted with sessions conducted by our featured artists: Dr. Peter Mack's unusual lecture recital where he told us the secret stories behind some of the most beautiful unknown repertoire for the piano, as well as revisiting some of the most beloved pieces ever written; his inspiring advanced master class,

followed by a special session on "Lower the Rear End of the Elephant Onto the Keys", where he shares some of his most memorable metaphors that help students technically, artistically and intellectually; Keith Snell's Intermediate master class, followed by a special session on "The Genesis of Piano Music for the Left Hand Alone - Virtuosity, Technique, and Injury"; commissioned composer Dr. Ezra Donner's compositions performance at winners recital; our own member Betty Stoloff's presentation on "Dovetailing Methods and Piano Repertoire" that explored the intricate way of weaving through the methods and appropriate supplementary pieces to the heart of the piano repertoire; and the Independent Music Teachers Forum's presentation on "MTNA & Me: Are there Perks to Being a Member?", led by our very special guest, Dr. Gary Ingle, who is the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA). It is always an amazing experience to watch the Winners Recitals throughout the conference and witness our future artists in the making.

Continued on page 2

President's Message (Con.)

Special thanks to Renae Block for adding the special "Flute Day" to our conference program this year, which was a great success. We had David DiGiacobbe conducting the High School Flute Master Class, where he also spoke on ways to prepare the NJ all-state solo piece, Faure's Fantasia, Op. 79. Dr. Lynne Cooksey gave a Middle School Flute Master Class, where students were coached on the band solos for each of the three NJ regions, followed by a panel discussion on "Favorite Intermediate Flute Gems", which was a chance for teachers to share favorite lesser-known repertoire. I was very impressed by the turn out and the enthusiasm of the participants. I hope we can continue to have the Flute Day or a special day for other instruments at our future conference. It is important for people to realize that NJMTA is not just for the piano teachers. We would like to encourage other instrumental teachers to be part of it as well.

Our conference vendors were very happy this year, thanks to Jason Gallagher who was in charge of the vendors and did an incredible job in helping them all day long to make sure they were settled on the best spots possible and felt comfortable. There was a significant increase in traffic of teachers visiting the Exhibition Hall. Many of the vendors reported a much higher number of sales than usual.

During the conference, NJMTA also presented a number of awards to recognize those individuals who have contributed significantly to the organization and the music teaching profession. Congratulations go to Yining Wang who is our "Teacher of the Year" recipient for 2016. Mr. Wang is one of our past presidents and he is still actively involved with NJMTA. We want to congratulate our long-time board member Betty Stoloff for receiving the 2016 NJMTA Service Award. Ms. Stoloff has raised over \$170,000 in

the past 12 years for the 3 Ronald MacDonald Houses in New Jersey, through our annual "Children Helping Children" Performathon that provides a non-competitive community-oriented event that gives students the opportunity to reach out and share their talents with the community. We had over 360 performers and 60 teachers involved last year, and 28 recitals held. We appreciate their contributions to NJMTA.

I am also happy to inform you that our Immediate Past President, Wei-Yuh Christina Xie has been chosen to be our 2017 MTNA Foundation Fellow. This honor is bestowed upon outstanding individuals who have made a significant difference in the music world. Her award will be presented at the MTNA National Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, on March 20, 2017. Ms. Xie is much loved and respected by her colleagues and friends. Her contributions to the music profession has inspired and will continue to inspire teachers and students everywhere.

I can never say this enough times, but NJMTA is truly fortunate to have so many wonderful teachers/colleagues on the Board, who have dedicated countless hours to organize many activities. I would like to thank all of our fall events chairpersons, including Young Musicians Competitions – Hwei-Lan Luo (Piano), Ingrid Tang (Strings), Renae Block (Winds, Brass and Percussion), Wennie Nai-Yueh Niu (Voice), Yang Yi (Chinese Instruments); Conference Masterclass Coordinator – Kyu-Jung Rhee; Composer Commission Competition & Intermediate Masterclass Coordinator – Emily Lau; High School scholarship Competition – Margaret Knight; MTNA Student Composition Competition – Julia Kovalev, and MTNA Students Performance Competition – Christina Xie and Amy Tu. Our fall events went very smoothly, because of a wonderful team work by all of the above chairpersons. I was very pleased to see so

many supportive teachers who entered their talented students to participate in these events.

I would also like to thank the three important people who work very hard behind the scene: Tomoko Harada who constantly looks for excellent piano judges for our competitions and auditions, Ikumi Hiraiwa who helped with the printing of certificates for the winners and ordering the trophies, and Dr. Chiu-Ling Lin who books the facilities for all of our events.

At the beginning of January this year, I was in Boston during the snow storm to attend the MTNA Eastern Division Meeting and to help with the MTNA Eastern Division Competition, which was held at the Boston University on January 8. We were very lucky that the competition was held on Sunday, and not on Saturday when it was snowing heavily. It took me over 7 hours to travel from New York to Boston on the icy highway with extremely poor visibility. I am proud that there were quite a few winners from New Jersey who will be representing the Eastern Division at the National Level. The list of winners can be found in this newsletter and on NJMTA website.

Our spring events and activities are right around the corner. We have the NJMTA Children Helping Children Performathon, Spring Piano Festival, Spring Recital Auditions and Winners Recitals coming up. I encourage as many of you as possible to participate in these events by helping out to show your support. We are always short of volunteers and we need your help. If you are available and willing to help, please contact our chairpersons for each event. The dates of all events are listed on NJMTA website. There is a calendar of events right on the main page of the website, where you can "flip" the calendar from month to month.

Once again, I would like to encourage all of you to attend the next MTNA

2016 NJMTA State Conference

Dear all music teachers and music lovers,

The 2016 NJMTA annual conference had come to a successful ending. I would like to take a moment to share with you some highlights of the conference and acknowledge many important teachers who worked behind the scenes.

This year, our conference committee included our current NJMTA president Hendry Wijaya, immediate past president Christina Xie, Chiu-Ling Lin, Lillian Livingston, Marianne Lauffer, Betty Stoloff, Chloris Li, Renae Block, Deborah-Gers, and myself. I would like to thank each one of them for their support and constructive suggestions throughout the entire planning process.

The 2016 NJMTA Conference was the first conference to take place at the beautiful newly built performance hall, the Hillman Hall at the Marion Buckelew Cullen Center at Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton. We are so honored to have had Mr. Peter Mack and Mr. Keith Snell as our guest conference artists for the advanced and intermediate levels this year. In the lecture recital "Repertoire Gems," Mr. Mack told us the secret stories behind some of the most beautiful unknown repertoire for the piano and revisited some of the most beloved pieces ever written.

Mr. Mack also had another presentation called "Lower the rear end of the elephant slowly onto the keys." In this session, Mr. Mack shared some of his most memorable metaphors that help students technically, artistically, and intellectually. His humor, special insights of interpretation, and educational point of view captured the audience's attention for the entire session. Everyone who attended was very impressed by him; we received so much positive feedback from teachers who requested for us to invite him back in the near future.

Our intermediate artist Keith Snell was also a hit for the conference. He had flown here all the way from England just to be with us for these three days. In his presentation, "The genesis of piano music for the left hand alone – Virtuosity, Technique, and Injury," Mr. Snell shared the story of his journey with us. Not only had he generously shared how he discovered wonderful left hand literature, but he also answered many questions and encouraged teachers to continue looking into and focusing on the importance of improving left hand technique. Mr. Snell also conducted a book showcase, during which each attendee received a gift package of *Piano Town* from him. He also informatively presented his educational philosophy behind designing these music books.

Mrs. Betty Stoloff had shown us her treasure hunts as well, taking us through fun and easy-to-teach intermediate repertoire, which helped teachers who are hunting for pieces that focused on sharpening technique and musicality before entering the early advanced level. In addition, Ms. Ingrid Clarfield and Mrs. Phyllis Lehrer gave a presentation on their newly published music book, "Teaching the top 100 masterworks: Repertoire Books and Study Guides." In this session, not only did they offer discount prices on their music, but they also gave a wonderful performance.

The Independent Music Teacher Forum (IMTF) workshop had once again brought in the most practical presentations to our NJ teachers. Ms. Marianne Lauffer invited the CEO of MTNA, Mr. Gary Ingle, who flew here all the way from Ohio to give his presentation, "MTNA & Me:

Are there Perks to Being a Member?" Mr. Ingle began the session by introducing the history of MTNA and discussing the benefits of membership, and finished by answering some questions from the teachers, many of whom had expressed that they had learned a lot from this session.

One of the most important highlights of this conference was the flute workshop on Sunday. Renae Block had planned, arranged, and run the flute workshop smoothly for this conference all by herself. We are so honored to have had two fantastic flute artists, Ms. Lynne Cooksey and Mr. David DiGiacobbe, conduct and lead the workshop. We had a great turnout for the workshop, and many teachers and students benefitted from it.

The concerts performed by all the competition winners, during which the teachers and parents supported and cheered for these talented and beautiful students, definitely was the spark of the conference once again. Every concert was definitely a success; we had full houses one concert after another. Here, I must also acknowledge our commissioned composer of the year, Mr. Ezra Donner, who had written such beautiful works for the student winners to perform in the concert. He also generously offered a "Talk to the Composer" session prior to the student concert, during which the students had a very close personal talk with him that helped them better understand his music. We are so delighted to

"The concerts performed by all the competition winners, during which the teachers and parents supported and cheered for these talented and beautiful students, definitely was the spark of the conference once again."

2016 NJMTA State Conference (Con.)

have had him as our commissioned composer of the year.

The banquet on Saturday night, held at the Mediterra in Princeton, was a huge success and had a great turnout. We had more than 40 teachers join us for the banquet, during which the attendees could get to know the conference artists better and most importantly, mingle and get to know each other. From the wonderful food to meaningful conversations everyone shared, the banquet was a memorable and enjoyable way to end the day.

Finally, on behalf of NJMTA, I would like to thank Rider University for accommodating us with the location for the conference of 2016. Their total support had helped tremendously, and it had made it much easier to plan for the conference. We would also like to again acknowledge Jacobs Music Company for their great support and generosity by lending us two of their

beautiful 7' Steinway concert grand pianos for us to use during the conference.

The 2016 NJMTA Conference wrapped up on November 26, 2016. It was surely informative, well planned and organized, and most importantly, fruitful to every one who attended. Now, the 2017 NJMTA Conference committee has begun their work planning another great conference for all the music teachers in New Jersey. As usual, the conference will be held in November. Please mark your calendars and consider joining us this year. We look forward to seeing you there!

Ting Ting Lien, NCTM
Chairperson of NJMTA 2016 Conference
President Elect of NJMTA

Member's News

National League of Performing Arts, Inc. will be hosting the National Young Artists Chamber Music and Ensemble Competition

Application Deadline: April 25, 2017
Competition Date: May 14, 2017 at NJ City University or send YouTube link
Winners Concert: June 4, 2017 at Weill Recital Hall-Carnegie Hall, NYC
This competition is open to all students currently enrolled in schools including graduate programs.

For further information, please visit the website at

www.nationalleagueofperformingarts.org



President's Message (Con.)



National Conference, which will take place in Baltimore, Maryland, from March 18 to 22, 2017. Set on the city's famous Inner Harbor and within walking distance to most of downtown's wonderful attractions, the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront will play host to nearly 2,000 music teachers, students and industry experts for our annual celebration of the music teaching profession.

Conference highlights include evening concerts from husband and wife piano duo Leon Fleisher and Katherine Jacobson, and also the musical and theatrical duo Igudesman & Joo. David Cutler, a leading voice on careers in the arts, will give the keynote address. Fleisher and noted pedagogues Diane Hidy and Elissa Milne will lead master classes.

Our own member, Sondra Tammam will also be giving a presentation at the conference. She will be presenting "The Choreography Of Subtle In And Out Movements At The Keyboard With The Taubman Approach" Let us show her our support. And, don't forget about annual favorites like Pedagogy Saturday, the Exhibit Hall and the MTNA National Student Competitions! In addition, our colleagues from Canada will join us to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 2007 Collaborative Conference. For more information, please visit MTNA's website at www.mtna.org

I wish all of you a musically enriching and productive new year! The Board of NJMTA is looking forward to working with you. As always, with your support, encouragement, and constructive suggestions, we can all grow and benefit from this wonderful organization.

Best wishes,
Hendry Wijaya
NJMTA President

MTNA Eastern Division Winners

Congratulations to the following students and their teachers on their accomplishments this year.

MTNA Eastern Division Winners from New Jersey:

Eastern Junior Performance Piano
Winner: Hans-Derek Yu
Student of Veda Zuponcic

Eastern Junior Performance Woodwind
Winner: Joyce Eu (Flute)
Student of Joseph Lu

Eastern Senior Performance Piano
Honorable Mention: Charlie Liu
Student of Ingrid Clarfield

Eastern Senior Performance Woodwind
Alternate: Chenhang Zhang (Flute)
Student of Amy Tu

Eastern Senior Piano Duet
Winner: Jeffrey Koc & Jake Cheng
Students of Julia Lam

Eastern Young Artist Performance Piano
Honorable Mention: Stanley DeLage
Student of Veda Zuponcic

Eastern Young Artist Performance Voice
Winner: Shanley Horvitz (Soprano)
Student of Gabrielle Horvitz & Luis Ledesma

Eastern Young Artist Performance Woodwind
Honorable Mention: Thomas Kurtz (Saxophone)
Student of Stacy Wilson

Eastern Junior Composition
Winner: Aadhitya Raam Ashok
Student of Kaori Tanioka

MTNA Composition National Winner from New Jersey:

2nd Place: Aadhitya Raam Ashok - Junior Level
Student of Kaori Tanioka

We would like to also congratulate the following teachers on their awards as well:

Yining Wang - 2016 NJMTA Teacher of the Year Award
Betty Stoloff - 2016 NJMTA Service Award
Wei-Yuh Christina Xie - 2017 MTNA & NJMTA Foundation Fellow

Thank you to all for your hard work!





The objective of the NJMTA is to advance the musical knowledge and to promote professional growth among music teachers, and to conduct activities which encourage and support teaching, performance, composition and the appreciation of music. We are a nonprofit organization whose funds are used solely to accomplish these objectives.

President	Hendry Wijaya	HWHW123@aol.com
President—Elect	Ting-Ting Lien	tinglien@comcast.net
Recording Secretary	Renaë Block	renae@eveshamflutestudio.com
Treasurer	Deborah S. Gers	debgers@embarqmail.com
Immediate Past President	Wei-Yuh Christina Xie	wychris09@gmail.com
MTNA Competitions Coordinator	Wei-Yuh Christina Xie	wychris09@gmail.com
Membership Chairperson	Yuhui Chloris Li	chlorisli@gmail.com

NJMTA Newsletter Editor

Yvonne Chin

661 Abbington Dr.

East Windsor, NJ 08520