



# Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association

An incorporated educational non-profit organization  
committed to the pursuit of excellence in music

## *From the President's Desk...*

I hope you are, like me, enjoying this most temperate and beautiful summer. What could be nicer than weeks of days in the seventies or low 80's, nights without need for air-conditioning, and plenty of sun and well-spaced rainfall? I hope that you have been able to use some time for enjoying life and recharging your emotional batteries.

Those of us who attended the Gettysburg PMTA Conference in June found much to *"Fire Up our Teaching"* as the conference theme put it. Peter Mack was a terrific keynote speaker and conference artist, and a more amiable and at the same time, pithy clinician is hard to imagine. The man could charm... bears out of trees, stage mothers, recalcitrant children .... well, he's charming and persuasive, as well as a fine concert performer! Conference Clinician Nancy O'Neill Breth also shared her creative, successful and well-published strategies for improved practice habits. With one-session scheduling throughout the three days, large and enthusiastic audiences heard these and other presentations by guest Irina Gorin and PMTA members Dr. Jocelyn Swigger, Kristin Stephenson, Dr. Nanette Solomon, Dr. Joanne Kirchner, Carla Mariani, Dr. Laura Amoriello and your president, myself. Jocelyn and her colleagues at Gettysburg College's Sunderman Conservatory of Music mounted a very impressive host faculty recital including Jocelyn's performance of the Opus 10 Etudes of Chopin and PMTA's new commissioned work by composer Allen Krantz, *Marilyn Cycle*, a set of songs on poems by the late actress.

Congratulations and deep gratitude are due to Conference Chair **Elaine Friedlander** and her co-chair, **Mary Lynne Bennett**, for a superbly organized and managed Conference...brava to both of you! Gettysburg,

## SEPTEMBER 2014

### UPCOMING EVENTS

at Penn State University

### DSPF Showcase Recitals

### PMTA Concerto Festival

November 22, 2014

### MTNA State Preliminary

### Competitions

November 23, 2014

### **PMTA Board of Directors**

### **Meeting**

November 22, 2014

## IN MEMORIAM

*PMTA has extended deepest sympathy to Nanette Solomon, Board member and former President, and her husband Jonathan and son Ben, in the recent tragic death of their daughter and sister Rachel. The Board approved a memorial contribution in PMTA's name to the New Castle Playhouse.*

site of that tragic battle, is a beautiful as well as historic town, and we all enjoyed walking about and taking meals in its fine restaurants. Sunderman Conservatory and its faculty and Director Kay Hoke, as well as Jocelyn, were gracious and well-equipped hosts.

On a personal note, I have retired from Penn State after 42 years, and am now Professor emeritus. The great challenge was moving out of my studio there, which I have held since 1994! Penn state has engaged Jose Mendez as Assistant Professor of Piano, to join Tim Shafer and Christopher Guzman.

With all best wishes for a pleasant and productive autumn for all of us...

Steven Smith  
PMTA President

humanity, of whatever  
time or place.  
In its presence  
we are one.

Charlotte Gray  
b.1937



## Dorothy Sutton Performance Festival

*November 22, 2014*

*PENN STATE UNIVERSITY ~ University Park, PA*

Online Registration opens October 1st  
and closes midnight, October 29th.

Questions? Contact [Teri Smith, Chair](#)

For complete details and registration information,  
[visit the PMTA website.](#)

## NEWS AND NOTES:

**2015 CONFERENCE:** We hope that you will **SAVE THE DATE** for the 2015 PMTA conference, June 12-14 at Penn State, University Park/State College. Impressive headline artists have been engaged and will be announced later this fall. Notice it will be one week later than the 2014 Conference.

**CONGRATULATIONS!!** At Gettysburg we announced the 2014 winners of PMTA's highest awards. **Distinguished Teacher of the Year** is **Edward Kuhn** of Seton Hill University, Greensburg, tireless PMTA Board member and point person for the MTNA Foundation as well as an excellent piano teacher and leader of the highly active and visible Seton Hill PMTA Student Chapter.

The **Distinguished Service Award** went to **Francine Christy** of the Philadelphia Local Association, where she just completed a term as co-President with Joanne Kirchner. She

is described as a participant in three local chapters who is “the first one to volunteer whenever help is asked for” and “reliable, competent and generous to a fault.”

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By the time you receive this, planning will be far along for the November **PMTA/MTNA Competitions and Dorothy Sutton Festival at Penn State, November 22-23**. Teri Smith (State Sutton chair) sent an e-blast with details earlier this month. The State Board meeting will be Saturday, Nov. 22 at the Nittany Lion Inn, PSU.

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**ATTENTION NEW COLLEGE GRADUATES!!:** PMTA offers new college graduates a one-time free state and local membership during their first 5 post-graduate years. State and local dues will be reimbursed by check upon verification. Contact Vice-President and membership chair Deborah Rodgers ([debarodgers@hotmail.com](mailto:debarodgers@hotmail.com)) if you are eligible.

## PMTA Website and Member Directory:

**Work is progressing on the NEW PMTA website, which will be friendlier to smartphone and i-Pad users.** Jackie Herbein (PMTA Treasurer and former President) and our new web administrator, Millie Eben (former PMTA President) have been spending a great deal of time in the development of the new site.

As noted in a recent e-blast, we are offering membership the option of:

- 1. Listing all information**, including e-mail, street address, and telephone, as imported from the MTNA Membership list of dues-paid members, into the new Member Directory; or
- 2. Listing name and instrument or voice only.**

Keeping this member database up to date is a monumental task; I tried my hand at it and spent several hours just reviewing A and B in the old directory. Many ex-members had been retained for years in the directory without paying dues. We have carefully considered the question of allowing members to choose a smorgasbord of options or specific deletions, and decided that this would not be affordable (since we pay for this service, on a per-service basis) especially since it would have to be done each year in the same way. Research showed that it was **common in most states to list full information**. A few members, fewer than twenty, voiced some objection and/or asked for deletions. While accommodating those, we hope that most of you will be satisfied with the new [directory](#) and find it helpful as well as no threat to your security.

At any rate, we hope to have the new site up and running by early September. Best wishes, Jackie and Millie!

PRESIDENT - STEVEN SMITH  
VICE-PRESIDENT - DEBORAH RODGERS  
SECRETARY - JOCELYN SWIGGER  
TREASURER - JACQUELINE HERBEIN  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT - GILYA HODOS

*convenience for you! But it's  
your responsibility to let us  
know if your information has  
changed. Send a note to the  
membership chair with any  
edits --  
[info@pamusicteachers.org](mailto:info@pamusicteachers.org).*

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