



Fall 2012

Issue No. 32

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Reminder of Upcoming Events

Dorothy Sutton Performance Festival

- DSPF will be held October 27, 2012 at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, PA.
- [DSPF Information](#)
- The deadline for entries is October 3, 2012.
- No email entries will be accepted.
- [Local DSPF information.](#)
- Contact [Teri Smith](#), state DSPF chair with questions

Teacher of the Year Award

***Congratulations!
Igor Resnianski***

Distinguished Service Award

***Congratulations!
Marilyn Granahan***

PMTA/MTNA Competitions

will take place on Sunday, October 28, 2012 at the Seton Hill University Performing Arts Center, 100 Harrison Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601. Note: the Performing Arts Center is in downtown Greensburg, NOT on the Seton Hill University campus. See the PMTA website for complete information.

PMTA Board Meeting

will be held on Saturday, October 27th at The Supper Club at the Greensburg Train Station, 101 Ehalt Street, Greensburg, PA 15601 at 6pm.

For those of you needing to stay over Saturday night, a block of rooms has been reserved at Courtyard by Marriott Greensburg at the special price of \$129. The cut-off date is Monday, October 8, 2012 after which time this rate cannot be guaranteed. Make reservations by calling 1-800-MARRIOTT or 724-834-3555 and be sure to mention PMTA - Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association group. Visit <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/pitob-courtyard-pittsburgh-greensburg/> for information and directions to the hotel.

From the President's Desk - Dr. Gilya Hodos, NCTM

Dear Colleagues:

I hope you are feeling inspired and energized after our spectacular conference this past June at West Chester University. I have attended many concerts, but seldom have I been as electrified as I was by the truly phenomenal conference performance given by Anderson and Roe. I wasn't the only one captivated, by the way. As I sat in the back of the hall I could see quite a few children straining to get a better view of the performers. Kids edging towards the center aisle, kids actually standing up during the concert to see better, but the best part was watching the glowing excitement on their faces as they were mesmerized by the music and performers. It didn't hurt that David Cutler's *American Music Roads Scholar: for two pianos, 4 hands and 9 brains*, was an absolutely sensational, evocative, and super-energized work. If you think all these platitudes are over the top- why don't you come to our next conference and experience the magic yourself.

I have always had an interest in improvisation but I have never really experimented enough because I was concerned I might not "play correctly". How is it possible to just make something up spontaneously that sounds good the first time? Those of us lucky enough to attend Bradley Sowash's conference clinics now have the beginning keys to unlocking these doors. I have already started using his ideas and methods in my studio to absolutely rave reviews!

Were you looking for help in setting up a website or refining your current one? David Cutler's sessions provided concrete, viable suggestions using actual member websites. If that wasn't enough, Sally Bonkrude's workshops and keynote address on the importance of the role that a music teacher can play in the life of a student and the different ways in which we, as teachers, can be there to support our students through their trials and tribulations was full of practical, worthwhile, and heartwarming suggestions.

All these sessions and many more provided a needed lift and energy for the members in attendance. But above all, it gave us a chance to reconnect, share ideas, make friends, and reinforce the vital role music plays in people's lives and how extraordinarily important we, as music teachers and musicians, are to the fabric of society.

So start planning now to set some time and money aside for next year's conference:

Heart and Soul ~ Health and Wellness for Musicians, June 7-9, 2013 at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Our conference committee is looking to invite new participants, inspire new ideas and initiate new friendships and collaborations among our members and local associations! After all, PMTA's most important and valuable resource is its members! We are working hard to best serve YOU! The dividends you receive will far outweigh the expense! Just ask anyone who attended this year's conference!

Sincerely,
Gilya

In appreciation

It was not by chance that this year's conference at West Chester University was an unmitigated success. None of this would have happened without our dedicated and devoted Conference Chair, Elaine Friedlander. Her cheerful disposition, sense of humor, and vigilant thoroughness created a magnificent event from start to finish. A special thank you to Millie Eben for much of the advance legwork that is done nearly a year ahead of each conference. Our on-sight coordinator, Patricia Powell, also went above and beyond in terms of creating an effective liaison with West Chester University. Jackie Herbein, Candy Hutchins, and Yvonne Alling all played vital roles in preparing a meeting of this size and complexity, and making sure things ran smoothly during the conference itself. Thank you for so generously giving of your time and energy to help make such an outstanding conference.



Heart & Soul...

HEALTH AND WELLNESS FOR MUSICIANS

PMTA CONFERENCE 2013

Our 2013 Conference is already being planned! **Heart and Soul ~ Health and Wellness for Musicians** will take place on the campus of Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Indiana, Pennsylvania, June 7-9, 2013! Our guest clinician will be Forrest Kinney, our conference artist will be Mei-Ting Sun, and our commissioned composer will be Robert Maggio. Keep checking our website at pamusicteachers.org for more information.

MTNA National Conference

will be held March 9-13, 2013 in Anaheim, California at the Disneyland Hotel. Guess who are the featured Conference Artists at this upcoming conference? None other than Anderson & Roe! PMTA has submitted David Cutler's commissioned work for consideration as MTNA Composer of the Year.

Call for Session Proposals for the Collegiate Chapter Sessions

Proposals are due Oct. 1st. Be sure to look at the MTNA website, under the Conference tab, for full details.

Call for Poster Sessions for the 2013 MTNA Conference

Proposals are due Oct. 1st. Be sure to look at the MTNA website, under the Conference tab, for full details.

MTNA COMPETITIONS UPDATES

Complete information about the MTNA performance and composition competitions can be found at <http://www.mtna.org/programs/competitions/>. For those who have previously entered students in these competitions, please note the following changes:

The deadline for all applications is Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at 3pm Eastern Time. Previously the deadline had been at midnight. The new afternoon deadline will allow for correction of computer and web glitches that can't be immediately fixed after hours.

Current active membership dues for MTNA, or a non-member teacher fee, must be paid PRIOR to accessing the on-line student competition application.

MTNA Composition Competition Changes

These changes to the Composition Competition process will begin with the fall competition:

1. The MTNA is no longer accepting scores by postal mail. All scores must be submitted as PDF files. Handwritten manuscripts can be scanned into a computer and saved as PDFs. Notation software, such as Sibelius and Finale, can easily save files directly as PDFs.

This will save a significant amount in mailing costs and at the same time, eliminate the possibility of lost scores, which often causes significant delays and added expense.

2. The application and PDF score must be submitted online. All winners will be notified online at the MTNA website, as well.

3. Additional Score Requirements:

The PDF should be printable on 8.5 x 11-inch letter-sized paper.

PDF Score must be legible, and may be computer generated or in the composer's handwriting.

Measures of the composition must be numbered, preferably at the beginning of each system.

All materials must be labeled with the name of the composition, the name of the student and the category (Elementary, Junior, Senior, Young Artist).

The score must not include teacher name or any reference to school/institution, biography or picture of student.

No recordings of the score will be accepted.

4. Judges will provide comments online and these can be accessed and printed out at the end of the competition. They will not need to be mailed to the teachers. I will continue to send award certificates and checks by mail. I believe that "Participant" certificates have been eliminated.

A Personal Suggestion:

I tried scanning a handwritten composition to create a pdf file. My computer/printer defaults to 200dpi. I found that increasing the resolution to 300dpi (if available on your system) creates a nicer copy. (This is, of course, unnecessary in Finale & Sibelius.) The latest versions of Sibelius (v. 6 & 7) and Finale (v. 2010, 2011, and 2012) easily create excellent PDF files. They offer a "File/Save as pdf" function.

The PMTA Keystone Composition Competition (held in the spring) will probably make similar changes, which will be announced later in the year, once we see how the MTNA event goes.

Please check the MTNA website for more information. If you have any questions, I will try to answer them. Please feel free to call me or email at your convenience.

Warren Magid, MTNA/PMTA Composition Competition Chair

ARTS ADVOCACY & AWARENESS

Music as a Global Force

There is nothing that speaks so strongly to the power of music as a force for change in the world as an international music conference. As I write this, I am flying home after presenting at the 30th ISME World Conference on Music Education in Thessaloniki, Greece, held July 15 - 20.

ISME, for those of you who may not be familiar with the acronym, is the International Society for Music Education. It was founded in 1953 at a UNESCO conference in Brussels. Many internationally-known music educators have played a role in its development, including composers Zoltan Kodály of Hungary and Dmitri Kabalevsky of Russia.

Conferences are held biennially in cities throughout the world. The 2008 conference was held in Bologna, the 2010 conference in Beijing, and the 2014 conference will take place in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

The more than 500 presentations, panels, and workshops during the week introduced the 1500 delegates from 70 countries to new ideas in music education (and I use music education in the broad sense - individual, ensemble, classroom, from elementary through college and beyond). There were also plenary sessions with well-known musicians from various parts of the globe, and many opportunities for informal chats with old friends and new colleagues from other countries.

When one hears about the program leading to disabled Chinese ballet dancers performing beautifully without an arm or a leg (look on YouTube for "Hand in Hand ballet."), about an eighth grade class at a charter school in LA spending an entire year creating and performing an opera, about a music educator in Florida who has started an orchestra for homeless musicians, or about El Sistema, Venezuela's famed music education program now being used throughout the world, you know that lives around the world are being changed by music.

Many of the eighth graders who participated in creating an opera will become musicians or knowledgeable audience members. Several members of the homeless orchestra are no longer homeless and have found new purpose in life through returning to music. Musicians trained through the El Sistema music program are performing throughout the world, and the disabled are learning that they too can express themselves through music and dance.

Perhaps most exciting was the stunning array of international performing groups totaling more than 1000 performers from 30 countries who shared music of their own cultures. We heard groups from Cyprus, Canada, Greece, South Africa, Spain, the US, Brazil, Russia, Iran and more. The performers ranged from elementary school age to professionals, but whether professionals or children, the performances were outstanding and always done with great pride in being able to share one's native music with an international community.

MTNA is a member organization of ISME and was well-represented at the conference. Fourteen MTNA pianists gave presentations either as part of the Special Interest Group on "Musicians Health and Well-being," or as part of the "Forum on Instrumental and Vocal Teaching." Topics ranged from the use of biofeedback in practice to hypnotherapy as a tool to alleviate performance anxiety, brain research on plasticity as it relates to learning an instrument, learning to dance Baroque dances, how to help students at a young age learn to enter the "flow" state when performing, technology in the 21st century-studio, and many other fascinating topics.

But whatever was learned in individual sessions, the big take-away from this conference was the passion and excitement world-wide about teaching music - at whatever age level and whether individually or in a classroom. It is easy to become frustrated within our own studios or institutions about the lack of support for the arts and we often feel like lone crusaders. Attending conferences about music, whether the state PMTA, the national MTNA, or the international ISME, lets us know that we are not alone, and that music is a "force to be reckoned with." Not only do we come away energized and with new ideas to use in our own teaching, but we recognize that we are members of a very large, passionate community - using music to change the world.

If you have thoughts about international travel in your future, you may want to consider a trip to Brazil in July 2014 for the ISME conference.

Lois Svard
PMTA Board Member for Arts Advocacy and Awareness
Professor of Music Emerita
Bucknell University

Regarding emails from PMTA...

Help us keep our records up to date by notifying PMTA of changes in your email address. Remember, if you 'unsubscribe' from the PMTA Newsletter, you will no longer receive any email communication from PMTA. If you are stop receiving emails from PMTA, make sure your server has not blocked the address. Merely add "info@pamusicteachers.org" to your mailbox. Please pass on this message to your local colleagues!

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