



Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association

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

From the President's Desk...

December 2014

Dear PMTA colleagues,

I am happy to report a successful weekend of the **Dorothy Sutton Performance Festival** and **PMTA/MTNA Competitions** at Penn State University Park. Despite extreme cold Saturday morning and a surprise ice storm in Western Pennsylvania, only a handful of Festival participants were forced to cancel. Over 260 students and dozens of teachers participated in the Festival, and all the scheduled competitors completed the journey. We thank all the participants and their families for their time and money well spent in attending this event, as well as their many hours of ardent preparation. And our organization owes a tremendous "Thank you" to DSPF Chair Teri Smith and Competitions Coordinator Jacqueline Herbein and her assistant Amanda Gunderson. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the competition results.

MTNA NATIONAL CONFERENCE: ACT NOW! Cash in your chip for a trip to Las Vegas, March 21-25 at the Rio Hotel. **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2** is the enroll-by date for the discount price of \$295 (later: \$375) and the early hotel price of \$169 per weekend night, \$149 week nights. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information. Artist highlights include recitals and workshops by the legendary Sir James and Lady Jeanne Galway, a recital by Ann Schein, and a master class with Lang Lang.

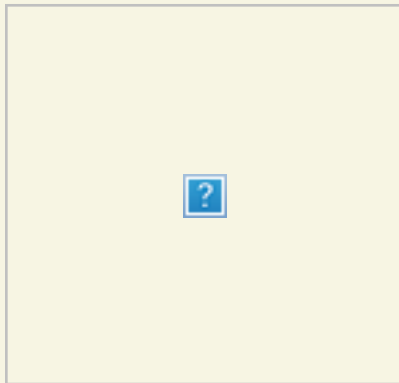
PLAN AHEAD! Details are coming together for the **2015 PMTA CONFERENCE at Penn State June 12-14**. Our conference artist is the young Russian pianist **Sofya Gulyak**, first female winner of the Leeds International Competition (UK) and winner of the Kappell Competition in the United States as well as several other world-level prizes. She currently is a professor at the Royal College of Music, London. She will perform the Saturday evening recital and lead a Sunday morning master class. The featured clinician and keynote speaker will be **Fred Karpoff**, author of the award-winning **3-D Piano** video series and the **Entrada** online video subscription series. 3-D Piano won a national pedagogy award of MTNA. The theme of the conference is "Movement" and several sessions will be devoted to musical movement,

including a Jack Stevenson workshop on Dalcroze and a Baroque dance workshop by Carol Pharo. The PMTA website has a [CALL FOR CLINICIANS](#) with a submission deadline of January 15, 2015; some entries have already been received. [CHECK THE WEBSITE](#) regularly for conference updates.

Congratulations to **Main Line Music Teachers Association**, who celebrated their 40th anniversary in September. I was happy to attend and offer congratulatory remarks. Main Line is our largest Local Association, consistently around 100 members, and the chapter has an exemplary program of teacher and student activities throughout the year. MLMTA was founded in 1974 with a handful of piano teachers gathered at the home of first president and long-time member Marguerite Pond. Ever since, MLMTA has been dedicated to “helping music to flourish in the community with programs and activities that benefit local music teachers and students,” notes current President Beth Peazzoni.

Steven Smith

PMTA President



PMTA 2015 COMMISSIONED COMPOSER ADAM SILVERMAN

Composer Adam Silverman has created works that feature a broad variety of instrumental and vocal settings, and his most frequently performed works have been for percussion ensemble, cello (including many compositions for accompanied and unaccompanied solo cello, and both original works and arrangements for cello choirs), and opera. Most recently, he has composed three concertos: one for saxophone and wind ensemble, one for marimba and wind ensemble, and a double concerto for violin, cello and orchestra. Silverman’s opera, “Korczak’s Orphans,” has been performed in workshops by New York City Opera, Real Time Opera, and the Opera Company of Brooklyn, and his chamber opera “Griselda e il Marchese di Saluzzo” was presented by International Opera Projects in runs of performances at the Prince Theater in Philadelphia and in Pieve and Saluzzo, Italy. His work “In Another Man’s Skin,” composed for Eighth Blackbird, was performed by that ensemble dozens of times in major venues across America. In addition to his work as a composer, Silverman is an enthusiast of bluegrass mandolin and teaches music composition, theory, orchestration and songwriting at West Chester University of Pennsylvania.

MLMTA Celebrates its 40-Year Milestone

On September 9, one of our local associations, the Main Line Music Teachers, marked the beginning of the teaching year with a 40th Anniversary Celebration at St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley, Malvern. PMTA President Steven Smith, who was in attendance along with PMTA Vice President Deborah Rodgers, offered remarks and congratulations on behalf of the state organization. Members and guests then honored the association and its leaders by taking a look back at their past with a slide show, sharing memories and giving testimonials. This was followed by a recital given by MLMTA members, door prizes and a potluck brunch.

MLMTA was founded in 1974 with a handful of piano teachers gathered at the home of first president and long-time member Marguerite Pond. Ever since, MLMTA has been dedicated to "helping music to flourish in the community with programs and activities that benefit local music teachers and students," notes current President Beth Peazzoni, adding that "MLMTA offers a variety of opportunities for teachers to connect, share ideas and make programs available to their students." MLMTA joyfully anticipates its upcoming season which includes both local and out-of-state presenters.



MLMTA ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Pictured from left to right are the past presidents of MLMTA who were in attendance. Seated: first president Marguerite Pond (Exton), Coralee Gaytan (Riverside, CA), Donnagay Lynn (Berwyn). Standing: current president Beth Peazzoni (Coatesville), Deborah Rodgers (West Chester), Nancy Gottshall Bodine (West Chester), Kathy Panek (Springfield), Janet Wait (Downingtown), Jane Heintzeman (Berwyn), Donna Kay Croddy-Jones (Swarthmore), Elaine Friedlander (West Chester), and Eileen Hickman (West Grove).

Arts Advocacy and Awareness: Advocacy by Parents

As music teachers, we do a lot to advocate for the study of music. We speak to parents, we write letters to the local papers, we lobby governing officials at the local, state, and national levels. Advocating seems to be a part of our job. But sometimes, we should enlist parents of our students as advocates for music. Parents can be very persuasive, and sometimes particularly so when they have been highly successful in another field.

Liz Ryan had a career in HR in the corporate world, eventually becoming a Fortune 500 Human Resources Senior Vice President. Now she writes for the Huffington Post, Business Week, the Harvard Business Review, and Forbes.com, among other publications. She is also founder and CEO of the worldwide [Human Workplace](#) movement to reinvent work for people.

Ryan did not major in business, organizational development or human services; she was a vocal performance major. Earlier this fall, she posted an article on Forbes.com titled [Let the Kid Study Music, Already](#). This article is a "must-read." Ryan is a strong advocate for a music degree, regardless of eventual career. I take issue with her comment that you can learn to play an instrument by watching YouTube, but other than that, it's one of the best articles I've read about "why study music?"

At the national MTNA conference, there is an Arts Advocacy and Awareness Forum at which members from all over the country meet to discuss ideas for promoting advocacy at the local and state level and to make recommendations about advocacy policy to the MTNA Board of Directors.

At the 2014 MTNA Conference in Chicago, there was a wide-ranging discussion at the advocacy meeting. People spoke about a variety of issues – from lobbying for high school or university credits for private music lessons - to grants and how to get them for everything from funding music lessons for students to attending conferences for teachers. They also spoke about enlisting parents to advocate for music.

Liz Ryan's article is a great example of advocacy by parent, a parent of five musician children who happens to be a well-known writer in the business world. People pay attention to Ryan, so if she is saying kids should study music, a lot of people will be listening.

Ryan is not suggesting that we should study music in order to become good at something else – nor am I. But as she says, study music because you love it. The rest will follow; you will either have a career in music, or you will bring the considerable skills you gained studying music to another career choice. Either way, you have studied what you love. And that's the best advocacy message!

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

The online **PMTA Member Directory** is provided as a convenience for you. But it's your responsibility to let us know if your information has changed. Send your edits to the membership chair at info@pamusicteachers.org.

Nominations are now open for **PMTA's 2016 Commissioned Composer**. Preference will be given to composers who are either a resident of or employed professionally in Pennsylvania. Please submit name, bio and web address to Lois Svard at svard@bucknell.edu by April 1, 2015.

Thanks to the PMTA Sponsors for their continued support.

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Music is the voice of all humanity, of whatever time or place. In its presence we are one.

Charlotte Gray, author

