

The CLARION

Official Bulletin of the Washington State Music Teachers Association

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FEBRUARY, 2005

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Debra Florian



A Legacy...

As music lovers, avid performers, devoted teachers, it is our greatest hope that we will pass along a legacy to our students. We share our passion for music with our students in the hopes that a similar passion will be ignited within them, one that will burn brightly through-out their lifetimes. We hope in this way to enrich not only **their** lives, but the lives of those with whom they in turn will share the gift and love of music. That is the nature of education, and the very heart of the arts.

In the public forum, the arts are continually compromised as an easy solution to financial and bureaucratic restructuring. That which we view as an essential and integral part of education, is often treated as a dispensable accessory. Music—the expression of the very essence of the human spirit, so critical to a child's development—is often cast aside as unnecessary. As independent music teachers we stand on the front lines as advocates for the arts. Within our own sphere of influence we have the opportunity to share our passion, our creativity, our love of music, with the next generations. And we have the responsibility to continually educate those in decision-making positions as to the invaluable, and often powerful, impact music has on learning in general.

In December, I enjoyed one of those *proud parent* moments, the likes

of which many of you have already experienced, or will in years to come. As my daughter walked across the stage at Pacific Lutheran University to receive her diploma, I flashed back to so many special times we shared together. I started teaching Melanie piano when she was four years old, and I can picture her curls bouncing and legs swinging as she would sing along with her pieces. We did piano together until she left home for college. Through her high school years, she student taught with me, and I knew then how great she is with children. She continued her piano study at PLU with Richard Farner, and completed her BME with a secondary choral emphasis. The many gifted and outstanding professors with whom she studied have left their indelible marks, shaping her identity as an educator. Today (Jan. 3) she begins work as a junior high choir teacher for the Puyallup School District. She is bubbling over with enthusiasm, idealistic and hopeful about the positive ways she will be able to impact young people, ready to face the new challenges and passionate about teaching music... ready to pass on the legacy.

FUTURE EVENTS

ARTSTIME 2005

The Arts: Bringing Learning to Life

This year, WSMETA will again participate with WMEA in this wonderful educational program. WSMETA's presentation, Recital of Washington's Outstanding Students, will take place on Saturday, March 12, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., at Foster High School in Tukwila.

ARTSTIME is a statewide Festival in music, art, dance and theater for school teachers and is held in the uneven years. WMEA All-State groups—choirs, bands, orchestras, jazz, etc.--

will make their presentations from the 13th to the 15th.

Carolyn Malnes is currently working on the Recital of Washington's Outstanding Students selected from the recent state MTNA competitions. Names of the students performing will be announced in the March CLARION.

2005 CONFERENCE

Master Class with Nelita True

(repeated from Dec. issue)

We are looking for students to perform and work with Nelita True at a piano master class during the 2005 Conference. Any interested teacher may submit an audition tape of their student. Please follow these criteria:

- Intermediate to Advanced Students
- One piece - 10 minute maximum performing time
- Audition must be on VIDEO tape - no audio tapes or CD's will be accepted.
- Entries must be postmarked by-March 15, 2005.

Send to
Barbara Miller
1 W Sumner
Spokane WA 99204

MTNA National Conference

Don't forget to register for the **MTNA National Conference**, April 2-6 in Seattle. If you can't attend the entire conference, plan to come for a day. All details about sessions, speakers, clinicians and concert artists can be found in the *American Music Teacher*. You won't want to miss it!

(FUTURE EVENTS continued on Page 3)

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The CLARION is published 9 times each year: Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., Feb., March, April, May, and June. It includes membership news and announcements, and pertinent news of the Music Teachers National Association. Articles and information must be submitted before the first of the month preceding the publication month.

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WSMTA Officers, Committee Chairs, & Chapter Presidents Address Changes

Editor's Note: ALL WSMTA member address changes should be submitted to the Executive Manager. Address changes that appear in this column are only corrections to lists previously published in *The Clarion*.

Walla Walla Chapter President
Kathryne Bush's e-mail address has changed to kattie@charter.net

Okanogan County Chapter President
Kathleen Christensen's e-mail address has changed to mnkcris@bossig.com

Announcing New Theory Chair

(Reprinted from Dec. issue)

Carolyn Malnes has worked long and hard to produce and implement our state theory program. She was appointed as a temporary chair last January when a new person was being sought for this position. We are grateful for her dedication to this worthy program.

We are announcing her replacement, effective February 1, 2005. We are pleased to have found a capable person, both in knowledge of theory and of the computer! **Julie Cole**, a young member of the Kitsap County Chapter, has been using her computer expertise to produce new tests that are both attractive and user-friendly. She will now add the chair position to the work that she is so willing and efficiently doing for WSMTA.

To contact Julie, she requests that you use her cell-phone number: 360-440-0290. Other methods of contact are her e-mail, jcole107@hotmail.com or 1660 NW White Tail Lane, Silverdale, WA 98383.

Marilyn Linde
Education Board Chair

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members!

Bellingham Chapter
Dr. Milica Jelaca-Jovanovich

Clark County Chapter

Jenny Harris
Radwyn Larson
Carol McCallum

Eastside Chapter

Pai-Yu Chiu
Lingling Yang

Edmonds Chapter

Heidi Linderth
Charyl Gray

Enumclaw Chapter

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Kimberly Russ

South King County Chapter

Kimberly Catron
Valerie Tedrow

Snohomish Chapter

Gennessy Lau
Renee Pietsch, student
Cassandra Holdaway, student
Jennifer Kim, student

Spokane Chapter

Kathy Gaiser

Whidbey Island Chapter

Cheryl Gardner
Natasha Vanderlinden

Whitworth College Chapter

Kristina Blott, student

FUTURE EVENTS

(continued from Page 1)

✎ Young Composers Project ✎

I look forward to receiving your students' compositions this month (postmarked by **FEBRUARY 15**, to be exact.) A revised copy of the entry form is included in this issue. Please remember a few rules:

1. Primary compositions can be handwritten, or computer-generated by the teacher.

2. Elementary compositions must be handwritten by the student.

3. Junior, Senior, and Collegiate compositions must be handwritten or computer generated by the student.

Elementary students may copy what the teacher or computer has written out, but it must be in the student's own handwriting.

Remember that recordings are required for any composition written for more than one instrument. Recordings are highly recommended for Senior and Collegiate entries. Recordings are not accepted for Junior, Elementary, or Primary entries, in accordance with the rules of MTNA.

Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for returning your compositions and certificates. You may just include postage and I will return everything in your same envelope. Thank you and have fun!

Questions? Call Mary Belshaw at 425-258-1527 or e-mail wbelshaw@aol.com

*Mary Belshaw, Chair
Young Composers Project*

2005 CONFERENCE

**June 27 - July 1, 2005
Gonzaga University
Spokane**

The Extraordinary Career of Guest Clinician Nelita True

Part 4. Formerly Distinguished Professor at the University of Maryland, Ms. True is currently Professor of Piano at the Eastman School of Music. Many of her students have won top prizes at national and international competitions, including an unprecedented five First Prizes in the Music Teacher National Association competitions. Her former students are pursuing careers in performance and as teachers at major conservatories and universities throughout the United States and abroad.

Look for continuing chapters on the exceptional career of Nelita True in upcoming issues of your newsletter.

Nelita True Trivia Question for February:

Which two practice methods does Nelita True still use today, that she learned from her high school teacher?

Answer to December Trivia Question:

What did Nelita True learn about practicing as an adult that she wishes she had known as a young student?

Not to waste time on purposeless repetitions

We can also use your ideas, suggestions and help! Please contact Conference 2005 Co-Chairs:

*Barbara Miller
509-624-4998*

bjmstudio@aol.com

or

*Janice Smith
509-467-8147*

msmiths1@comcast.net

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

TECHNOLOGY

Pioneers Needed!

Appeal to Chapter Presidents and All Interested Members

As Website and Technology Chair, one of my most important goals is to have a Technology Representative in every chapter. I sent an e-mail memo to all chapter presidents over a year ago, requesting that they select a chapter technology representative--or more than one, if folks were interested. I also reassured them that their representative(s) did not have to be computer techies, although it wouldn't hurt. Rather, I let them know that anyone interested in learning more about computer technology was welcome to take part in this exciting new WSMTA program.

At the Leadership Seminar, I again addressed chapter presidents, giving them an update on the wonderful progress we have made with the program, including a new and greatly expanded WSMTA website. Again, I requested that chapter presidents encourage their members to participate in this invaluable new technology. The benefits are enor-

mous! But, since many of our members need to learn more about how to access and utilize the information already available, we need chapter technology representatives to be brave pioneers, helping pave the way so that eventually, all members can join in the process. It is all about saving time by having instant access to information.

At the WSMTA June Conference last year, we presented some hands-on computer lab training sessions. Since the 2005 June Conference is in my home town of Spokane, we plan to do even more hands-on training. **I am now in the process of accepting workshop proposals in the area of technology. Please email me your proposal by March 1 2005.** In the meantime, we need chapter technology representatives to do such things as help their chapter develop a website. Your chapter, if it is not already online, can get online at no cost.

Chapter presidents, as well as their Technology Reps should now be encouraging members to go online and access the WSMTA website. There they will find answers to most of their questions about our association, including a copy of the current issue of *The CLARION*, contact lists for Board of Directors, Education Board, Board of Director Committee Chairs, Education Board Committee Chairs, Chapter Presidents, and Tech Reps. If someone in the association would like to deliver a statewide message to chapter presidents, this can be done by clicking on "Contacts." There you will find a mail list. Type your message and hit SEND. This quick and easy maneuver represents the convenience and beauty of the WSMTA wesbsite!

Other online access includes "Student Programs," where you will find the guidelines for the Young Composers Project. I am now posting research papers. One has already been created by Mary Ann Unrau. Saving the best for last, I have developed an online community, which has the potential to contain any type of information pertinent to teaching music. I have already posted the following aspects:

- o A "Calendar," where your chapter can send me a short summary of information on programs that have a statewide interest and audience. Chapter specific programs can be posted on chapter websites.

- o A file "Library" that currently contains the adjudication booklet for 2005. Soon I will post other adjudication forms. Some of these forms will even do the math computation for the end user. **No longer will you have to take the time to add up all of the fees for adjudications.**

- o "Resources:" This aspect contains the earlier mentioned research paper. I hope to see this area grow. Members may submit their papers to me at midilab@midilab.com. After they are approved by the WSMTA Executive Manager, I will add the paper to the site. I can only imagine how powerful this aspect could be nationwide. A great resource for music educators!

- o A "Chat Room" has also been included.

- o Also, there is a "Forum," or discussion board where members can ask questions or post other music related topics.

- o There is even a "Site Map," which allows the end user to locate all postings in the online community.

The small number of Tech Reps we have on board at present have been notified of these website developments and realize their potential. I look forward to their input and also would love yours as well. This website is a powerful tool for our State association. It is a *community* and the thing that will make this *community* spectacular is YOU! Your ideas and creativity will allow this site to be a useful tool for musicians nationwide. MTNA has given us the opportunity to demonstrate the power of WSMTA's *community* at the National convention in April. **Send us your pioneers!**

Tawni Wright
midilab@midilab.com
WSMTA Technology Chair
WSMTA Webmaster at www.wsmta.org

✻ ETHICS CORNER ✻

Dear Miss Ethics,

A teacher in our chapter recently became very ill and asked me to accept several of her students on a temporary basis until she could resume teaching. She is now beginning to teach again, but one of her students has expressed a desire to continue with me. She is not unhappy with her teacher, but she has been with her for several years and

now feels a permanent change would be good for her. I wouldn't mind continuing with her, although I never encouraged it. I think we are a good match and work well together. Where do I go from here?

Substitute Teacher

Dear Sub T,

It appears nothing unethical has happened here. Sometimes the student-teacher relationship can become stale due perhaps to too much familiarity, friendship, or taking each other for granted. A new person/approach/studio is often the solution for re-kindling an old fire. This is a good opportunity to teach the student some life skills. If she is in high school tell her she must be the one to approach her teacher about making a permanent change. You can coach her a bit on how to do it tactfully and respectfully. For example, she could be encouraged to tell the teacher how important her lessons have been to her and how much she has appreciated what she has learned from her. She could also tell her that she has enjoyed the ideas of Ms. X and would like to explore music further with her. If it involves a younger student the parent can approach the teacher in the same way. The two of them can then work out the resolution. It should not be your problem to fix. No matter what the outcome is, you should call her teacher and tell her how much you have enjoyed all her students and how much you have admired her teaching. Be sure she understands you did nothing to encourage any of them to stay with you. You don't want to put your friendship, trust, or professionalism in jeopardy.

Our association has always frowned on pupil stealing and the topic has come up often throughout the state. I would like to approach this situation though from the other side. All of us are in a business, no matter how much or how little we teach, and it is good that all of us remember that. We don't own our students. They have a right to study with whomever they wish. We teachers have the privilege to work with students individually which creates the need for a good match in musicality and personality. We know that some students are easier to work with than others. If a student decides to leave a teacher, it doesn't mean anything is

wrong with the teacher or the student. It may simply mean it is time to move on, that perhaps there would be a better match with someone else. A student should not be made to feel it is a requirement to stay with only one teacher. Circumstances change; interests change. I have known people to continue with a teacher only out of loyalty and friendship, although they would have preferred a change. It is not in the best interest of anyone, so sometimes it is a teacher's responsibility to suggest a change, or at least give a student the option to move on if he/she feels the same way.

Miss Ethics

If you would like to present a question for the Ethics Corner, you may call, write, or E-mail Kathy Strickland kdstrick@centurytel.net 253-265-2019 4411 80th Ave. NW Gig Harbor, WA 98335

EDUCATION

Call for Student Study Grant Applications

Established two years ago with a bequest from the Lois Whitner estate, the WSMTA **Student Study Grant** program is now accepting requests for applications for the 2005-2006 year. The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance for continued private study to music students who demonstrate financial need and who show serious commitment to music study. The following guidelines apply:

1. The grant is open to music students in grades 6 – 12 who have studied a minimum of 4 years and whose teachers are members (of at least 12 months standing) of WSMTA.
2. The applicant will be considered on a basis of financial need and commitment to music study.
3. The applicant must have participated in WSMTA adjudications.
4. Grants up to \$1,000 may be awarded. The applicant must explain specifically and in detail how the funds will be used. The grant will be for a period of not

more than one year and may be approved for additional years at the discretion of the Student Grant Committee. Students seeking grant renewal must submit another application to the committee for consideration.

5. The grant may be used to offset the cost of music lessons, theory, or composition classes, or tuition for music camps.
6. The grant will be sent directly to the teacher or camp/program director.

If you have a student who qualifies you may contact Grant Committee Chair, Connie Hungate for further information or to request an application. [cchungate@comcast.net or 206-232-0117] The application deadline is **May 1, 2005**.

CERTIFICATION CORNER

The MTNA/WSMTA certification renewal date (July 1) is approaching faster than we would all like to think. If this is your year to renew, now is the time to start checking your files to see that your renewal activities are all documented. The list of activities has been expanded in the last couple of years to include "**Partnerships/Collaboration**". Under this heading, the following activities are listed:

Collaborative partnership:

- with school-based ensembles at local/state/national contests
- on solo recital
- with other art disciplines (ballet classes, pit orchestra)
- Observation and evaluation of teacher colleagues
- Participation in five different ensemble recital performances
- Organize community activity to provide financial support for music programs

More specific information about activities and their corresponding points can be found at:

mtnacertification.org.

Just click on "Renewal Procedures" and then "Tell me more about.... Renewal Activities." Several new ways to accrue points have been added to other areas as well so review them carefully.

Speaking of renewal, we would like to recognize the following teacher:

MTNA Professional Certification Renewal in Piano and Music History

Carol Crawford, Olympia

Belated congratulations, Carol!

Linda Burger, NCTM
dblburger@juno.com
509-487-4346

LOCAL CHAPTERS

Chapter Spotlight

Wenatchee

Another year of activities are well underway for the Wenatchee Chapter. Our activities this year include student recitals, adjudications, topical meetings on various subjects such as ethics, key signature questions and pronunciation of musical terms, and the District V conference in October with Jody Graves. This spring we are also looking forward to a visit from our State President Debra Florian and a tour of some of our member's teaching studios. In all of our activities this year perhaps the most significant was the Musical Tribute Concert that was presented on Sunday, August 29th for a wonderful long-time Chapter member, Mary Jean Carter. In early August we learned that Mary Jean had been diagnosed with a very aggressive cancer. Mary Jean has contributed greatly to our chapter and our lives and her fellow teachers longed to do something for her. Performers included chapter members and several of Mary Jean's students---past and present. In addition to the concert the Mary Jean Carter/Stella Knoble Scholarship Fund was established through the Community Foundation of North Central Washington for qualified piano or organ students pursuing a higher music education. It was very special to be able to convey our love and best wishes to Mary Jean and her family with the gift of music. We continue to pray for Mary Jean and her family and wish them the best.

*Casandra Bridges, President
Wenatchee Chapter*

Washingtonians Meet Estonians

(continued from Dec. issue)

Brief review from the Dec. article:
Organized by Marina Auer, Moses Lake Chapter members traveled to Estonia (Marina's homeland) in Sept., 2004, with Central Washington University Professor of Piano, Dr. John Pickett.

During the Master Class [at the Narva School of Music], Dr. Pickett had the opportunity to work with seven excellent students, ages 10-15. The following day, Dr. Pickett presented his lecture, "Gershwin: The Bridge Between Jazz and Classical" (interpreted by Marina). He concluded the lecture with a performance of *Rhapsody in Blue*. While in Estonia, Dr. Pickett performed concerts in Narva, Rakvere, and Tallinn as part of a chamber quartet playing Brahms' *Quartet in A Major*. He also played Chopin's *Ballade in F minor*. During an inter-view with an Estonia radio station, Dr. Pickett said, "I'm very impressed by the dedication of the Russian teachers and the high level of preparation and performance of their students."

Before traveling by boat from Tallinn to Helsinki, Finland for the last two days of the trip, three teachers spent a day in St. Petersburg, Russia. In Helsinki, the group spent time with Collin and Margareta Hansen. Longtime friend of Collin's, Harriet West, shares these impressions: "Because of my love of and for music, it was exciting to be part of this trip with music teacher friends. I discovered first hand the exciting music opportunities that children and people have in Europe - from visiting a large children's music

school in Narva, Estonia to being present, along with Dr. Pickett, at an intimate evening of music at the home of Collin and Margareta Hansen. Collin is a Moses Lake native living in Helsinki, teaching as a tenured Professor of Piano at the Sibelius Academy, lecturing and performing throughout Europe. Margareta is a vivacious well known opera singer, lecturer and teacher. It was also great to experience ballet performances of *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty* near the country of the composer! How wonderful it would be if America would place as much emphasis on music as Estonia and Finland!"

Elizabeth Grunst remembers spending one long day in St. Petersburg. "We left Narva at 6:30 a.m. and returned at midnight. Marina's brother, Misha, drove us in his van for the 3 hour trip. He took us to many of the famous historic sights: Church on Spilled Blood, St. Isaac's Cathedral, Fortress of Peter and Paul and the famous Hermitage Museum with over 3 million objects displayed. The city has been spruced up in the last three years and is incredibly rich in history and beauty."

Mary Merrell adds, "There is so much history in these countries. It was a privilege to walk the streets of countries devastated by wars, to be awed by the many stately, majestic buildings, to hear the beautiful music of their composers and to view their exquisite works of art."

The Russian music teachers shared their impressions in Narva's newspaper, *Narvaleht*, on October 14, 2004. The following are excerpts from the article.

"John Pickett with ease grasped the content of unfamiliar repertoire and exactly caught the composer's intent. This musician has a special relationship with the piano. He gave special attention to the left hand where he found surprising melodic lines and content. His imaginative ideas were easily understood by the young pianists. The students produced sound miracles to the point that their teachers did not recognize their own students' playing. The teachers very much liked Pickett's imagery such as hands in the water, icy crystals and bird's wings. Pickett possesses an immense breadth of knowledge of music. He showed a special affinity for the understanding and performance of the music of Rachmaninoff. He also readily grasped the harmonic language of the Estonian composers and also desired to acquire their compositions. After an image filled lecture, Pickett gave a virtuoso performance of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" that evoked the life of the great New York City. The audience applauded with ovations. We hope that pianist John Pickett will return in the future."

Since coming to America in 1995, Marina has had a dream that American music teachers would meet their Russian colleagues at Narva's Music School where she had been a student and teacher. She had to wait over 7 years to acquire her green card for permanent residency before this dream could be fulfilled. She traveled to Narva last fall to begin to make arrangements for this trip. She says, "I am blessed by my friends and music family in America along with my natural and music families in Estonia. I am glad that these families were able to meet, share music and daily life together."

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