

Wichita Metropolitan Music Teachers Association

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CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

- Friday, August 19
ReTreat Deadline
- Saturday, August 27
10:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
Mini ReTreat
- Friday, September 23
7:30 p.m.
Willie Myette performance at Friends University
- Saturday, September 24
8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Jazz Festival at Friends University
- Sunday, September 25
Fall Auditions Recital Deadline
- Sunday, October 2
2:00 p.m.
Fall Auditions Recital
- October 27-28
KMTA Conference at Southwestern College in Winfield

Kick of the Year with a Treat BY SALLY BUXTON, NCTM

A mini ReTreat, that is!

Join WMMTA members on **Saturday, August 27, 2005** for an energizing day of fun activities, tasty food, fellowship with colleagues and loads of inspiration to get you ready for the teaching year!

The morning activities and sessions will be held at the home of Joanne Ehrlich—235 N Rutan.

The afternoon luncheon and sessions will be held at Blessed Sacrament Church—3800 E Douglas.

ReTreat Schedule

10:00 Motivating Mastery-Activities and Music Mind Games

11:15 Workshop Sessions

I. Business Practices: “Studio Policies that Work”

II. Motivation for Busy Students: “Can Practice Be Fun?”

12:15 Browsing in Clifton Square

Moozie and Mozart, Uptown Girls, The Original Bundle, Flanagan’s Irish Imports, Rags and Riches

1:00 Catered Luncheon (cost:\$7.50)

Menu: Hot Chicken Salad, Green Salad, Roll, Dessert, Drink

Guest Speaker: Wendy Stevens

“Capitalizing on Your Clients’ Passions to Energize Your Studio”

2:45 Workshop Sessions

I. Getting It All In: “The First Fifteen Minutes”

II. Repertoire: “Appropriate and Motivating”

4:00 Adieu!

Reserve your spot at the ReTreat today! Deadline for reservations is **Friday, August 19, 2005**.

For luncheon reservations, mail your check for \$7.50, payable to WMMTA, to Sally Buxton. For additional information, please contact Sally Buxton: 5711 Kenawee

Wichita, KS 67220

744-3577

strbux@cox.net

From the President

BY WENDY STEVENS, NCTM

Dear WMMTA Members,

I hope your summer has been relaxing and energizing. It is certainly disappearing faster than I would like!

Your WMMTA board met in July to plan for the new year. I want to highlight just a few of the exciting items discussed at the meeting:

- We have purposed to try to get event dates and details out to you in a more timely manner so

that you can set aside time in your busy schedule to attend these valuable meetings. Your program directory should be arriving soon!

- We are selling advertising in our directory to local and national merchants. This will help us get to know our resources better and will help offset the cost of our directory. You will notice other changes in the di-

rectory as well! Please take a moment to look through our newly formatted directory.

- Paige, Marlene and Natalie have been working on a project that will help local school music teachers know about WMMTA teachers. They have designed an attractive poster with business cards attached so that students interested in lessons can be referred to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Check out the new WMMTA website at www.wmmta.org!



SATURDAY SCHEDULE

8:30-9:00

Registration/Welcome

9:00-10:15

Elementary Session

10:15-10:30

Question / Answer time

10:30-10:45

Break

10:45-12:15

Intermediate Session

12:15-12:30

Question / Answer time

12:30-1:30

Lunch

1:30-3:00

High-school, College, Adult session

3:00-3:30

Question / Answer, Wrap-up

Get Jazzed Up!

BY CAROL DENNING

Plans are well underway for an amazing weekend at our Jazz Festival in September! Over 100 students have already signed up to participate in the Saturday workshop presented by Willie Myette.

Tune in your radios on Thursday, September 22 to hear Barry Gaston interview

Willie as part of the Thursday's Jazz Café program on KMUW.

Flyers are being sent to band teachers USD 259 and the surrounding communities and posters will be going up around town soon. Invite your family and friends to come hear Willie perform on

Friday, September 23 at 7:00 p.m. Concert Hall in Riney Fine Arts Center at Friends University.

If you don't have students involved in the workshops on Saturday, but would like to observe, call Judy Plagge at 722-3860 by **Thursday, September 1** to reserve a seat.

From the President

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one of our great teachers.

- The new website is up and running! Be sure to check it out: www.wmmta.org.
- The WMMTA surveys were extremely helpful in planning for the coming year. Thank you for providing your feedback.
- The next five years of festivals are being planned. For details, see below. If you are interested in helping in the planning stages, please contact me.
- We have assembled "New

Member Packets" which contain a WMMTA brochure, welcome letter, directory, and a new document: "Top 10 Questions of New WMMTA Members." The text of this will be on our website soon. You may find an answer to a question you've always had!

I would like to leave you with some thoughts on planning for the new teaching year: Do you find yourself in a rut in your teaching? Do your students seem bored? Are they lacking energy and motivation for practicing? Consider a thought

from Albert Einstein: "There is nothing that is a more sure sign of insanity than to do the same thing over and over and expect the results to be different." Yet, how often do we do just that?! Plan on attending our WMMTA ReTreat on August 27th (details on page 1) to learn new, exciting, and motivating ways to teach music. Your students will thank you and your fellow WMMTA members will be enriched by your presence!

Happy Teaching!

"There is nothing that is a more sure sign of insanity than to do the same thing over and over and expect the results to be different."

Albert Einstein

Festival Calendar

2006 Jazz Festival

2009 Travel Festival

2007 Sacred Music Festival

2010 Zoo Festival

2008 Olympics Festival

If any of these festivals are of particular interest to you, please contact Wendy Stevens so that you can get in on the brainstorming sessions!

stAR Award Recipient Announced

Congratulations to the MTNA stAR award recipient, Christina Folkerts. WMMTA has also awarded her with a year of membership to our organization. We look forward to having her as part of our fine group of teachers. If you heard her lecture on 20th Century approaches to improvisation, you know what a valuable asset she will be to our organization. We look forward to gaining from her knowledge and expertise!

Certification Corner

BY SYLVIA COATS, NCTM

Small Groups to "Sharpen the Saw"

"We are the instruments of our own performance, and to be effective, we need to recognize the importance of taking time regularly to sharpen the saw," says Stephen Covey in *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. In a recent WMMTA survey, 75% of the respondents expressed interest in small group meetings about a shared area of interest. An overwhelming majority expressed interest in a performance group. We

want to play! Interest was also expressed in small groups meeting to discuss certification, group teaching, business practices, sharing/problem solving, and teaching materials.

I suggest that the small interest groups, such as the performance group, have an initial meeting to decide how to proceed and to plan dates to play for one another. Each group could decide how often to meet (monthly, bi-monthly, 1-2 times a year). Groups could share com-

ments with one another and/or bring in an "expert." Small groups can be an exciting, intimate way to "prime the pump."

If you would be willing to host an initial meeting in your home on any of these topics, would you please contact Sylvia Coats? If you are interested in participating in one of the groups, and you have not already indicated your interest on the survey, please let Sylvia know at sylvia.coats@wsu.edu or 788-5807.

"We are the instruments of our own performance, and to be effective, we need to recognize the importance of taking time regularly to sharpen the saw."

Stephen Covey

Library Report

BY JOANNE EHRLICH

The WMMTA Library has a number of excellent resources available for you to check out. For this month's newsletter, Wendy Stevens has written a review of one of our videos.

Getting Started in Group Teaching

This instructional video includes highlights from the November 2001 Group Piano Seminar co-sponsored by MTNA and the National Piano Foundation. Both new and ex-

perienced group teachers will find this video helpful. It's an excellent overview of all aspects of group teaching. Topics include what defines group lessons, conceptual teaching, lesson planning, technology and group teaching, teaching repertoire in groups, peer interaction, partner lessons, teaching adults in groups, adapting favorite methods to group teaching, logistics including scheduling and grouping, resources for group teaching, and a teach-

ing demonstration by Indianapolis group teacher, Stephen Reen.

Even if you only teach occasional group lessons, you will come away from this video with many new ideas and an excellent foundation in what makes a group successful in any setting. I highly recommend it! It is a "must-see" for every teacher.

MIA!

The following library items are still missing. If you know where they are, please contact Joanne Ehrlich (685-1619).

BOOKS

- The Art of Movement
- A Brief Tax Guide for the Independent Music Teacher
- Publicity Handbooks for Music Teachers
- Book of Policies, Letters, and Forms
- Business Manual for Independent Studio Teachers
- Strategic Planning Workshop

VIDEOS

- Performance Practices in Baroque Keyboard Music
- Performance Practices in Classical Piano Music
- Performance Practices in Romantic Piano Music

Special Feature

BY SALLY BUXTON, NCTM

HOW TO GET TO THE KMTA CONFERENCE

Southwestern College in Winfield

October 27-28, 2005

SPECIAL OFFER!
 Let Sally Buxton know by phone (744-3577) or email (strbux@cox.net) that you want to *Buddy Up* (by August 27) and she'll help you coordinate carpools and roommates.

1. Plan to have a wonderful time with your colleagues, enjoying the refreshment that comes from a time away like this! (Over and over I hear attendees reflecting on past years' conferences. What an indication of the conferences' impact on their lives!) You'll gain fresh perspectives for your teaching, innovative ideas to apply immediately, and the chance to bond and build relationships with your colleagues that will remain long after the memories of this time together have dimmed!

2. Get creative about re-scheduling the missed lessons.

A. Schedule group lessons to replace the private ones.

B. Use Thanksgiving week for make-up lessons.

C. Add one Friday and Saturday to the semester or year-end.

3. NEVER GO ALONE! It's dangerous—you might think you're the only one with teach-

ing concerns like yours, and you'll miss out on the relationship-building time that will strengthen you and your teaching.

A. Find a buddy to share the ride and a room.

B. You will spend more of your hard-earned teaching money than necessary.

C. You won't have such great stories and pictures to share with your students about your colleagues (whom they'll meet at festivals and Music Progressions).

D. Let Sally Buxton know by phone (744-3577) or email (strbux@cox.net) that you want to *Buddy Up* (by August 27) and she'll help you coordinate carpools and roommates.

4. Plan child care ahead.

A. Do a favor for a friend several weeks before, so you can "trade" some childcare

time for the weekend.

B. Promise your spouse the MOON, or their favorite meatloaf dinner.

5. Make one big pot each of two recipes on Monday or Tuesday before the conference, for your family to have over the weekend. Tape them shut with duct tape to keep out early taste-testers!

6. Send in your registration as soon as you get the form!!

7. Pack your bag a full day ahead so you won't have to worry about it at the last hectic few minutes.

8. Don't forget your toothbrush!

9. Take K-15 southeast, then east; then take US 77 south into Winfield the "back" way. It will take you right to the campus, on the north end of the city. (By the way, it's a lovely drive!)

RECITAL ENTRY	
Teacher Name	
Student Name	
Composition	
Composer	
Mail to:	Christy Williams 1852 S 151st St West Goddard, KS 67052
Or call:	721-6919

Fall Auditions Recital

BY CHRISTY WILLIAMS, NCTM

Students participating in the KMTA Fall Auditions will find the annual WMMTA Fall Auditions Recital an excellent opportunity to perform their auditions pieces prior to the District Auditions date.

The recital will be held on **Sunday, October 2, 2005** at WSU, in the Duerkson Fine Arts Building, in Miller Concert Hall at 2:00 p.m. All entries must be mailed or called in to Christy Williams

by **Sunday, September 25, 2005.**

Please make copies of the recital entry form to the left as needed.

Rep Talk

BY DEEANN BROWN, NCTM

Hello! Welcome to “Rep Talk.” Our President, Wendy Stevens, asked me to write an on-going column concerning repertoire for the newsletter. The world of repertoire has always been a fascinating, challenging and exciting area for me. I am pleased to share my thoughts about repertoire and hope to stimulate ideas for your future use. It is my strong belief that a teacher’s choice of repertoire is critically important for the success of each student. Every student will be affected in several ways by your decisions on repertoire:

1. Level of interest for practicing
2. Technical comfort level
3. Success in accomplishing musical demands
4. Retention—excitement for other music

The teacher will want to balance repertoire so that the student always has music that they want to practice. This will generate interest and make a deeper connection for expressing themselves through music.

Because I organize my teaching year into three units (Sep-Dec; Jan-May; Jun-Aug),

there are three distinct times prior to these time segments that I set aside time to think through the repertoire needs and possibilities for each student. I consider long and short-term performance opportunities such as festivals, recitals, auditions, school or church-related activities. Long-term planning is especially important as students learn longer, more difficult repertoire. The students will be more comfortable and successful when given ample time to prepare, learn, and polish a piece. Success is a great motivator!

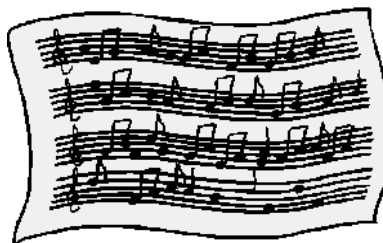
Every term, I look forward to teaching something new. It is impossible to become bored if we keep growing by challenging ourselves. Sometimes I choose a composer I haven’t taught. Other times I will select a different Sonatina or Sonata from a familiar collection. Listen and learn with fresh ears and eyes.

If you do not own a copy of “The Pianist’s Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance Literature” by Jane Magrath, I urge you to add this excellent reference guide to your library. The book is organized by historical period

and contains descriptions from elementary teaching pieces to moderate-level standard piano works. Most helpful, I think, is the use of a 10 level grading system that is assigned to each piece. The listing of grading increments assists us in choosing repertoire that supports gradual, systematic progress of technical and musical growth. Ms. Magrath defines each of the 10 levels by naming recognizable examples of music that correspond. The book is a treasure of information. It is published by Alfred and retails for \$29.95 for paperback or \$39.95 for hardback.

In future columns, I’ll be featuring ideas on using etudes, repertoire “substitutions,” favorite pedagogical sheet music, sure-fire standards for the older student, and pathways to contemporary repertoire. I hope my forty-plus years of teaching experience and my enthusiasm for the wide world of classical music will address some student repertoire challenges you might be facing.

Happy and successful planning!



HELPFUL TIP

A quick search at www.bookfinder.com turned up a number of new and used editions of Jane Magrath’s “The Pianist’s Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance Literature” for significantly less than the regular retail price.

Meeting Minutes

BY MARILYN HITCHCOCK

EMAIL MEETING MINUTES

The following members participated in the online meeting: Paige Cress, Marilyn Hitchcock, Sally Buxton, Kathy Fehrmann, Carol Pracht, Wendy Stevens, Julie Brown, Natalie Wickham, Margaret Dietz, and Marlene Hallstrom.

Past-president, Kathy Fehrmann (along with Carol Pracht and Julie Brown-members of the nominating committee) submitted the following text to be sent

to WMMTA board members via email:

"The current BYLAWS require 30 days notice to members to be amended. We request an exception in order to present this Amendment (addition underlined) with the Slate of Officers:

Article VI. Section 2 No officer except the President shall serve more than two (2) consecutive years.

Slate:

President-Elect Wendy Ste-

vens has agreed to serve a third year.

First VP Programs: Sally Buxton

Second VP Membership: Paige Cress

Third VP Public Relations: Marlene Hallstrom

Secretary: Marilyn Hitchcock

Treasurer: Judy Fear"

The request to make an exception to the BYLAWS (as detailed below) was PASSED on Sunday, May 22nd.

FEIST AD MINUTES June 25, 2005

"I [Marlene] move that we renew the WMMTA ad in the Feist yellow pages for the coming year. The ad will include

the phone numbers of our referral secretary and membership chair. The cost is \$14 per month or one payment of \$168. This is 1/2 price because we are a non-profit

organization."

The motion was seconded by Wendy and passed unanimously by 12 board members.

JUNE 14, 2005 – 7:00 PM

PRAIRIE PINES FARM

After a period of intermingling during which ballots were passed out to members and survey forms to everyone, even though several key officers were not present, President Wendy Stevens called the business portion of the WMMTA "Recap" meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. She first read a note from Maja Svast of SMTNA at WSU thanking our chapter for its financial assistance to the WSU delegation to the Seattle convention.

The next item was the proposed amendment to the by-laws regarding the length of terms for officers, but, as its presenter, Kathy Fehrmann, wasn't there yet, a motion was made and passed to postpone discussion of the proposed amendment

until later in the evening.

The group proceeded to introductions, during which each attendee was to tell his/her name, instrument, and one unusual fact about himself/herself which others might not know. As these were concluding, the "missing" members appeared. There had been confusion as to which building the meeting was to be held in. It was decided to break for refreshments before continuing.

Carol Denning, Judy Harrison, and Judy Plagge presented information about the Jazzkids Festival coming up in September. Names of students who wish to work directly with Willie Myette in the seminars need to be submitted to Judy P. or Carol as soon as possible. These students do not have to have

anything prepared ahead of time to participate. One of Carol's students, James, demonstrated a piece from one of Willie Myette's jazz books. Goals of the endeavor include not only learning jazz, but learning to improvise and play by ear. Carol also mentioned information could be gained from the website www.jazzkids.com.

As the evening was growing late, Wendy postponed her presentation of "Capitalizing on your Client's Passions to Energize your Studio," but did recommend two books that speak well to that subject: "What Clients Love" by Harry Beckwith, and "It's Not How Good You Are, But How Good You Want to Be" by Paul Arden.

The business meeting was reopened, and there was lively

RECOMMENDED READING

What Clients Love
By Harry Beckwith

*It's Not How Good You
Are, But How Good You
Want to Be*
By Paul Arden

Meeting Minutes

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discussion concerning the proposed amendment regarding allowing the president to serve more than two consecutive terms. It mostly concerned the ramifications of this "exception" for future elections. Some concerns voiced were 1) the possibility of a president's holding office indefinitely (this would be prevented by the function of the nominating committee); 2) effect of staggered terms among the officers (it was stated that a staggered turnover was better than a com-

plete turnover every 2 years); and, 3) if other parts of the by-laws would have to be reworked to conform with the new amendment (it was stated that such changes would have to be presented to the membership 30 days in advance to be voted on and passed). Eventually, Wendy called for the ballots on the proposed amendment to be cast, and collected by Margaret Dietz and Marlene Hallstrom, tellers. The amendment was accepted with 13 voting yes, and 5 voting no. Kathy, as chair of the

nominating committee, then presented the proposed slate of officers for 2005-2006. Wendy asked that the ballots be cast, and the slate was accepted unanimously.

There being no other business, a motion was made for adjournment; it passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. Members then enjoyed browsing through items which had been brought for the WMMTA benefit music sale.

WMMTA Unveils New Logo!

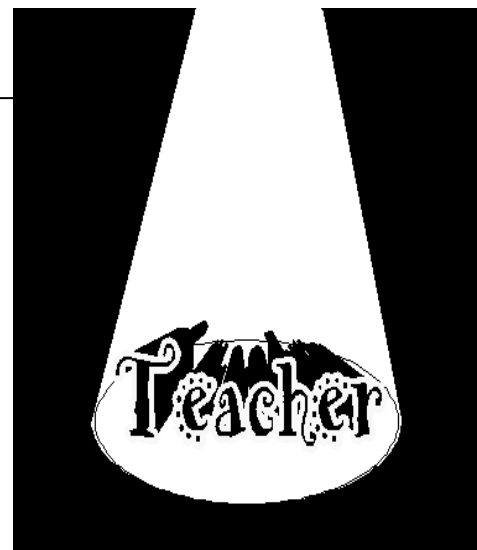
The WMMTA Board has officially adopted a new logo with the intent of projecting to the community an up-to-date and professional image. The full color logo (black and white for newsletter printing purposes) was designed to coordinate with the colorful eye-catching brochures and will be utilized in all correspondence and on the forthcoming website.



Teacher Spotlight!

At the Recap Meeting in June, attendees had a chance to hear interesting bits of information as everyone shared something about themselves that others might not know. Many exclamations of surprise were heard as people revealed amazing things about themselves we never would have guessed! In our ongoing effort to develop a supportive network of col-

leagues and to get to know more about each other, we'd like to spotlight one teacher in each newsletter. If you would be interested in being "spotlighted" in an upcoming newsletter, please contact Natalie Wickham (207-3134 or natalie@nataliespianostudio.com).



Check out the new WMMTA website at www.wmmta.org!

c/o Natalie Wickham
1101 Briarwood Rd
Derby, KS 67037-3701



Coda



WANTED...

...any memorabilia from this year's events, including: photos, programs, handouts, etc. If you have any of the above and would be willing to help WMMTA keep a record of these events in the history books, please scan and email them

(cdenning@cox.net) or send them by postal mail to:

Carol Denning
27 Laurel Dr
Wichita, KS 67206

Or give Carol a call at 684-1659 and she'll be happy to come pick them up personally.

PIANO FOR SALE

1905 Shaw upright, beautiful antique walnut casing

Recondition in 1995

Deep, rich tone

Tuned regularly

Asking price: \$600
(negotiable)

Please call Julie Brown
(729-7915) if you are interested or have any questions.

E-MAIL ALERT

Are you getting WMMTA email updates? Our WMMTA email updates fill in the gaps between newsletters and help remind teachers what is going on in the area. If you are not receiving these emails, please email your address to Wendy Stevens at piano@wendypianostudio.com

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

If you have something you would like to submit for inclusion in the next newsletter, please e-mail it to Natalie Wickham at natalie@nataliespianostudio.com by **Monday, October 17, 2005.**