

Wichita Metropolitan Music Teachers Association

AUGUST 2007

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT BY NATALIE WICKHAM, NCTM

It is with a great deal of excitement (and more than a little trepidation!) that I have agreed to serve as the WMMTA President for the next two years. I know you all will join me in expressing thanks to Wendy Stevens for the vast amount of energy and time she has poured into our organization over the past three years. I am so grateful for the steps she has taken to infuse us with a vision for the future and I hope and pray that I will be able to continue down the same path so that WMMTA will grow and thrive for generations to come. For this reason, I have selected "*Carry the Torch!*" as our theme for the year. I see this theme as being multi-faceted and want to outline

three ways that I see WMMTA members "carrying the torch" in the year ahead.

1. Share the Vision! At a Vision Meeting two years ago, WMMTA members identified three key areas in which to expand our efforts: Publicity, Recruitment, and Member Relations/Needs. We have made great progress in these areas, but there is still much that can be done. Many of our studios are currently operating at full capacity and we continue to get requests on a regular basis from students looking for teachers (Margaret, our wonderful Referral Chairperson, begs regularly at board meetings for names of teachers with openings in



their studios!). As we improve our public visibility, we need to be able to assist potential students in finding dedicated teachers with a high standard of excellence in their teaching. One of the best things we can do is encourage other teachers we know to attend a meeting and join WMMTA. I

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

August 24 WMMTA Kickoff Meeting

September 15 John Leavitt Workshop

September 28-29 KMTA State Conference

September 30 Fall Auditions Recital

October 6 KMTA Fall Auditions

November 10-11 KMTA Honors Auditions

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

1. Kickoff Meeting/Retreat Preview

Our first meeting will be Friday, August 24th, starting at 4:00 PM, in the Rehearsal Hall in DeMattias Hall at Newman University (3100 W McCormick). At this meeting we will be discussing goal making. A

panel of WMMTA members will present their goals for the year. Come prepared to share your ideas for the year as well! I will then briefly present the Midwinter Retreat topics. This will be followed by a yoga class presented by Angie Martin. Angie will

BY SARAH BAXTER

focus on upper body stretches (great for injury prevention/healing!) and visualization related to goal setting to prepare us for a year of playing and teaching.

At 6:30 we will have a

(Continued on page 2)

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

potluck dinner at 411 S. Millwood (1.5 miles from Newman U). (There is a refrigerator at Newman, or crock pot dishes are another option). This will be a great time to socialize with fellow WMMTA members. And you won't want to miss the great door prizes!

2. John Leavitt Piano Improvisation and Composition: Two Sides of the Same Coin

AND presentation of New Piano Materials

Saturday September 15th, 9:30-11, at Reformation Lutheran, 7601 E 13th Street N. John Leavitt has recently recorded a fully orchestrated Christmas and Sacred music album and has also made these available in piano folio. He will be talking about these materials, as well as about teaching composition. It will be great to start the year with such fresh ideas;

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I am always interested in hearing about new music, and I know I always have students eager to write their own music! Also, this will help us all get prepared for the Composition competition at the summer Olympic Festival

I hope you can attend these programs. Feel free to call me with questions!

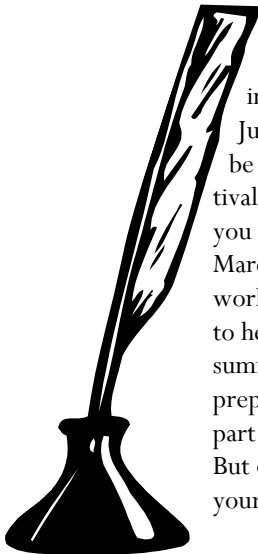
Sarah Baxter
263-9639

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

believe that there are many teachers in the Wichita area who would love to be part of such a beneficial and energetic organization...if they only knew we existed. So let's "carry the torch" this year by coming along-side other music teachers in the area and inviting them to join us in our mission!

2. Get ready for an Olympic Festival!

Build up the excitement in your studios, because in July of 2008 WMMTA will be hosting an Olympic Festival full of fun and activities you won't want to miss! In March, we'll be holding a workshop chock-full of ideas to help you plan your own summer camp that will help prepare your students to be a part of this unique festival. But don't wait until then! Let your creativity be the limit



and start gearing up now for this event! Stay tuned for more specifics and ideas of things you can be doing throughout the year to get your students ready.

3. Create an attention-grabbing public image for your studio!

As Independent Music Teachers we bear a huge responsibility to not only be excellent teachers, but to run our businesses in a professional manner. Every business operating in the 21st Century should have a website. While it may seem like a daunting task, any teacher willing to devote a few hours and a bit of mental energy to the task can develop their own studio website. Join us for a hands-on workshop next summer where we'll help you navigate the options and assist you in getting your own website up

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and running. Start thinking through what you'd like to include on your studio website and watch for specifics on date and location.

So, grab your torch and let's all join together to make this year one of the best ever in our own studios and in our organization as a whole!

Looking forward to a fabulous year!

~Natalie Wickham, NCTM

CERTIFICATION CORNER

BY SYLVIA COATS, NCTM

WHY MTNA NATIONAL CERTIFICATION?

FOR MUSIC TEACHERS

- Offers a process by which teachers may examine and update their libraries, teaching methods, business practices and philosophies.
- Encourages improvement in teaching through continuous self-study and planning.
- Raises the likelihood for a higher level of teacher competency and effectiveness.
- Provides a goal for personal professional achievement for music teachers
- Increases the potential for earning power for music teachers.
- Improves the level of pro-

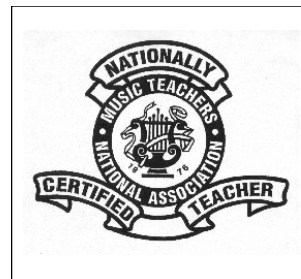
fessionalism within the field of music teaching.

- Identifies for the public competent music teachers.

FOR MTNA

- Fosters excellence in music education through the development of criteria, standards, and guidelines for assessing educational competencies in performance, music theory, music history/literature, and pedagogy/teacher education.
- Assures the educational community, the general public, and other agencies or organizations that the MTNA Professional Certification Program for music teachers has been clearly defined with appropriate standards.
- Provides a national forum for the discussion and consideration of concerns relevant to the preservation and advancement of standards in the field of music and music education.
- Develops a national unity and strength for the purpose of maintaining the position of music study in the family of fine arts and humanities and providing qualified teachers to guide that study.
- Sets a uniform national minimum standard of achievement without restricting the development of new ideas, experimentation, or the expansion of personal standards.

For more information contact Sylvia Coats, continuing education chair, at sylvia.coats@wichita.edu.



Detailed certification information and downloadable forms can be found at www.mtnacertification.org

APRIL MEETING MINUTES

October 1 was discussed as the date for the recital, and Wendy suggested we call it a "fall recital" rather than "fall auditions recital."

Historian - No report.

Referrals - Margaret Dietz asked teachers to keep her informed when they have openings in their studios. There is a particular need at this time for teachers in West Wichita. The Board discussed recruiting more members for WMMTA.

Past President - Kathy Fehrmann reported that nominations are in process. It is hoped

that they will be printed in the newsletter.

Newsletter - Natalie Wickham reminded us of the April 27 newsletter deadline. She also reported that the newsletter editor for next year will be Kara Alumbaugh. The Board discussed purchasing the appropriate software which Kara will need to produce the newsletter.

Library - Joanne Ehrlich encouraged all WMMTA members to come see and check out books, tapes, etc. which are in the WMMTA library housed at

her home. There is a list of these items in the yearbook.

Festival - Natalie reported that the 2008 festival will have an Olympic theme. She asked the Board's opinion of having the festival in the summer and stated that Azure Henwood would be interested in chairing the festival if it were in the summer. The second or third weekend in July 2008 were suggested as possibilities.

Amendment concerning privacy of addresses - Wendy presented this concern: "I would like to discuss the possibility of amending the bylaws to

include a statement similar to: The WMMTA directory and the names and addresses of its members will not be distributed to third parties for the purposes of solicitation. Businesses and individuals wishing to distribute information to WMMTA members can inquire about newsletter and/or e-mail distribution of their information." After some discussion, Wendy offered to check with MTNA regarding how to include this as a policy or bylaw, etc. She will report at a later meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10pm.

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WMMTA Board Meeting Dates

Friday, October 12, 2007 – 12:00-2:00

Friday, January 11, 2008 – 10:00-12:00

Friday, April 11, 2008 – 12:00-2:00

Please send any items you would like the board to discuss to Natalie Wickham at least one week prior to any board meeting.

2007-2008 WMMTA BOARD

President-Natalie Wickham – natalie@nataliespianostudio.com

1st Vice-President/Programs -Sarah Baxter – sarahmcd17@aol.com

2nd Vice-President/ Membership-Judy Harrison – judyharrison145@cox.net

3rd Vice-President/Publicity -Christy Williams – terrychristy@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer-Laura Vollen – lavollen@cox.net

Secretary-Marlene Hallstrom – mhallstrom@cox.net

Past-President-Wendy Stevens wendy@wendyspianostudio.com

Recitals-Carole Pracht – prachtc@newmanu.edu

Olympic Festival-Sally Buxton – strbux@cox.net

Music Progressions-Julie Brown – julieabrown@cox.net

Continuing Ed-Sylvia Coats – sylvia.coats@wichita.edu

Referral-Margaret Dietz – whd9@juno.com

Librarian-Joanne Ehrlich – ancey7@cox.net

Historian-Paige Cress – jerryress@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter-Kara Alumbaugh – elanorkja@gmail.com

WMMTA Establishes New Policy Procedure Manual

After receiving advice from MTNA for dealing with certain issues that have arisen, WMMTA has established a Policy and Procedure Manual. WMMTA reserves the right to change the policies and procedures of this manual at any time by a majority vote of the board. In order to protect the privacy of its members, WMMTA has adopted the following policy:

“The WMMTA directory and the names and addresses of its members will not be distributed to 3rd parties for the purposes of solicitation. Businesses and individuals wishing to distribute information to WMMTA members can inquire about newsletter and/or email distribution of their information.”

Wichita Metropolitan Music Teachers Association Proposed Budget for 2007-2008

INCOME

Dues	\$1445
Interest	\$10
Symphony Ad	\$0
Music Progressions	\$0
Retreat	\$0
Directory Ads	\$175
TOTAL	\$1630

EXPENSES

Advertising	\$200
Corporate Report Fee	\$40
Facilities	\$500
Gifts	\$35
Office Supplies	\$35
Library	\$50
Postage	\$200
Printing	\$610
Refreshments	\$40

Speakers	\$500
Website Host	\$0
Music Progressions	\$0
Retreat	\$0
Computer Software	\$200
President Travel	\$0
TOTAL	\$2410

Income from Reserve \$780

WMMTA BOARD MEETING MINUTES JULY 27, 2007

The Wichita Metropolitan Music Teachers Association board met on Friday, July 27, 2007, at 10:00am at the downtown Wichita Library. Present: Kara Alumbaugh, Sarah Baxter, Sally Buxton, Sylvia Coats, Paige Cress, Margaret Dietz, Joanne Ehrlich, Marlene Hallstrom, Judy Harrison, Laura Vollen, and President Natalie Wickham, who called the meeting to order at 10:10am. Minutes from the April Board meeting and June 12 Recapitulation meeting were presented by Marlene Hallstrom, secretary. The April Board minutes were accepted as read. The June 12 minutes were accepted as amended.

President – Natalie reminded the board of her theme for the coming year, “Carry the Torch.” This theme signifies following up on the goals of our past president, Wendy Stevens, and also relates to the upcoming 2008 festival which will have an Olympic theme. Board members introduced themselves and their board duties. Natalie mentioned a concern of some WMMTA members about the publication of board minutes. Because minutes of a board meeting have in the past been approved at the following meeting and then published in the next newsletter, there can be a lapse of several months before minutes are published. The board decided to approve the minutes by e-mail vote the week following each board meeting

so they can be published in the newsletter within a month. The approved minutes will also be posted on the WMMTA website.

The purchase of a ¼ page ad for the 2007 KMTA Conference was approved. Board meetings for the 2007-08 year will be on October 12 (12:00-2:00), January 18 (10:00-12:00), and April 11 (12:00-2:00). The locations will be announced later.

Treasurer - Laura Vollen, treasurer, presented the Statement of Income and Expenses for 2006-2007. Income exceeded the budget of \$1460 by \$842.93 for a total income of \$2302.93. Expenses exceeded the budget of \$3180 by \$82.34 for a total expense of \$3671.73. \$1368.73 was used from the Reserve (\$351.27 less than the budgeted amount of \$1720). The 2007-2008 budget was presented. There was discussion regarding the amount of the budget which should be taken from Reserves. It was agreed to try to limit the amount used from Reserves each year. The internal audit has been done, and an accountant has helped Laura set up the treasury books with new software. There was a reminder that symphony ad payments are due by August 1 to Laura.

Programs - Sarah Baxter presented the program schedule for the coming year. This includes:

August 24 - 4:00-8:30pm - Kick-off Meeting at Newman University. At 6:30 there will be a potluck at Sarah Baxter's home.

September 15, 9:30-11:00 – John Leavitt at Reformation Lutheran Church

October 27, 3:30-5:00 – Panel discussion on accompanying or rhythm (percussionist)

January 26, 9:00-4:00 – Mid-Winter retreat (possibly Steve Spooner, The Art of Practicing)

March 14 – 10:00-1:00 – Piano Camp Panel and Discussion – Sally Buxton's home

June 10, 7:00-9:00 – Recapitulation Meeting at Prairie Pines

Summer workshop on creating a studio website

Budget items: Honoraria for presenters (yoga teacher - \$50; John Leavitt - \$50; percussionist - \$50; Steve Spooner – \$300?)

Facility fees were discussed. It was agreed to try to find places with small fees or free use policies.

Membership - Judy Harrison reminded the board members to renew their memberships and to encourage others to do so as soon as possible.

Publicity - A free listing has been published in the Feist Yellow Pages. The WMMTA posters for Wichita public

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PIANOS FOR SALE

George Steck upright spinet, approx. 50 years old, price negotiable.

Call Alice Price at 267-6853

Wurlitzer console with maple finish in excellent condition. Needs tuning.

\$1900 OBO.

Also, free piano instructional books for anyone in need.

Contact Karen Dugan by e-mail: ddugan@cox.net

WANTED!

Piano teachers in the west Wichita area with studio openings and vocal teachers with studio openings.

Please contact referral chairperson Margaret Dietz at 722-2554 or whd9@juno.com

DEADLINE

Please Submit items for the November newsletter no later than Friday, October 19

Kara Alumbaugh, elanorkja@gmail.com

DON'T FORGET!**KMTA Fall Auditions**

Saturday, October 6 at McPherson College.

Entry deadline is September 15 (see the new KMTA Update for form and information)

Remember, you may enter students with *non-memorized* music in "Plan D" again this year! Why not enter ensembles of any kind in that plan and give them a place to be recognized and rewarded?

**FALL AUDITIONS
RECITAL**

Sunday, September
30

Location TBA

Contact

Sally Buxton,
strbux@cox.net

**JULY 27 MINUTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5**

school music teachers will be printed and distributed again. These list our referral member to help students find music instructors.

Continuing Education - Laura Vollen is making progress on her Certification plans. There are currently 6 people working on Certification and 4 mentors to help them. Sylvia Coats handed out a certification progress chart.

Music Progressions - no report

Auditions/Recitals - Sally Buxton and Joanne Ehrlich agreed to host the October 1 Fall Auditions recital. They will check on a location. Carole Pracht sent a message that she would like input regarding where to present Christmas recitals. Some members have asked that they be in visible community venues. The Von Maur department store would be interested in this. There was concern expressed that this would not make a good recital setting because of shopping noise, etc.

Historian - Paige Cress will serve as Historian and has asked everyone to save relevant materials for her.

Referrals - Margaret Dietz asked teachers to keep her informed when they have openings in their studios. There is a particular need at this time for teachers in West Wichita.

Past President - No report

Newsletter - Kara Alumbaugh has the necessary software and will publish the next newsletter. Articles are due by August 3.

Library - Joanne Ehrlich displayed some of the library items available for our members and encouraged everyone to make use of them. She asked that a short review of any of these materials read be written for the newsletter

Festival - Sally Buxton will chair the 2008 festival with an Olympic theme. She presented several ideas related to "Olympic competitions" in the areas of composition, technique, ear-training, rhythm, etc. all according to the Music Progression guidelines. Suggested dates of July 12 or 19, 2008, from 1:00-5:30pm were discussed. A location will be announced.

Old Business:**Amendment concerning privacy of addresses** -

After discussion, the board voted to approve the following for our Policy and Procedure Manual: *"The WMMTA directory and the names and addresses of its members will not be distributed to third parties for the purposes of solicitation. Businesses and individuals wishing to distribute information to WMMTA members can inquire about newsletter and/or e-mail distribution of their information."*

New Business:

The website has been updated.

A membership drive will be discussed later.

KMTA mini-grants are available (up to \$3000 per local organization). Sally Buxton offered to apply for this for our festival.

Symphony Showhouse - Natalie asked if members of WMMTA would be interested in serving as greeters and hosts at the Symphony Showhouse on October 5 from 10:00-1:00. She will follow up and report back to the group.

Old Town Concert by the fountain - October 13 - the organizer has asked our organization for suggestions regarding performers for this event. There will be a variety of music including classical and jazz.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Hallstrom, Secretary

WMMTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES JUNE 12, 2007

The Wichita Metropolitan Music Teachers Association held its annual Recapitulation Meeting on Tuesday, June 12, 2007 at Prairie Pines Tree Farm. After time for refreshments and conversation, the meeting was called to order at 8:10pm by President Wendy Stevens. Minutes of the June 6, 2006 meeting were read by secretary Marlene Hallstrom and accepted as read.

Treasurer Laura Vollen presented the treasurer's report. Current checkbook balance is \$2450.62. Festival account balance is \$1170.72. Laura opened a discussion about establishing separate funds for Music Progressions, retreats, etc. She also suggested having an annual audit in June. Fidelity Bank is currently reporting a larger balance than our treasury records. Sally Buxton

and Natalie Wickham will audit. Natalie has asked an accountant to help set up the books. Please use the form to request funds or reimbursements. There was a question regarding retreat income. The annual corporate fee has been filed on line.

Election of officers for 2007-08 followed. Kathy Fehrmann presented the ballot:

President: Natalie Wickham

1st Vice President/Programs:
Sarah Baxter

2nd Vice President/Membership:
Judy Harrison

3rd Vice President/Publicity:
Christy Williams

Secretary: Marlene Hallstrom

Treasurer: Laura Vollen

There were no nominations from the floor. The slate was elected unanimously.

Everyone was encouraged to renew membership as soon as possible. Appreciation and a bouquet of flowers were presented to Wendy Stevens for her leadership as President over the past three years.

Natalie presented her theme, "Carry the Torch," for the coming year.

Sylvia Coats, National Certification Chair, presented a new brochure. She encouraged everyone to continue working on certification and to raise the bar for Kansas.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Marlene Hallstrom, Secretary

future of Music Progressions and its growth. We have 189 this year and have spots for 3 more with our current schedule. However, we are using many studios and running long hours. I don't have a specific proposal but thought we need to think about several options: putting a cap on student enrollment, adding a Friday afternoon option, pursuing 2-3 more studios, etc. Another issue is the facility. During my initial contact with WSU this fall, they indicated that there is no fee this year since we scheduled during the summer, but the "free" facility will be no more. I will try to contact WSU to see if I can get an idea of the change in policy." Discussion included the possibility of adding a Friday afternoon, using smaller venues or offering Music Progressions on two different weekends. The consensus of the group was to try a "Friday overflow" possibility. Wendy suggested that Julie have a co-chair so that she wouldn't have to spend as much time at the event.

Auditions/Recitals -

District auditions will be October 6 in MacPherson. State auditions will be November 10-11. The question, "Can we open the fall auditions recital up to any student with a polished piece? Currently it is understood to only be for students who are playing in the fall auditions." The consensus of the board was that non-audition students may participate but priority will be given to students who will participate in auditions.

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WMMTA BOARD MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 20, 2007

The Wichita Metropolitan Music Teachers Association board met on Friday, April 20, 2007, at 12:00 noon at Senseney Music.

Present: Judy Harrison, Sally Buxton, Marlene Hallstrom, Sylvia Coats, Margaret Dietz, Natalie Wickham, Laura Vollen, Julie Brown, Joanne Ehrlich and President Wendy Stevens who called the meeting to order at 12:10pm. Minutes from the January Board meeting were presented by Marlene Hallstrom, secretary. They were accepted as read.

President – Wendy Stevens thanked WMMTA for helping her with expenses for national convention. She had a great time.

Wendy plans to meet soon with President-Elect Natalie Wick-

ham to prepare for the change in leadership.

Treasurer - Laura Vollen, treasurer, presented the treasurer's report. Checkbook balance on April 20, 2007, was \$4604.16. The festival account balance was \$1170.72. Income included \$25.00 from dues and \$2.08 interest. Expenses were \$113.15 for newsletter, \$130 for Beth Grace (program speaker), \$25.00 dues refund, and \$600 for MTNA conference expenses for President Wendy Stevens. New members include Kay Roskam.

Programs - Sally Buxton reminded us of the Recapitulation meeting which will be held on June 12, 7:00pm at the Barn at Prairie Pines. Bring appetizers to share.

Membership - Judy Harrison reported that Kay Roskam is a new member. She is a retired music therapist from California and is teaching privately in Wichita.

Publicity - No report.

Continuing Education - Certification mentors and mentees are planning to meet during the summer. Sylvia Coats handed out a checklist and mentioned the certification website: www.mtnacertification.org.

Music Progressions - WMMTA Music Progressions will be on April 28-29 at WSU. Julie Brown reported that 187 students and 26 teachers will be participating. The Board discussed the following item submitted by Julie: "I think we need to open discussion about the



MUSIC OLYMPICS: 2008 EDITION by Sally Buxton

A day of music games and competition

for students of all levels*

(*According to Music Progression guidelines)

Date proposed: Saturday afternoon of July 12 or 19

Site and fees to be announced

Produced by the studios of WMMTA teachers for their students

(The number of activities available for student participation

will equal the number of teachers who are available to help.)

Begin planning to use your new teaching year to prepare your students for entry in the games and competitions, and to plan with them how you will contribute to the day!

WARM UPS: Injury prevention warm-ups

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

Theory games sponsored by each participating studio, with prizes for everyone. *(Pick your favorite game and ask your students to help you staff a little booth and conduct that game at various Music Progression levels. Your students can take turns helping you and then rotating around to play the games. Many students these days are looking for community service hours to fulfill in the summer. They would be a great resource for us!)*

TEAM COMPETITIONS:

Monitored by teachers who will work with the Music Olympics Committee. *(You can help to design and execute these, or other, relays and races, or follow guidelines the Committee provides you.)*

- Scale Relays
- Flash to the Finish
- Rhythm Marathon
- Speed Chording

- Arpeggio Laps

COMPOSITION COMPETITION AWARDS PRESENTATION: Guidelines and deadlines will be published soon. Winners will be selected before Olympics day so that awards can be given and performances requested.

TEAM PERFORMANCE COMPETITION: Performances must be for multiple instruments (can include simple percussion instruments) but must stay within copyright rules. Performances will be judged in several categories: creativity, ensemble, best-of-show, etc. Performances can be serious or fun, but always well done.

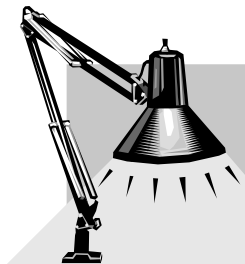
CLOSING CEREMONIES: Perhaps with a specially commissioned piece?

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

What are some interesting things about yourself that other WMMTA members may not know? *I toured the Faroe Islands with an Icelandic choir in the early '70s. I learned beautiful Icelandic folksongs, and of their love of music. And I have a brother who used to be "Mike McGee" on KFH when "Gaston" (on KMUW now) was "Jack Barry."*

Additional Comments: *I'm very proud of the young teacher*

who has accepted the newsletter publication duties from WMMTA! She is my former student, and one with whom I've always been able to share the love of discovery—even in the area of music theory!—and teaching. Even though she's brand new to our group, she has been willing to step out of her own comfort zone and into a world where so many things are unfamiliar—even the software she is going to learn how to use as she does her job for us. Thanks so much, Kara!!



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TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



Name: *There has been some confusion about this. When I first joined MTNA, I used my legal given name. However, for my studio and my colleagues, I had been using my nickname. So, when I went to my first conference, I caused some embarrassment to the people who made out the nametags, as they thought they had my name wrong. I had to apologize to them and explain that they weren't wrong—this was a common situation for me. Finally, it took the National Membership Director to straighten me out and suggest I simply switch my membership and all correspondence to my nickname: "Sally" Buxton. (Perhaps the reader will want to stop reading right here!)*

Instrument(s): *Piano*

Years Teaching: *Almost 40!*

Family Info: *Husband, Steve, accountant for Love Box Company; two boys: Peter, 31, Engineer for a cable sports-broadcasting company (traveling with the Royals, currently! Yay!); John, 28, Waiter at "Blue Smoke" (NYC BBQ restaurant) and Actor (who is awaiting a call-back for an "On-Broadway" play)*

What made you decide to start teaching? *When I was in high school, a mother asked me to teach her little boy. My teacher helped me by including me in a group of her students who joined MTNA as student members. (Our picture was on the cover of an issue of AMT! I hope you never see it!) She trained us by having us assist her group lessons, gradually working up to one-on-one work with each student for 15 minutes. The other day I ran across some notes I took as she got us started, and her advice is still sound. "Everyone" was using Frances Clark materials then, and I still begin most students with those concepts. I remember going with her to hear Frances Wallingford and Marguerite Miller in workshops at WU (in those days). They were so inspiring! So was my teacher at Friends: Marie Kassouny. I still use her practice helps with my students! I love teaching more each year, and I especially love being able to pass the love of teaching on to some of my former students! On top of that, the young innovative teachers coming along and the materials and workshops available constantly renew my excitement!*

What's your favorite thing about teaching? *That's an easy question. I just wrote my philosophy of teaching for my policy for the year, and I can say that my favorite thing about teaching is simply sharing the joy of "music making" with my students. I'm so fortunate to get to "be there" when the "light bulb" comes on when they make a new discovery about the music or a new skill or about themselves!*

What's your least favorite thing about teaching? *Paperwork, paperwork, paperwork. I tried to go paperless last year, but lots of my families aren't ready for it. I do have a friend who is helping to organize me, but she has to*

keep reminding me that I have to keep on top of it—every day (groan!)

Do you have a memorable experience that relates to your teaching that you would share with us? *Don't get me started! One that's fresh on my mind is from my music camps this summer. I was so fortunate, because the kids in both camps were so attentive! One group sat so closely while I was reading the story of the Magic Flute (and listening to the music) that they would correct me if I missed one word! They would catch me, too, every time I mispronounced a name (and you know how all the names in that opera rhyme!). Well, at the next camp, I finally realized that the book was designed to show the picture while flipping the page with the text to the back so it could read unhindered! The lesson in all of this for me was more than just how to read a book to them, but that my students were eager for experiences like this—they didn't fight having their musical knowledge broadened—when I thought they might turn away from something so historical and non-technological. One mother even called to ask if there were any more camps this summer that her child could attend! He was having a great time! Whew!*

In what other musical endeavors are you involved? *I'm the organist and "choir" director for St. Michael Orthodox Christian Church, meeting in the chapel of St. George Orthodox Cathedral.*

What other interests do you have outside of music? *Cooking & eating (I just started taking "Cooks Illustrated." An experience in itself!), Bible study, reading biographies, movies, needlework.*

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ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING FEATURED IN AN UPCOMING TEACHER SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE?

Do you know someone who would make a good candidate?

Contact Kara Alumbaugh,
elanorkja@gmail.com





C/O Kara Alumbaugh
2316 Fairchild
Wichita, KS 67219

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.WMMTA.ORG

SYMPHONY SHOWHOUSE OPPORTUNITY!

WMMTA has agreed to host a volunteer shift at the Symphony Showhouse on October 5, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.. The Symphony Showhouse is a project of the Women's Association of the Wichita Symphony (an organization that raises funds and support for the Wichita Symphony Orchestra). This year's Showhouse is located at 204 N. Roosevelt. For those unfamiliar with the project, every other year the Women's Association selects a house and interior designers and decorators from across Wichita work together to completely remodel and redecorate the house. It is

then open to the public September 16-October 7 for viewing. Many volunteers are required to make such a project possible.

Those volunteering to help staff the WMMTA shift will each be assigned a room of the house and will be responsible for greeting the guests and directing traffic flow. We need a total of 16 people to staff our shift. If you are interested in participating in this opportunity, please contact Natalie Wickham (natalie@nataliespianostudio.com or 316-207-3134). Volunteer spots will be assigned on a first-come-first-serve

basis. If you are not available to volunteer, but would still like to tour the house, advance tickets are available through Natalie for \$10 each. Tickets at the door are \$12 each.

