

Wichita Metropolitan Music Teachers Association

NOVEMBER 2007

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT BY NATALIE WICKHAM, NCTM

DATES TO REMEMBER:

November 10-11 KMTA Honors Auditions

December 8 Christmas Recital at Newman University

January 11 Board Meeting

January 26 Mid-Winter Retreat

Dear WMMTA Members,
In the latest issue of the AMT magazine, in answer to a question she received, Jane Magrath writes, "Regularly, I will add exercises and other technical activities that assure the student will be ready for the music to come in the next stages of her growth. I develop these from my own teaching experience over the years, my observation and work with many students in developing their playing, and my perception of where the student needs to go next in the playing."

As I read this statement, I realized that this is why I love going to conferences

and workshops and any music-related event that presents itself. From each one I take back to my studio with me inspiration and ideas that become part of my personal reservoir of experience and observation from which I can draw when I am working with students – teaching them new concepts, helping them solve problems or encouraging them to overcome difficulties. Since the last newsletter was published, I have attended two WMMTA events and the annual KMTA conference. From each, the input has been invaluable...

At the first WMMTA meet-

ing on goal-setting I got the idea from Wendy to encourage my students to do more web assignments, so I included a list of Web Challenges in the front of their assignment books with instructions on how to get to specific activities or games and what information they have to record and show me in order to earn extra points for their team as part of our practice incentive for the year. Boy has that been motivating. I've had students come back with as many as 100 games recorded in a week so that they can earn

(Continued on page 2)

AUGUST 24 KICKOFF MEETING

A good time was had by all at the August 24 Kickoff meeting. After an informative time of goal-sharing, participants relaxed to soothing music as Angie Martin introduced us to the basics of yoga.

Congratulations to all the lucky winners of the prize drawings!

1. \$25 gift certificate to Cocoa Dolce: Megan Decker

2. \$10 gift certificate to Zoomdweebies Tea Bar: Kathy Fehrmann

3. Gift basket with cappuccino drinks and chocolate: Marilyn Hitchcock

4. Gift certificate for JW'S Body-N-Soul Massage: Judy Harrison

5. Intro set of Pianimals: Michal (Richert) Rector



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

extra points!

From the next WMMTA meeting with Harold Popp, who gave a presentation on composition, I gleaned the idea of the "one-note composition" to encourage creativity within boundaries. A student chooses any note, notates various rhythmic values and rests on a sheet of paper or white board and then plays his composition. This was a great activity for the student the following week who forgot his books. Yes, all of his books. I still don't quite understand how you can be going to a *piano* lesson and forget to take your *piano* books. But it happens. And more often with my students than I'd care to admit!

At the KMTA conference I heard the incredible 20-year old French pianist, Jean-Frederic Neuburger give a concert on Friday night. His exquisite, singing pianissimo inspired me to listen more,

to feel more, to help my students learn to care about more than just playing the right notes and rhythms. Today I watched the eyes of a hyperactive 9-year old student light up in awe when he heard what a soft, delicate sound he was able to make at the end of his simplified arrangement of *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*. Perhaps we have discovered the key now to capturing his full attention during his lesson. Well, at least maybe for more than 30 seconds at a time...

Please visit the WMMTA website and take a few minutes to fill out our Member Survey. We would love to have your input as we strive to be an organization that listens to and meets the needs of its members. And I hope that you'll take time to be a part of some of our upcoming events – a January retreat packed full of practical ideas, an Olympic Festival that will have your students racing to new heights in their musical

studies, and more. I can just about guarantee you that you'll take away something that will inspire you and make you an even better teacher than you are today!



~Natalie Wickham, NCTM

TREASURER'S REPORT

OCTOBER 9, 2007

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income	
Directory Ads	250.00
Dues	625.00
<i>Total Income</i>	875.00
Expense	
Computer Software	90.00
Facilities	322.30
Office Supplies	10.52
Postage	35.59
Printing	209.77
Reconciliation Discrepancies	4.95
Speakers	100.00
<i>Total Expense</i>	773.13
Net Ordinary Income	101.87
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Interest Income	2.15
Total Other Income	2.15
Net Other Income	2.15
Net Income	104.02

WMMTA Member Survey

We would love to have more active participation among our membership and know we can benefit from the experience and strengths of each member. Go to www.wmmta.org and click on the link to fill out the WMMTA Member Survey. Thanks for helping us out by participating in this effort to determine your interests!

CERTIFICATION CORNER

BY SYLVIA COATS, NCTM

PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD SCHOLARSHIPS

For Certified Teachers of Music

The Piano Technicians Guild (PTG) is dedicated to providing continuing education for piano technicians. Their commitment to continuing education also includes the credentialed professional piano teaching community. To that end, the PTG is pleased to announce the creation of two new scholarships available to MTNA certified members.

Any piano teacher who has earned MTNA Professional Certification and uses a Registered Piano Technician (RPT) can apply for one of two \$750 scholarships from the Piano Technicians Guild (PTG). One of these annual scholarships is to be used specifically for Recreational Music Making (RMM) training, as presented by MTNA, and the other for furthering one's teaching skills through continued education and/or performance study.

Applications will be screened by the MTNA National Certification Commission (NCC).

Previous recipients, members of the MTNA Board of Directors or the NCC are not eligible.

The recipients will be announced at the annual MTNA National Conference Awards Brunch. After the project has been completed, recipients should submit to the PTG and

the NCC a written report detailing how the scholarships were used to advance their career or business.

To apply send the following information:

- A completed entry form
- A one-page, typed study plan (including estimated cost, anticipated time frame and information about the RMM training or the proposed teacher education and/or performance study.
- A resume of your musical background,

experience and service.

- One letter of reference should be included, along with any other supporting documentation.

All materials should be submitted to:

MTNA Certification Program

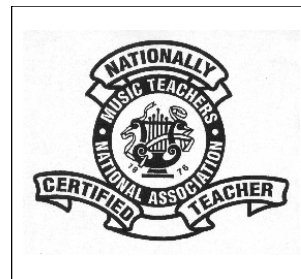
Attn: PTG Scholarships

441 Vine St., Ste. 3100

Cincinnati, OH 45202-3004

For more information contact MTNA National Headquarters at (888) 512-5278 or mtnacertification@mtna.org. The postmark deadline for applications is February 1.

Editor's note: An entry form has been included in this newsletter.



KMTA Teacher Awards

Each year KMTA awards an Outstanding Teacher Award and an Outstanding Service Award. They are encouraging local associations to nominate someone for the award each year. Additional information and nomination forms may be obtained at the KMTA website: www.ksmta.org.

The nomination deadline for 2008 awards is June 15, 2008. If you have someone in mind that you would like to nominate and want to collaborate with other WMMTA members to make the nomination, please contact Natalie Wickham (natalie@nataliespianostudio.com or 207-3134).

KMTA Outstanding Teacher Award Goes to WMMTA Member

Sylvia Coats was the 2007 Recipient of the KMTA Outstanding Teacher Award. Sylvia has been teaching for 40 years and has been an active member of KMTA for 23 of those years. She has served in many capacities at national, state and local levels and her role as Professor of Piano Pedagogy at Wichita State University has impacted many of our WMMTA members. Sylvia dedicated her award to Carter Albright, a former student who died tragically on September 3.

WMMTA Receives Grant

Thanks to Sally Buxton for submitting a grant application, WMMTA is pleased to report that we have received a grant from KMTA in the amount of \$200 to be used toward our Olympic Festival next summer. Join us on November 9 to share ideas and start planning this exciting student event!

See insert for more details.

WMMTA BOARD MEETING MINUTES October 12, 2007

The Wichita Metropolitan Music Teachers Association board met on Friday, October 12, 2007, at 12:00 noon at Senseney Music Store. Present: Sally Buxton, Sylvia Coats, Marlene Hallstrom, Judy Harrison, Wendy Stevens, Laura Vollen, and President Natalie Wickham, who called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm. Minutes of the July 27 Board meeting had been previously distributed via e-mail by Marlene Hallstrom, secretary and were accepted on August 3 as printed. No official decisions were made at this meeting because there was not a quorum present.

President – Natalie reported that WMMTA has received a \$200 grant from KMTA for the festival fund. Sally Buxton wrote and submitted the grant proposal.

Treasurer - Laura Vollen presented the Treasurer's Quarterly Report. A WMMTA ad was not placed in the Wichita Symphony program for the coming season because the minimum number of teachers did not sign up to participate. Since the cost of renting the piano in Miller Concert Hall has risen to \$200 for next year, that will be considered in budget planning and scheduling of activities, specifically the Fall Auditions Recital, for the next year. The new software financial program is working well as is the on-line bill pay.

Programs -

October 26, 9:30-11:00 – "Strategies for Teaching Rhythm: A Percussionist's Perspective (Matt Maholland) - Sense-ney

January 26, 9:30-4:00 – Mid-Winter retreat, "The Art of Practicing" (Steven Spooner) – University Friends Church

Panel members for "Student Saver Songs" needed; discussed cost of retreat – possibly \$15 early and \$20 regular for MTNA members and \$20 early and \$25

regular for non-members; what will retreat expenses be? Catering is being arranged by Joanne Ehrlich.

Membership – Judy Harrison reported that current membership is 71. She has distributed the yearbook to all members. Advertising income surpassed cost of printing the yearbook. Judy mailed welcome letters and "Top 10 Questions" to new members.

Changes have been sent to Kara Alumbaugh for the newsletter. The suggestion was made to ask tuners and other advertisers in our yearbook to hand out WMMTA brochures to piano teachers when they tune. Discussion on how to invite members and potential members to attend more meetings.

Publicity - no report

Past President – Wendy Stevens is prepared to work on nominations as soon as the nomination committee is appointed. She recommended that WMMTA plan to send our President, Natalie, to the 2009 MTNA conference.

Continuing Education – Sylvia Coates distributed scholarship information from the Piano Teachers Guild for certified teachers of music for continuing education and/or performance study or Recreational Music Making Workshops as presented by MTNA. Sylvia proposed the idea of offering a study group for those who are working toward certification.

Music Progressions – will be on May 3-4, 2008. More studio spaces will be needed on Saturday and Sunday. WSU will not be available on the preceding Friday evening. Sally Buxton, Natalie Wickham and others have completed the revisions on the MP Teacher's resource Handbook. This document is available on the KMTA website.

Auditions/Recitals – 14-15 students of 4 teachers participated in the Octo-

ber 1 Fall Auditions recital at WSU.

There is a Christmas recital opportunity on December 8 from 9:30-5:00 at Newman University. Individual teachers may sign up for a Christmas recital time or may combine with other teachers. Free. Hall will be seasonally decorated. Teachers may make their own programs. So far 4 teachers have inquired and requested times.

Historian – no report.

Referrals – no report

Newsletter – Deadline October 19.

Library - Please return books after reading them. A short review of any of these materials may be written for the newsletter

Festival – Sally Buxton has been working on activities related to the 10 Music Progression levels. She requested volunteers who will serve on the festival planning committee. Joanne Ehrlich and Laura Vollen have offered to help. More committee members would be appreciated.

Old Business:

At the request of President Natalie Wickham, Laura Vollen will send a Thank You note and \$25 Borders' gift card to Jan Wilkenson for accounting services rendered for our treasury.

New Business:

Encourage KMTA Outstanding Teacher nominations. June 15 is the deadline. Applications are at the KMTA website.

Natalie presented an Overview of Objectives for the Year; Strategic Planning Session and Target Completion Dates.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Hallstrom, Secretary

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



Name: Brad Nix

Instrument(s): piano

Years Teaching: *I have been an independent piano instructor for fourteen years. I began teaching group piano as part of a graduate assistantship requirement in 1998 and have been heavily involved with classroom instruction ever since. This is now my fourth year of collegiate-level teaching. My responsibilities at Sterling College include teaching applied and group piano, piano pedagogy and literature, music history, and music appreciation. I am also currently the chair of the Department of Music.*

Family Info: *My wife's name is Pattie and we have been married for nine years. We have one daughter, Kylie Dakota Nix (who will turn three this Christmas), and we are proud to announce that we have one more on the way (due in May)!*

What made you decide to start teaching? *As a young pianist, my initial desire was to perform. As I entered college and began teaching, my interest in performing was gradually replaced*

as a passion for pedagogy began to develop.

What's your favorite thing about teaching? *I get excited when I see students begin to musically "think for themselves." Teachers should always be striving to work themselves out of a job! Within each lesson, I strive to create an atmosphere where students feel free to ask questions, share their own musical insights, and experience the joy and excitement of learning. Instead of always handing students the answers on a silver platter, I prefer to create an environment where they, through their own resources and experience, are able to discover the solutions to difficult problems on their own. This process occurs with my guidance, insight, and encouragement. It is amazing how much I learn from each lesson as well. It serves as a reminder that we, as teachers, are also students. In this way, we continue to grow both as musicians and as human beings.*

What's your least favorite thing about teaching?

Many times students are unaware of the time commitment required to become a truly fine musician. As they become older, other activities (such as sports) begin to dominate their time as well. Although difficult to do, I often find it necessary to teach students some basic time management skills. When students learn to manage their time more effectively, they increase their chances of continued musical growth throughout their high school and college years and even throughout their lives.

Do you have a memorable experience that relates to your teaching that you would share with us? *I have an interest in injury-preventive piano technique and the rehabilitation of injured pianists. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to work with several injured students, and I have been privileged to play a small part in their recovery. The chance to help injured pianists perform again is incredibly fulfilling to me as a teacher.*

In what other musical endeavors are you involved? *I have been active in church music ministry (both as a pianist and a worship leader) for many years now. I also enjoy composing and arranging music for church choirs and handbell ensembles.*

What other interests do you have outside of music?

First and foremost, I enjoy spending time with my family! I am also an enthusiastic outdoorsman and enjoy running, hiking, rappelling, and downhill skiing (I am thrilled to be "next door" to Colorado!).

What are some interesting things about yourself that other WMMTA members may not know? *I have a significant interest in Old West history. In fact, I often think I would have enjoyed a career as an Old West historian.*

Additional Comments: *I am so pleased to be a part of this wonderful organization and I am thankful to have already met so many wonderful people. I am looking forward to working with all of you for many years to come!*

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

WANTED!

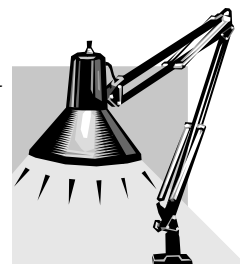
Piano teachers in the west Wichita area with studio openings and vocal teachers with studio openings.

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

DEADLINE

Please Submit items for the February newsletter no later than Friday, January 18, 2008

Kara Alumbaugh,
elanorkja@gmail.com





C/O Kara Alumbaugh
2316 Fairchild
Wichita, KS 67219

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.WMMTA.ORG

CODA

For Sale:

Story and Clark Player
Piano
Brand New, Rarely
Played

Contact: Mrs. Watson,
681-1440

The South Central Kansas

Music Teachers Association (SCKMTA) invites WMMTA members to join them for a tour of the WSU Westside Campus on Friday, February 8, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. The tour will be conducted by

SCKMTA member and Campus Director, Celia Goering.

If you would like to join SCKMTA for this tour, please contact President Mary

Devore

(jerrymarydevore@cox.net

or 788-3650) to let her know.

Important Reminder:

Reimbursement requests sent to the treasurer must be accompanied by the form available on the WMMTA website, otherwise a check *WILL NOT BE SENT*.

