



WASHINGTON MUSIC TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015

WWW.WMTA-DC.ORG
LORI MCCARTHY, PRESIDENT

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear WMTA Members,

It's hard to believe, but it's already been almost a year since I took over as president. This year has flown by and I want to thank all the members of the board who made the transition to the presidency go so well. We have had a great year with higher student participation in almost all our events. Many thanks to all the WMTA members for supporting our events by entering your students.

MTNA continues to work to build membership numbers after losing members during the recent recession. But WMTA is among a handful of states that are doing well in our membership retention, having not only maintained our numbers but adding one member this past year, earning the MTNA's "Membership Growth and Stability Award" at the MTNA conference in Las Vegas. So keep up the good work and be sure to renew your membership before June 30th! Many thanks to board member Junko Takahashi who represented WMTA at the MTNA conference and received the award on our behalf because I was unable to attend.

Speaking of WMTA membership, we have a new membership chair: Steven Schwarz. Steven is a relatively new member himself but those of us in attendance at the General Membership Meeting on May 8th got a chance to meet him and we welcome him to our group.

If you were unable to attend the General Membership Meeting, you missed out on some wonderful performances by Junko Takahashi, Bonnie Kellert and Steven Schwarz. We already have the date set for next year, Thursday, May 12th at Jordan Kitt's Music in Rockville, Maryland, so please save the date and try to attend!



Continued on page 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MEMBERSHIP MEETING	2
HONORS RECITAL	3
TSELENTIS AWARDS	3
JUDGED RECITAL	3
SHOP TALK	3
NEW OFFICERS	4

WMTA LAUNCHES LISTSERV

By Lori McCarthy

The Washington Music Teachers Association board voted to create a listserv for WMTA members. This group is designed to deliver value-added messages that would not otherwise be posted on the WMTA website. For example:

- Discounted tickets to local performances
- Job offers
- Instruments for sale
- Messages from WMTA members about a class or performance
- Other information about local and national music opportunities



Because these announcements are not WMTA-related, emails are not sent directly to members or posted on the WMTA website. But if you would like to receive this kind of information, simply opt-in to this group. And as a member you can post messages directly to reach all members that have joined. All WMTA-related business will still be posted on the WMTA website.

To become a member go to <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/wmta-dc/info>
Click on "Join Group"

Sign in to your yahoo account or create

Continued on page 4

FROM MOZART TO DEBUSSY TO GUASTAVINO

With music from Mozart to Debussy to Constantiniadis and Guastavino, four WMTA members enlivened the General Membership Meeting on May 8 at Jordan Kitts Music in Rockville. Junko Takahashi and Bonnie Kellert played a two piano piece by Mozart and a duet by Brahms. Bonnie also played a Chopin *Nocturne* and Debussy's *L'isle joyeuse*.

A new WMTA member, Steven Schwarz, introduced the group to the music of Yannis Constantiniadis and Carlos Guastavino and added a little Alexander Tcherepnin. Steve is a composer, pianist and teacher at the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop who just moved to the Washington area. He has a Master of Music in Piano Performance from San Diego State University School of Music and Dance where he won the outstanding Graduate Student prize in music.

By Steven Schwarz

Constantiniadis

Yannis Constantiniadis is sometimes called the "Greek Bartók", largely because of his Greek *Miniatures*, a set of 44 short piano pieces in separate volumes for beginning, intermediate, and advanced students. All the miniatures are based on Greek folk melodies. In its aims and carefully graded construction, it is comparable to Béla Bartók's six-volume *Mikrokosmos*.

Constantiniadis was also commercially successful composer of popular Greek songs under the pseudonym Kostas Yannidis.

Constantiniadis's miniatures are remarkable for their pure, almost ascetic, treatment of the Greek folk themes. He never subjects these themes to *motivic development*, preferring to quote them distinctly and completely.

All the miniatures can be played with hands too small to span an octave.

Guastavino

Carlos Guastavino was one of the foremost Argentine composers of the 20th century. His production amounted to more than 500 works, mostly songs for piano and voice, many still unpublished. His style was quite conservative, always tonal and lushly romantic. His compositions were clearly influenced by Argentine folk music and Guastavino has sometimes been called "the Schubert of the Pampas."

So much of Guastavino's creative output consists of art songs for voice and piano, that it is natural to note among his *oeuvre* a few collections of wordless songs for solo piano. One of these is his *10 Cantos Populares*.

One of these, a devastatingly dark beauty in c# minor, is heavy-laden with double-sharps, and contains, at its climax, a Rachmaninovian rolled chord split across the hands spanning more than 4 octaves that is rather difficult to voice and pedal properly.

Tcherepnin

Alexander Tcherepnin was born in 1899, in St. Petersburg, Russia.

In 1921 the political situation forced the family to leave Russia and they settled in Paris where Alexander later became the co-founder of L'Ecole de Paris.

In 1927 in Paris he suddenly attained fame after the premiere of his first symphony, which was a *succès de scandale*. An entire section of the work is performed exclusively by percussion instruments.

In 1948 he began teaching at De Paul University and became an American citizen in 1958.

Tcherepnin experimented with his own new techniques of counterpoint and of rhythm even notating the rhythmic flow of the sound of people reading a newspaper. Although he avoided using serial elements, he did not hesitate to use electronic techniques

The *Bagatelles*, Op. 5, is nothing if not modern. Tcherepnin's own characterization: "absolutely anti-impressionistic, ... rather like Prokofiev but with chromaticism."



Steven Schwarz plays Constantiniadis.



Bonnie Kellert, left, and Junko Takahashi play Brahms.

...and then it was time to eat.
Left to right Junko Takahashi,
Allen Goldberg and Grace
McFarlane.



HONORS RECITAL CLOSURES WITH 13 TROPHIES

The annual Honors Recital was held on June 7 at the Steinway Gallery in Rockville. Thirteen students performed a variety of repertoires and two students were the winners of the WMTA's Young Composers Competition. Our member, Bonnie Kellert performed Emily Wu's composition "Improvisations" and Kayleigh Hoang performed her own composition, "Drop of Sunshine"

The performers were; Raelyn Hoang, Aiden Seo, Kayleigh Hoang,

Bonnie Kellert, Michael Xie, Allison Wan, Andrew Zhang, Michelle Tang, Karina Aliyeva, Eric Lin, Luke Ratcliffe, Hana Wang and Vivienne Zhu.

The performers were from the studios of Silva Blazquez, Bonnie Kellert, Elena Arseniev, Marjorie Lee, Dmitri Nazarenko, Lisa Emenheiser Sarratt and Debra Gunner-son.

The Honors Recital closed with a trophy ceremony.



TSELENTIS AWARDS GO TO PERFORMANCES OF JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

By Matt Harre

The Raissa Tselentis Award of Excellence in the Performance of the Clavier works of Johann Sebastian Bach was held April 18 at The Steinway Piano Gallery in Rockville.

Judges were Spencer Fellows, Grace McFarlane and Alla Merport, Joshua Rosenthal was auditor.



The three co-equal winners and their teachers in the Junior Division, the *Two Part Inventions*, were Kaia Griggs (Nancy Breth), Hana Wang (Lisa Emenheiser Sarratt), and Mellissa Wu (Lisa Emenheiser Sarratt). The highest mark for the event was 97.5. Winners in the Intermediate Division with tied numerical scores were Ethan Hsiao (Dmitri Nazarenko), Sebastian Lee (Margarita Gramaticova), Julia Lutong Li (Mei-Yu Lin) and Alena Lu (Elena Arseniev). Their score

was 93.67.

Alexander Tsereteli, a student of Cecelia Cho, was the only entry in the Senior Division and was awarded first prize.

Requirements for the 2017 competition and all successive years:

Junior Division (age 12 or under): one of the following *Two-Part Inventions*: No. 2 in c minor, No. 7 in e minor or No. 9 in f minor and a different *Two-Part Invention* of the contestant's choice.

Intermediate Division (age 17 or under): one of the following *Sinfonias*: No. 7 in e minor, No. 9 in f minor or No. 11 in g minor and different *Sinfonia* of the contestant's choice.

Senior Division (age 20 or under): one of the following Preludes and Fugues from *The Well-Tempered Clavier*, Volume 1: No. 4 in c-sharp minor, No. 8 in e-flat minor or No. 22 in b-flat minor. A Prelude and Fugue of the contestant's choice from Volume II is also required.

Matt Harre and Debbie Gunner-son are co-chairs.

LICHTENBERG WINNERS

Thirteen students participated in the WMTA Nora C. Lichtenberg Scholarship Competition on May 10 at Catholic University. Judges were Dr. Charles Timbrell, professor of music at Howard University, and John Nauman, concert pianist, composer and recording artist from Baltimore.

First place winner of \$300 was Luke Ratcliffe (Marjorie Lee). Second place was a tie with the \$150 prize split between Matthew Schultheis, (Lisa Emenheiser-Sarratt) and Micah Tsoi (Scott Beard/Faye Bonner). Honorable mention went to Katie Bode (Marjorie Lee).

SHOP TALK PLANS FOR SUCCESS

Shop Talk will start the fall season with "Planning for Success" which will include how to plan a single lesson as well as short term and longer term goals. The idea is to become a proactive rather than a reactive teacher.

The first session will be on Thursday, September 17 from 12 noon to 1:30.

RSVP to Barbara Wing by Monday September 14. Send Barbara an email with your email address if you would like to be on the mailing list. Bwing56@cs.com

JUDGED RECITALS

The last WMTA Judged Recital of the season was held on March 22, 2015.

Four students were chosen for honors: Vivien Zhu and Andrew Zhang, piano students of Dmitri Nazarenko, and Alison Wan and Luke Ratcliffe, piano students of Marjorie Lee.

The judges were Lisa Emenheiser Sarratt and Aglaia Koras.

The next Honors Recital will be held in October.

Julian Trail is chairman.

We're on the Web

www.wmta-dc.org

OFFICERS 2015-2017

President	Lori McCarthy
President-Elect	Hedy Bannon
Treasurer	Patricia Palombo
Secretary	Nancy Longmyer

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1

In fall of 2014, WMTA introduced our first Open House where members were invited to come meet chairs, ask questions about events, and enjoy a complimentary lunch. We plan to hold another Open House this fall on Thursday, September 24th from 11 a.m. to 1p.m. at Jordan Kitt's Music in Rockville and I am hoping to meet many of our members at that event.

Last but not least, you may notice the wonderful new format to our newsletter. Many thanks to our new newsletter editor, Barbara Kober.

Have a wonderful, restful summer!

Lori McCarthy
President, WMTA

WELCOME TO WMTA LISTSERV

Continued from page 1

On the "Join Group" page, choose the email address to which messages should be sent.

In the "Comments to Owner" box, state your name and that you are a WMTA member.

Once you have joined, you will not need to sign into the Yahoo website in the future to receive emails if you set your group emails to go directly to your primary email address. You can decide how often you wish to receive emails from this group (i.e. as they are sent, a compilation once a week, etc)

Because this listserv will be restricted to WMTA members, your subscription has to be approved by the group moderator, so it may take a day or two after your request for approval. Since this is a

restricted group, you will only receive information that is being passed along by WMTA members.

Once you join, you can log in through <https://groups.yahoo.com/group/wmta-dc>

You can post your own messages by going to the "Conversations" section or send emails directly to WMTA members at this address: wmta-dc@yahoogroups.com. These links will be posted in the members-only section of the WMTA website, which can be accessed at <http://www.wmta-dc.org/members-only/> by entering your last name and membership number.

Lori McCarthy is moderator of the new listserv.

WMTA

*The Washington D.C. Area's
Guide to Good Musicianship*

The Washington Music Teachers Association (WMTA), is a non-profit affiliate of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA). Founded in 1934, over the years WMTA has become a prominent association of independent music teachers from the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia and Suburban Maryland in the pursuit of the highest standards in music instruction.

WMTA includes more than 130 teachers of piano, voice, strings, music theory and composition. All members enjoy excellent opportunities for professional development through various activities available to them and their students.

WMTA offers an outstanding range of competitions, recitals and festivals for instrumental, vocal and composition students, as well as a discussion group for teachers.

*****SAVE THE DATE ***
WMTA**

**OPEN
HOUSE**

**September 24, 2015
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Jordan Kitts Music
12303 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, MD

Meet WMTA chairs
Discuss events
Pick up paper copies of application forms and calendars
Get advice on how to navigate the WMTA website

Bring a friend or colleague!

Complimentary lunch



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