



Washington Music Teachers Association Newsletter – April 2017

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Lori McCarthy, *President*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear WMTA Members:

Those of us that attended the MTNA Conference in March were treated to some wonderful sessions. The most difficult part was choosing which ones to attend! Some of my favorite sessions were at 8am and if you're anything like me, that's a tough hour to start, especially when dinners and recitals go well into the evening. It was an exhausting few days but definitely worth it. Having the Conference so close was wonderful because there were so many attendees from the DC area. Not only did we have the opportunity to attend the official sessions but to informally meet as well during the lunch and dinner hours.

Congratulations to WMTA Member Barbara Wing, who received a special award at the MTNA General Meeting during the Conference for being a 50-year member. There aren't too many of us that can claim such dedication to the organization!

Mark your calendars for the General Membership Meeting on Thursday, May 11th, 10:30am at Jordan Kitt's brand new location, 11726 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, MD. There will be a very brief business meeting where we will hold the election of officers for 2017-2019 followed by member performances and a potluck luncheon.

There is some good news! WMTA will have a new newsletter editor beginning with the summer edition. Dede (Slingluff) Sweeney, a former student of Grace MacFarlane who currently studies pedagogy with Dr. Jim Litzelman, will be taking over the newsletter and the position of treasurer. Current treasurer Pat Palombo will be stepping down at the end of her term. My heartfelt thanks to Pat for taking over and organizing the WMTA finances during these past few years.



At the MTNA Conference Gala:
standing: Canadian MTNA member, Cynthia Cathcart, Lori McCarthy, Junko Takahashi, David Cutler, David Holmes seated: Dave Fischel, Connie Fischel, Ann Matteson, Doug Guiles

Hope to see everyone at the General Membership Meeting on May 11th!

Lori McCarthy, President, WMTA



WMTA Member Barbara Wing and MSMTA Member Alice Maxfield receive the 50-year Membership Award at the MTNA Conference.

JUDGED RECITAL RESULTS

WMTA Judged Recital - April 23, 2017

Honors

Qi Wei Chen, piano student of Lisa Emenheiser Sarratt

Daniel Liu, piano student of Dmitri Nazarenko
Michelle Lin, piano student of Lisa Emenheiser Sarratt

Honorable Mention

AnnaSophia Nicely, piano student of Elizabeth Lane
Rose Wen, piano student of Dmitri Nazarenko
Jessica Wang, piano student of Marjorie Lee
Trung Nguyen, piano student of Scott Beard

Judges

Pamela Sverjensky and Rosanne Conway

WMTA Judged Recital - March 26, 2017

Honors

Alexander Suh, piano student of Lisa Emenheiser Sarratt
Colin Hill, cello student of John Kaboff

Honorable Mention

Aiden Seo, piano student of Lisa Emenheiser Sarratt
Arthur Ding, piano student of Marjorie Lee
Hannah Zhang, piano student of Dmitri Nazarenko

Judges

Cecilia Cho and Barbara Peterson Cackler

WMTA Judged Recital - January 29, 2017

Honors

Tan Nguyen, piano student of Lisa Emenheiser Sarratt
Harrison Benford, piano student of Nancy Breth
Kevin Wu, piano student of Dmitri Nazarenko

Honorable Mention

Karina Aliyeva, piano student of Dmitri Nazarenko
Michelle Lin, piano student of Lisa Emenheiser Sarratt
Michelle Dong, piano student of Marjorie Lee

Judges

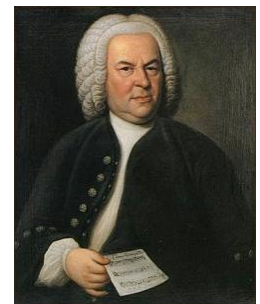
Grace McFarlane and Jeongseon Choi

WMTA Baroque Festival

Featuring Music of Composers Born Between 1600 and 1730



The Baroque Festival was held on Saturday, March 25th at the Steinway Piano Gallery in North Bethesda. Students from the studios of Jeffery Beaudry, John Kaboff, Anastassia Ivanova, Ruth Rose, Patricia Palombo, Irina Koulikova, Steve Benson, Grace McFarlane and Bonnie Kellert participated. The judges were Grace McFarlane, Hedy Bannon and Cara Alfano, cellist.



The chair of this event is Bonnie Kellert.

Save the Date!

WMTA General Membership Meeting

Thursday, May 11th, 10:30am,
Jordan Kitt's Music. Rockville.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2017 WMTA Young Composers Competition

Senior Division

First Place Kevin Su
Student of Marjorie Lee
Infernal Drums for piano

Second Place Kayleigh Hoang
Student of Silva Blazquez
Dans Le Vol for piano

Judge

Maurice Saylor

Competition Chair

Janet Peachey

WMTA Ballot for the Election of Officers 2017-2019

The Nominating Committee, with the approval of the WMTA Board, presents the following slate of officers for the 2017-2019 term:

President	Lori McCarthy
President-Elect	Hedy Bannon
Secretary	David Kosutic
Treasurer	Dede Sweeney
Immediate Past President	Nancy Longmyer

Members of the Nominating Committee are Junko Takahashi, Matt Harre, Lisa Emenheiser Sarratt, Sara Cronan, and Grace McFarlane.

The election will be held at the General Meeting on May 11th.

Thank you for your consideration.

Junko Takahashi,
Chair, WMTA Nominating Committee



The Raissa Tselentis Award of Excellence in the performance of the Clavier Works of Johann Sebastian Bach

This biennial competition took place on Saturday, April 1, 2017, at the Chevy Chase United st Methodist Church. 17 students entered, 15 performed.

Juniors - Two-Part Inventions; Intermediate – Sinfonias; Senior – A Prelude and Fugue and a movement from one of the Suites.

The following co-equal prizes were awarded: Junior Division (age 12 and under): each winner will receive \$25

Amber Li, Joanna Lam & Michelle Lin (students of Lisa Emmenheiser Sarratt)

Intermediate Division (age 17 and under) – each winner will receive \$50 Alexander Suh, Tan Nguyen, Melissa Wu & Theresa Lam (students of Lisa Emmenheiser Sarratt)

Senior Division (age 20 and under) - \$100 prize Teddi Yoo (student of Bonnie Kellert)

Judges for the competition were Wenyin Chan, Matthew Harre and Julian Trail.

Grace McFarlane, Chair Lori McCarthy, Co-Chair



WMTA Essay Award

Here is another of the wonderful essays we received as part of the WMTA Essay Award for High School Seniors.

Music Has Made All the Difference

By Liyi Zhang

Student of Elizabeth Lane

Music is not only to hear, but also to see and feel. Last summer, I visited the museum of Villa Borghese in Rome and was stunned at the variety of Baroque artwork on display. I put on my earbuds and pulled up Vivaldi's Violin Concerto in C on my phone.

A strong, consistent bass line matches the mathematical arrangement of the museum: parallel or perpendicular rooms, and regular spacing between majestic columns and sculptures. Musical ornaments, including series of ascending string scales, resemble those mural decorations of leaves, fruits, and geometric patterns filling the rooms.

Both the art and the music are proud and straightforward, reminding me of people at that time liberated from the religious fetters of the Dark Ages. Indulging in the proud accomplishments of mankind, many embraced the rise of humanism in the 17th century.

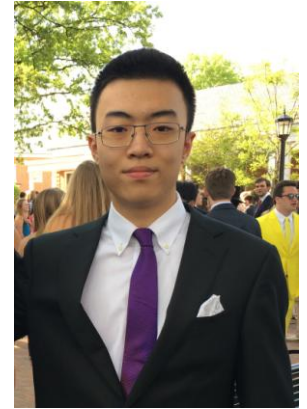
Music not only lets me feel this zeitgeist, without which studying history and cultures would be mechanical, but also permeates through major changes I experienced.

When I was younger, my dad drove my mom and me to visit my paternal grandparents in our hometown. Arriving in Hefei, my birthplace in China's interior, I would run up to our family's 1970s apartment, built and distributed by the Party when China was truly a Communist state. Apartments are all identical: 5-stories tall, rectangle structures, and flat roofs. I always loved our visits — images of grandpa calling us to dinner, the savory scent of grandma's tofu and braised pork, all five of us crammed into that small living room, recollecting the past and dreaming of the future.

On our car rides, I distinctly remember a Rachmaninov piece that dad played on CD: Rhapsody on a theme originally written by Paganini. Back then, Rhapsody excited me because

of the drastic contrasts between different parts: a belligerent piano, for example, may suddenly break up a calm strings section.

Some say that Russian music mingles joy and sorrow, and since joy and sorrow cannot exist without one another, they intensify each other. At Episcopal High School (EHS), I furthered my musical career by studying music theory and performing piano or clarinet. Recently, I revisited Rachmaninov's Rhapsody and found new elements such as sorrowful minor melodies in uplifting rhythms and a collaboration of major and minor chords that intensifies both brightness and nostalgia. In addition to these discoveries, old familiar melodies evoke our travels to and from my hometown. While EHS offers energizing academic freedom and social independence, these gains came at the expense of irrecoverable memories, such as missing out on Chinese New Year celebrations with those familiar family meals, and being unable to bid my maternal grandparents the final farewell. Although energy and nostalgia stand in contrast, Rachmaninov blends them together and reminds me to treat both pleasure and adversity with calmness. Facing difficulties alone became a precious test of character — how I utilize freedom at EHS — and nostalgia became a message for me to look forward and journey on.



Liyi Zhang, Senior at
Episcopal High School

Russia's Rachmaninov, Italy's Vivaldi, and my trans-Pacific travels between China and the US... we are all over the world, living in different times, but uniting into a force that combines hearing, sight, smell, joy, and nostalgia. These eternal melodies transcend space and time; they build my character and remind me of the variety and depth of human emotions.

2017 Modern Piano Music Celebration

29 students entered the event, from the studios of Barbara Wing, Elena Arseniev, Silva Blazquez, Bonnie Kellert, Hedy Bannon, Betty Ann Miller and Nancy Breth. Several of the teachers were in attendance.

In the competitive division, adjudicator Bradford Gowen, in addition to writing comments and assigning honors, gave a mini master class at the end of each group in the competitive division. These were the results:

Level 1

Melody	Chen	1st	Elena	Arseniev
Cameron	Hoang	2nd	Silva	Blazquez
Isabella	Tang	3rd	Nancy	Breth
Olivia	Wu	HM	Bonnie	Kellert
Claire	Chi	HM	Elena	Arseniev

Level 2

Nicole	Papenfuss	1st	Silva	Blazquez
Elizabeth	Vinokurov	2nd	Elena	Arseniev
Jacqui	Go	3rd	Silva	Blazquez
Harrison	Benford	HM	Nancy	Breth

Level 3

Annabel	Lee	1st	Nancy	Breth
Victor	Pan	2nd	Nancy	Breth
Brooke	Bao	3rd	Elena	Arseniev
Bryan	Zhang	HM	Nancy	Breth
Lucy	Viechnicki	HM	Hedy	Bannon

Level 4

Anders	Brodnax	1st	Betty	Miller
Christine	Gong	2nd	Bonnie	Kellert
Philip	Wang	3rd	Elena	Arseniev
Michael	Xie	HM	Elena	Arseniev
Alex	Peng	HM	Nancy	Breth



Our non-competitive division came at the end of the day. Lots of parents and friends were present, and the atmosphere was celebratory. Betty Ann Miller wrote critiques for the performers, and shared interesting facts and anecdotes about the composers represented on the program.

Chair Nancy Breth
February, 2017



WMTA 2016-2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Adult Musicales	May 20
Hartman Competition	May 14
Honors Recital	May 21
Lichtenberg Scholarship Competition	May 14
Shop Talk	May 4
Talk About Teaching	May 8
General Membership Meeting	May 11



For further information regarding upcoming events, please check the WMTA website.

Membership

Be sure to renew your MTNA Membership by June 30th! Questions? Contact Membership Chair Steve Schwarz at stvnswrz@gmail.com

Dede Sweeney will be the Newsletter Editor starting with the next edition!

Deadline for the next newsletter:

June 5, 2017

Send information to Dede Sweeney at dede.sweeney@live.com

For Sale:

**Mason
&
Hamlin
Model
AA. 6'4"**

Made in
Boston,
1906

Fully rebuilt, 1991

Appraised value (April 2017) \$15,000

Available for \$13,500

From the Breth Piano Studio

Nancy Breth, 202-237-1525

"It seems everyone today is talking about buying a 'vintage' piano, by which is usually meant a Steinway or Mason & Hamlin made between about 1880 and World War II....Mason & Hamlins were made in Boston until about 1932, and during that period they were considered the equal of Steinways."

Larry Fine, *The Piano Book, Fourth Edition, 2005*

