

President's Corner



Greetings! We have now come one twelfth of the way into 2012. Days are lengthening making winter feel less somber. I hope you took some time as we rounded the corner from 2011 to 2012, to enjoy a

few choices in your schedule! My 2011 calendar became so full there was only one way to accomplish the day's tasks. I truly enjoyed just staring at the cleaner pages of 2012 before I made many entries! There is something wonderful to me about a calendar that allows some choice in how I approach my day.

On the subject of *choices*, Marilyn Karr, a friend who teaches in Kingston, was relating an experience about *musical choices*, and I asked if I could share it with you. Here is her story: "At the tender age of 47 I decided I wanted a degree in music, so off I went to Seattle Pacific University where I managed to talk Marcile Mack into giving me piano lessons. In my second quarter she said that her friend Bela Nagy would be coming to give master classes and she would like me to play for him. She explained that she would give him a red pencil to mark up my music in contrast to her black pencil. That way I could choose which way I preferred. So I played and she sat quietly, unperturbed while he changed things around. I was stunned. I had thought there was a *right way* to do everything and I was supposed to do everything the *right way*. But, there was more than one way! It was a remarkably valuable learning experience for which I've always been grateful."

(Continued on Page 3)

BRAVO!

MTNA Competition Northwest Division Results

Composition

The 2011 MTNA Composition Competition for Northwest Division includes the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. This year continues to show that our students are superb. Of the 7 entries, the MTNA Composition Competition results for the Northwest Division are as follows:

Young Artist Category

● **Winner:** *Clear* by Ben Murphy (Montana), Student of Lee Heuermann

Senior Category

● **Representative:** *Two for Jazz* by Benjamin Davis (Washington), Student of Sharon Van Valin

● **Honorable Mention:** *Three Character Pieces* by Peter Kelley (Washington), Student of Ryan Hare

(Continued on Page 3)

Performance

Thanks go to Jani Peterson and her helpers for a well organized NW Division of the MTNA Performance Competition held at the University of Montana, Missoula. All six states were represented in various competitions. Winners from Division will represent us in New York City in March at the National Competition. Congratulations to ALL the students, parents and teachers who represented WSMTA at the Division Competition. Competition results of Washington Students were:

Young Artist Strings

● **Winner:** Grace Youn, student of Maria Sampen

Young Artist Voice

● **Representative:** Jessie Nordstrom, student of Sandra Glover

(Continued on Page 3)

Coming Events



At the beginning of this New Year, we hope that you will consider coming to Bellingham for the annual WSMTA Conference, June 18-22. We are delighted to present Angela Cheng as our guest artist, and are busy lining up interesting sessions for you to attend during conference week. In addition to our general sessions we will have three special tract days at the conference:

1. a non-keyboard tract day concentrating on string instruments.
2. a pedagogy day for new teachers or teachers who need assistance with their growing studios and,
3. a free day for first-time attendees to the conference.

Following the success of the chapter poster presentations at the 2011 Partnership in Music Conference, we will have posters displayed in the foyer of the Performing Arts Center for attendees to browse at their leisure. More on poster presentations later, but chapters may start planning now for this event.

Sincerely,

Karen Scholten and Meg Krieg, NCTM
2012 Conference Co-Chairs

WSMTA & Clarion Information

The CLARION is published 9 times during each public school year: Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., Feb., March, April, May, and June. It includes membership news and announcements, as well as pertinent news of the Music Teachers National Association.

WSMTA Executive Office

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CLARION Contributors:

- Please submit articles to the Editor no later than the 1st day of the month preceding the publication date.

- Articles should be attached to an email message and will be accepted ONLY in the following file types: **MS Word 97 or later & Mac Pages.**

- **DO NOT USE ANY SPECIAL FORMATS OR INDENTS** other than ordinary paragraph returns.

- Indicate paragraph changes with a double space. Otherwise, use **SINGLE VERTICAL SPACING** and leave **TWO SPACES BETWEEN SENTENCES.**

DO NOT SUBMIT ARTICLES EMBEDDED WITH HYPERLINKS.

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Clarion Editor's Rants 'n' Raves

ATTENTION CLARION Contributors:

First, I would like to thank many of you for paying attention to the submission guidelines in the left **Information** column on this page. However, some of you need to turn over a new leaf. I am still receiving many articles with **embedded hyperlinks, special formats, as emails instead of attached documents, and with only one space instead of two between sentences.** PLEASE CONTACT ME IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS!



Corrections to the 2011-12 Officers List:

MusicLink Chair, Mary Grant's email address was corrected in the Dec. issue, but not her street address:
12525 Madison Ave. NE
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Membership

Welcome New Members!

Gig Harbor Chapter
Mary Annette Kechs

Skagit Valley Chapter

Lauren Willetts

Collegiate Members

Kassia D. Joe

Katrina Overgaard

President's Corner

(Continued from Page 1)

Her story made me realize that I sometimes forget and become locked into only one *right way* to get through my schedule, interpret a musical selection or an organizational situation. Then, an article by Barbara Kreader in the Jan/Feb Clavier Magazine struck me, as she points out there is more than one *right way* to a student's practice routine as well. She wrote about a 12 year old student who was having difficulty going to the piano to practice new material, even though she loved the piano. Barbara presented the student with a new approach to try, that she had learned, which seemed counter-intuitive to effective practice routines. However, the new approach was successful and her student accomplished what she hadn't been able to do before.

The MTNA Board as well found there was more than one way to solve the problem of the MTNA Competitions versus finances! A recent letter from Benjamin Caton, MTNA President said: "Please assure them [MTNA members] that the [MTNA] Board rescinded the July decision regarding competitions. Further, please share the news that the Board is committed to continuing and improving our competitions." So with a new approach, what seemed impossible before will continue, and our string, vocal, woodwind and brass teachers can be encouraged that their competitions remain!

With our calendars filling up, and music we've taught frequently before us, I hope we won't get "stuck" in only one *right way* to accomplish our goals, whether in our studios, our chapters or WSM-TA affairs. It's not that there isn't merit in traditional approaches and routine, but as Mr. Galloway, our Leadership Seminar speaker pointed out we need to look beyond how and what we have always done, to find possible new ways to accomplish our goals.

I hope you will take advantage of *choices* offered through WSM-TA and MTNA. Be sure to vote this month for the NW Division Director. Our own Jani

Peterson is one of the candidates. Voting information is in the AMT Magazine! Participate in adjudications, perhaps your students will be inspired by another musical interpretation. Try the Young Composer Project, for those creative students. Bring new life to your chapter by inviting musicians in your community to join as we "Each One Reach One". Plan to be in Bellingham June 18-22 for our outstanding conference with Angela Cheng and invite a friend to that conference for the non-member "Thursday Free Day"! Surprise your chapter president, and volunteer to help on a project! If you plan to attend the MTNA Conference in NYC, drop me an email, so we can get together while we're there. And, if you plan to attend the Gala, I'd love to reserve a place for you at the Washington Table.

Best wishes to each of you as you discover more than one *right way* in this still New Year!

Dianne Johnston, WSCTM
WSMTA President

BRAVO!

(continued from Page 1)

MTNA Competition Northwest Division Results

Composition

(continued from Page 1)

Junior Category

- **Winner:** *Sounds of the Forest* by Edison Tsai (Oregon), Student of Gary Noland
- **Honorable Mention:** *The Amazing Adventures* by Nicholas Woo (Washington), Student of Sharon Van Valin

Elementary Category

- **Representative:** *The Making of a Better World* by Jake Lee (Washington), Student of Sharon Van Valin

The Northwest Division was very fortunate to have the following prestigious judges for the 2011 competition: Roger Briggs, Daniel Dehaan, Bern Herbolsheimer and Patrick Williams. The winning scores and application forms have been forwarded to the National Composition Competitions Coordinator. I would like to send my congratulations to the winners and wish you the best of luck in the national competition.

I would also like to thank each and every student for the time and dedication that you have put into your work. Your

efforts are to be commended and I hope that you will continue to learn and grow as a composer.

Finally, none of this would be possible without the educators and families. It is because of you that our division has such high quality students. Thank you for fostering and supporting these students. I hope that you will continue to encourage them to participate in future competitions.

Patrick Stephens, NCTM
Northwest Division Composition
Competition Coordinator

Performance

(continued from Page 1)

Young Artist Woodwinds

- **Alternate:** Chester Baughman, student of Fred Winkler

Young Artist Chamber Winds

- **Winner:** Puget Sound Quartet, students of Fred Winkler.

Young Artist Chamber Strings

- **Representative:** Central Washington University Piano Trio, students of Carrie Rehkopt.

Senior Piano

- **Winner:** Sun Chang, student of Peter Mack

Senior Piano Duet

- **Representatives:** Millicent McFall & Toni McFall, students of Peter Mack

Senior Brass

- **Winner:** Andrew Abel, student of Chris Olka

Senior Strings

- **Alternate:** Felicity James, student of Simon James

Senior Voice

- **Winner:** Keith Meline, student of Reginald Unterseher

Senior Woodwinds

- **Alternate:** Fred Kim, student of Bonnie Blanchard-Romain

Junior Piano

- **Winner:** Shannon Cassady, student of Sasha Starceвич

Junior Strings

- **Alternate:** Bronwyn James, student of Simon James

Junior Woodwinds

- **Winner:** Elise Kim, student of Bonnie Blanchard-Romain

Correction to December CLARION MTNA Piano Competition Winners List

Bill Wu, student of Michi North was left off the list of Junior Piano Honorable Mentions.

Education

Chapter of the Year

Is your chapter planning an entry for the WSMTA Chapter of the Year? Has your chapter applied in the past and would like to try again? The deadline for entries is March 1, 2012.

The South King County Chapter received this award last year and have sent their package to be considered for the MTNA Local Association Award that has a nice \$1,000.00 award.

There are many chapters in our organization that qualify for this award. We would like to recognize your work. Details are available on a one-page info sheet that was in the President's packets that were handed out at last Fall's Leadership Seminar. If you need a replacement or for any other information, please contact me: Marilyn Linde at jmlinde@embarqmail.com or 509-854-2630.

Three members from various areas of the State will be selecting the winning entry. The announcement and presentation of the \$300.00 award will be made at our June conference.

Your entry must be sent to: Marilyn Linde, P.O. Box 430, Granger, WA 98932.

*Marilyn Linde, Chair
WSMTA Chapter of the Year Program*

Enrichment



No matter how long a lesson is, whether 30, 45 or 60 minutes, I never seem to have enough time to cover everything I wish I could in a lesson. Several years ago I bought a white dry erase board about 1'X 1½'. I have a small round table by the end of my digital piano and I have the board resting on that. Each week there is something posted on that board. Students know that when they enter the studio, that is the first place

they go. It varies as to what that might be posted. I may have a practicing tip, a reminder about how many weeks left before adjudications, an inspirational quote, a small assignment to read, a worksheet placed on the table with the instructions on the white board. Anyway, you get the idea. They are things that apply to all levels of students or I will divide something between levels 1-3 & 4-6. Sometimes it is just a joke, a riddle or question they have to answer. I might even put an object there and ask students to tell me what it could possibly have to do with piano lessons. Sometimes I don't even know but they always seem to come up with something and sometimes it is a pretty good thing for me to add to my teaching repertoire. I have put information about a composer we might be studying that month, or a musical era. I don't consider that it is any great educational tool, but you never know what might be a light bulb moment for a student. Not all my students take the Piano Explorer Magazine and not all who subscribe read everything (really???) so there might be a short article I ask them to read and then I quiz them about it when they get to the piano and ask how they could apply that knowledge to their own musical progress. I ask my students to be at the studio at least 5-7 minutes before their lesson time and that gives them time to get ready and to read whatever I have put there.

I am really running out of ideas to write about, so please e-mail me with some ideas you have, something you would like to share, or something you would like to see addressed.

Doreen Slaugh, NCTM, IMTF Chair

WSMTA News

WSMTA Members Presenting at MTNA National Conference in New York

Be sure you register for the MTNA Conference in New York, to be held March 24 - 28. You won't want to miss our own WSMTA member Peter Mack who is organizing Pedagogy Saturday on March 24 with an incredible line up of presenters; members Kathryn Strickland and Amy Grinsteiner who will be presenting a workshop on Ethics; and collegiate member Julianne Zahl and the WSU Collegiate Chapter, who will be presenting a work-

shop entitled *Composition and Creativity: Collaboration with Living Composers In the Private Studio*. It's summarized as: "WSU Collegiate Chapter communicates with a composer of educational piano music annually, utilizing expertise to inspire creativity in lessons, culminating in an in-person visit." Congratulations to each of you!

MTNA News

Did you Know?

MTNA provides a sounding board and clearing house for members who have questions of a pedagogical or business nature. For more information, contact the MTNA National Headquarters at (888) 512-5278 or e-mail professionalsupport@mtna.org.

Assistance has been provided in the following areas: information on grants, music, acoustical standards of building a new music facility, ASCAP issues, Certification, copyright issues, developing a plan to become a music teacher, creating relationships between other music organizations and local MTNA affiliates, music merchandise questions, prospective member information, lesson fee structures in the United States, assistance helping a member supplement their dues through local and state support, health insurance, finding music teachers around the world and more. Legal issues have been in the matters of copyright, employee contracts, buying and selling music studios, contractual arrangements with ensembles and partnerships, zoning issues and more.

District News

District VII Winter Conference Saturday, February 4, 2011 Hosted by WSU School of Music

- ◆ Lowell Liebermann Master Class
- ◆ Organ Workshop with Dr. Jill Schneider
- ◆ Jazz Piano Workshop with Brian Ward
WSU Kimbrough Music Building

Renowned American composer Lowell Liebermann (composer of *Gargoyles*, nocturnes, and piano concertos) will be giving a master class on his piano works. The master class is open to WSMTA stu-

dents by audition (see www.libarts.wsu.edu/music <<http://www.libarts.wsu.edu/music>> for more information). An evening concert, the highlight of the Festival of Contemporary Art Music, will feature Liebermann's works performed by WSU Faculty and Ensembles, including the premiere of a new work for two pianos, his *Sonata for Flute and Piano*, and the *Trumpet Concerto*. This duo commissioned work is sponsored in part from a grant from WSMTA.

Visit <http://www.lowellliebermann.com/> for more information about the composer.

Fri, 2/3, 11am: Liebermann Lecture to Composition Students

Fri, 2/3, TBA: open rehearsals with Lowell Liebermann

Sat, 2/4, 1:30 pm: Master class with Lowell Liebermann

Sat, 2/4, 3:15 pm: Organ and Jazz piano workshops with Brian Ward and Dr. Jill Schneider

Sat, 2/4, 8 pm: Liebermann concert
Free admission. Events are open to the public. Donations accepted to WSU Scholarship Fund.

For more information, directions, etc: khsavage@wsu.edu, 509-335-3971

Chapter News

Dr. Cassandra Carr Workshop

Eastside Music Teachers Assn. presents Dr. Cassandra Carr on Monday, Feb. 6, 2012, from 10:00 am-12:30 pm at Newport Covenant Church, 12800 SE Coal Creek Pkway., Bellevue, WA 98006.

The workshop is titled: "Classic Truth and Beauty: Great composers wrote for everyone, not just for concert pianists."

Fees: students: \$12; Eastside members: \$20; non-Eastside members: \$25.

Registration information: Sammie Marten, nmarten@msn.com, 425-454-1970.

Bulletin Board

Daniel Pollack Piano Master Class, June 7-10

The 35th Annual Master Class designed for teachers and advanced students will take place June 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th at Sherman Clay in Seattle, WA. As always it will be conducted by world renowned pianist and teacher, Daniel Pollack.

The class has been expanded to four days due to the enthusiasm which brought so many performers in 2011 we didn't have adequate time for each one. Private lessons with Mr. Pollack may be scheduled on Monday, June 11th. Repertoire is open; you may play works of any composer you choose.

We especially appreciate lesser known works, and those by composers celebrating centennial birthdays.

For information or brochures contact: Nancy Drake
425-885-2839 or nandrake@aol.com

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Musicianship Examinations Handbook	10.00	_____	_____
2010 MTNA Competition Program Booklet	5.00	_____	_____
Lanyard for name tags	3.00	_____	_____
High School Credit Packet	Free	_____	_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____
(postage and handling are included in the prices)

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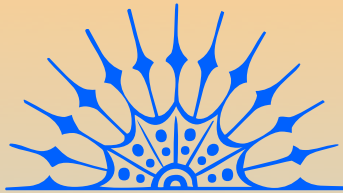


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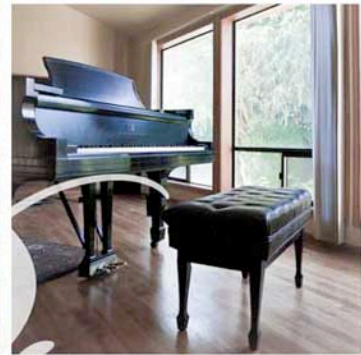
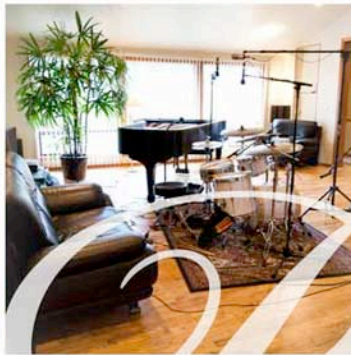
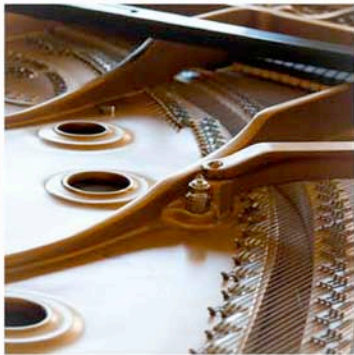
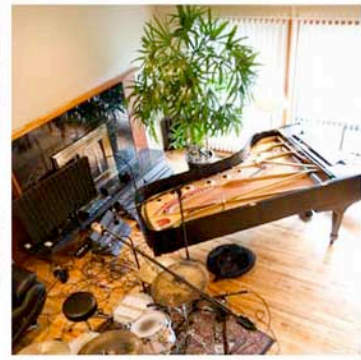
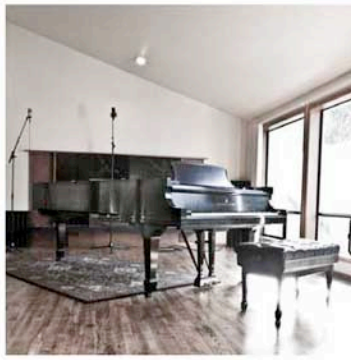
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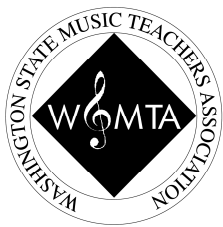
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DATES 'N DEADLINES

Feb. 4: District VII Conference. (pages 4 & 5)

Feb. 6: Eastside Chapter presents Dr. Cassandra Carr Workshop. (page 5)

Feb. 15: Young Composers Project entry deadline.

March 1: Postmark Deadline for submitting Chapter of the Year Application. (page 4)

March 24-28: MTNA Conference, New York City, NY.

June 18-22: WSMTA 2012 Conference

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- ◆ **Free Day for WSMTA 2012 Conference First Time Attendees.** (page 1)
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see The CLARION in full color!**