



NEWSLETTER



The CSMTA State Conference featured workshops and master classes with Nancy Arganbright and Dallas Weekley November 2009, Western Connecticut State University

From the President...

As the end of the teaching 'year' is upon us, the CSMTA board is already looking ahead to planning the 2010-11 year. There are so many great things happening in our state! MTNA has designated March 2010 through March 2011 as a year of Collaborative Music, culminating in a collaborative national conference in Milwaukee in March 2011. MTNA has partnered with several other music organizations to promote collaborative music throughout the music community for the upcoming year. January 22, 2011 will be a **world-wide** day of collaborative music. We have an opportunity in Connecticut to participate in any way we choose on this day of music-making! I am hoping that we can set up several venues across the state for teachers and students to collaborate in classical, jazz and pop music. What ideas do you have for this event? Please share them with us!

...Continued on page 2

2009 CSMTA State Conference

The 2009 CSMTA State Conference was a huge success by all accounts! Those who attended heard master classes by Millette Alexander and Weekley & Arganbright. We were treated to a performance of "Triangle" by Max Vladimiroff, Connecticut Commissioned Composer. Bruce Brubaker spoke about collaboration between musicians and other media, and we were all in awe at the concert featuring the CT state winners of the MTNA national competitions. Gary Ingle, CEO of MTNA, presented CSMTA with a plaque honoring 50 years of affiliation with MTNA. The conference schedule, flyer and other information are all on our newly updated website. Enjoy!

-Kathleen Theisen-





President's Message, continued from Page 1:

Three sessions were presented by CSMTA members. Frederic Chiu gave a standing-room only presentation entitled, "Stage Fright-Another Understanding." We were thrilled to hear Eugenie Rocherolle present a session about her new music; she performed many of her new pieces for the receptive crowd. Kathleen Theisen presented a session entitled, "Studio Entrepreneurship: How to Succeed Financially in the Music Business While Doing What you Love," that got teachers excited about how to handle their musical life as a business. Others attending the conference from Connecticut included Sharon Girard and David Westfall.

I was utterly inspired by the National Conference in Albuquerque and came back with lots of new ideas. I would like to get your thoughts about how these things can impact CSMTA. I would like to create more connections between CSMTA member teachers and also create more opportunities for professional development. I have offered to the Eastern Division members to start an online pedagogy chat on Skype, basically creating an online teacher meeting for MTNA members. We can discuss various topics that pertain to our work and our lives. Are you interested? Send an email to: connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com or simply add me as a friend on Skype (Skype Name: kathleentheisen) and send me a message there. Skype is a free program for having free conversations on the internet, including text chat, audio chat and video chat! (The CSMTA Board had our last board meeting on Skype!)

At a joint meeting of College Faculty and Independent Teachers, someone tossed out the idea of having local chapters pay to send a member to the conference and then have that member report back to the chapter with their own presentation about what they experienced. I will be sharing my 'notes' from the conference with you in future newsletters.

Did you know that the entire conference audio is available on DVD for about \$50? You can listen to virtually every session that was presented without leaving your home! You can purchase it from Reynolds Media Group: <http://www.reynoldsmediaonline.com/>

The State of Texas runs an "All-Star" Music Festival. Any student who received a top award in any festival could perform at the state conference for local college students, who served as both monitors and judges. The student chapter was given funds to run this festival. Students who performed were given written critiques and awards on the spot and the local college music students gained valuable experience running a festival and acting as judges! Would't it be neat to offer an all-star festival like this in Connecticut?

We would also like to reinstate the CSMTA Concerto Competition in 2011. Several members have expressed interest in chairing this event, so we are excited at the possibilities in the upcoming year! We are hoping to open this event to all instruments and voice. What are your thoughts?

Wouldn't it be nice to also have some sort of state-wide play-a-thon, recital, master class or other opportunity for students from around the state to hear each other, work together and perform together?

Additionally, these are some of the things that have been instituted in CSMTA in the past year:

The CSMTA website (www.csmta.org) has been completely updated, with a searchable teacher directory, conference photos (videos coming soon!), winners' lists, and links to chapter websites.

CSMTA applied for and attained non-profit status with the IRS and CT state department of revenue. This means we don't have to pay sales tax on purchases for the organization. Donations to the organization are also now tax-deductible according to IRS regulations.

If you have ideas for CSMTA or would like to contribute your time and talent to helping the organization serve all of its members, please contact a board member with your ideas or email: connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com

I am looking forward to a great year ahead! Regards, Kathleen Theisen NCTM, President

**6-YEAR OLD STUDENT PERFORMS @ CARNEGIE & TODAY SHOW**

Clara Tu, age 6, recently performed at Carnegie Hall and on NBC's Today Show. Clara, a first grader at Long Meadow Elementary School in Southbury, CT, has been playing piano by ear since age two. She was born into a family of professional musicians, including her grandmother, uncle and mother. She has studied piano with her mother, **Felicia Feng Zhang**, since age three and a half.

Other major achievements include: First Prize at the Crescendo "Little Mozart" Music Festival Piano Competition; Winner at the American Protégé 2010 International Music Festival Recital. She was honored in the National Piano Guild Notes for her performance of fifteen Sonatina movements by memory! For that, she won the special Sonatina Medal plaque with a grade of "superior plus."

In December 2009, she successfully passed (with honors) Level 5 of the Piano Practical Exam in the National Music Certificate Program. She also was awarded Level 5 with Honors in the CT MAP Auditions, which included repertoire, keyboard skills, theory, aural test and transposition. In addition to studying the piano, Clara attends after-school enrichment programs four days per week. She enjoys reading, math, chess, tennis, dance and singing.

Clara loves to play the piano. She is a very fast learner and has perfect pitch. She began performing publicly at age four. Between April 2008 and February 2010, she received numerous high marks at the national exam auditions, local competitions and festivals. She was a Gold Medalist of the International Young Musicians Festival, "Passion of Music 2010," presented by the American Association of Development of Gifted and Talented (AADGT). She had her first performance at Carnegie Hall on April 18, 2010. She will appear in Carnegie again on May 1 and 16th. She appeared on NBC's "Today Show" on April 23. You may view the video here: <http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/26184891/vp/36734716#36734716>.



CONCERT

Stamford Young Artists Philharmonic

50th Anniversary Concert Season

2009 - 2010



Sunday Evening

May 9, 2010

7 pm

Palace Theater Stamford, CT

Young Artists Philharmonic

Salvatore Princiotti

Conductor/Music Director

Young People's Symphony

Gloria Sinaguglia, Conductor

Young String Ensemble

Barbara DiFranco, Conductor

Stanley Cai

Piano

Adults \$20 Seniors \$13

All Students Admitted Free



Presented with support from the Community Arts Partnership Program. Made possible with public funds from the City of Stamford, Michael A. Pavia, Mayor.

Tickets may be purchased only at the Palace Theater on the evening of the performance;

Box Office opens at 6:00pm for general admission seating. For information call 203.532.1278 or visit www.syap.org

Tatyana Pikayzen's piano student will perform concerto with Stamford Young Artists Philharmonic

*Stanley Cai, age 14, student of CSMTA member **Tatyana Pikayzen**, was selected by competitive audition to perform as a soloist with the Stamford Young Artists Philharmonic at the Palace Theater, Stamford, CT, on May 9th at 7:00 pm. He will be performing the third movement of the Mendelssohn G Minor Piano Concerto. Stanley is a 9th grader at Ridgefield High School.*



EDITH SULLIVAN'S STUDENT PERFORMS AT CARNEGIE'S WEILL RECITAL HALL

16 year-old Connie Zhou, student of **Edith Sullivan, NCTM**, was selected by competitive audition to perform in the Young Musicians Concert sponsored by the Associated Music Teachers League of New York at Weill Recital Hall of Carnegie Hall on Sunday, May 2 at 1:30. Connie, a sophomore at Staples High School in Westport, was among the youngest of those 15 to 22 years of age to audition for this opportunity. She will perform the Rachmaninoff *Moment Musical in E minor, Op. 16, No. 4*.



RUSSELL HIRSHFIELD PERFORMS MUSIC OF PIET SWERTS

CSMTA Member Dr. Russell Hirshfield, Associate Professor of music at Western Connecticut State University, spent the spring semester on sabbatical studying and performing the solo and chamber music

of Belgian composer Piet Swerts. He traveled to Leuven, Belgium in February to coach with Swerts, teach master classes at the Lemmens Institute and perform a solo piano recital. In April, Piet Swerts was on the campus

of Western Connecticut State University for performances of his piano and chamber works. Swerts conducted a master class for student composers and presented a lecture on his works and his method of composition.



ZOE VANDERMEER SINGS WITH OPERA COMPANY OF BROOKLYN

CSMTA Member Zoe Vandermeer is singing the role of Vitellia in Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito* with Opera Company of Brooklyn on Saturday, May 15 at 7:30 PM.

For more information: www.operabrooklyn.com or www.vandermeervoicestudio.com

ELEVEN-YEAR OLD STUDENT PERFORMS AT CARNEGIE HALL

Angus Li, age 11, won first place in the 2010 "Little Mozart" Piano competition. The competition, sponsored by the Crescendo International Music Competition and Festivals, Inc, took place in New Jersey in March. Angus will perform Mozart's *Rondo in D Major, K. 485*, at Weill Recital Hall of Carnegie Hall on May 16 at 1:30 PM. A 6th grader at Sarah Noble Intermediate School in New Milford, Angus is a member of the Talented and Gifted (TAG) Class. He has taken piano lessons for five and a half years with **Felicia Feng Zhang** in Southbury. A winner of numerous piano awards since 2007, Angus was also selected as a clarinetist for the Northern Regional Middle School Music Festival in 2010.



In Memoriam: Karen A. Nelson

October 3, 1942 – July 18, 2009

Dear Friends, Family and Students
of Karen Nelson,

We lost a cherished friend and a talented musician when Karen Nelson was killed in a tragic automobile accident. Karen was a gifted pianist and a dedicated and inspiring teacher. She had a passion for music and enjoyed sharing her gifts with family, friends, and students. Her expertise in performance, teaching, and adjudicating were well established throughout Connecticut and beyond.

Karen held degrees in piano performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music and Yale School of Music. She continued her studies with Paul Baumgartner in Switzerland, with Leon Fleischer, and with Konrad Wolff. At the time of her death, she had been teaching students 5 to 82 years of age in her Westbrook, Connecticut, studio as well as students at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, and at Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, Connecticut.

To honor Karen's memory, the members of Middlesex-New London Chapter of Connecticut State Music Teachers Association have initiated a music scholarship with the Middlesex County Community Foundation. We invite you to continue Karen's musical legacy by contributing to this fund. The committee will award scholarships to young piano students who show promising talent and dedication in pursuing their piano study. Application forms

will be available and auditions announced annually. Karen's talent and sincere interest in perpetuating piano performance have inspired our wish to keep her legacy alive.

Tax deductible donations may be mailed to Middlesex County Community Foundation, 211 South Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457; checks payable to MCCF Karen Nelson Fund, or through the website: www.middlesexcountycf.org

Thank you for your support!

Joyce Baxter, Jane Bugbee, Donna Stamm
Scholarship Committee Middlesex - New
London Chapter CSMTA





Connecticut State Winners of the MTNA National Competitions

November 1, 2009

JUNIOR COMPETITION

Piano

WINNER: Ethan Wu (Teacher: Sima Brodsky)
ALTERNATE: Michael Mei (Teacher: Svitlana Fiorito)

SENIOR COMPETITION

Brass

REPRESENTATIVE: John DelVento (Charles Emerich)

Strings

REPRESENTATIVE: Chelsea Smith (Ann Setzer)

Woodwinds

REPRESENTATIVE: Hye Yeon Chang (Fabio Witkowski)

Piano

WINNER: Alex Beyer (Yoshie Akimoto)
ALTERNATE: Frederick Jenkins (Fabio Witkowski)

YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

Composition

REPRESENTATIVE: Stephen Feigenbaum (Michael Klingbeil)

Chamber Music

REPRESENTATIVE: Hartt Saxophone Quartet (Carrie Koffman)

Woodwinds

WINNER: Joseph Abad (Carrie Koffman)
ALTERNATE: Joseph D'Aleo (Carrie Koffman)



*Pianist Ethan Wu
State Junior Piano Winner*



*Pianist Alex Beyer
State Senior Piano Winner*

Awards given to Connecticut State Winners at the Eastern Division Competition

January 9, 2010

MTNA Senior Competition

Piano

EASTERN DIVISION ALTERNATE: Alex Beyer (Yoshie Akimoto)

Brass

EASTERN DIVISION WINNER: John DelVento (Charles Emerich)

Strings

EASTERN DIVISION ALTERNATE: Chelsea Smith (Ann Setzer)

Woodwinds

EASTERN DIVISION ALTERNATE: Hye Yeon Chang (Fabio Witkowski)

MTNA Young Artist Competition

Woodwinds

EASTERN DIVISION HONORABLE MENTION: Joseph Abad (Carrie Koffman) Winner



2010 Young Artist Piano Competition (YAPC)

The **2010 YAPC Competition** was held at Shawn's Pianos, West Hartford, on April 6, 2010. The adjudicators were Joseph Ness, conductor of the Beth El Symphony, West Hartford, and Wayman Chin, Dean of the Longy School of Music, Boston. Bridget de Moura Castro chaired the event. Many thanks to our sponsors.

First Place and Recipient of Ethel Bonars Storrs Gold Medal: Stefan Gurtner (Austria), Graduate student at the Hartt School of Music, where he studies with David Westfall and Luiz de Moura Castro.

Second Prize (sponsored by Farmington Valley Concert series and Harmony Hill concerts): Patricia Guadagnole (Brazil), Senior at the Hartt School of Music where she studies with Luiz de Moura Castro.

Third prize (sponsored by the Maxwell Shepherd Fund): Nathaniel Baker (USA), Senior at the Hartt School of Music, where he studies with Luiz de Moura Castro

Winners will be featured in concerts throughout Connecticut:

April 22, 2010: 2:00 PM Stefan Gurtner. The McAuley, West Hartford.

April 24, 2010: 1:30 PM: Stefan Gurtner. Avon Public Library.

May 1, 2010: 7PM: Patricia Guadagnole. Gloria Dei Church, Bristol.

May 11, 2010: 6PM: Patricia Guadagnole. The Seabury, Bloomfield.

May 11, 2010: 7PM: Nathaniel Baker. Farmington Public Library.

June 6, 2010: Patricia Guadagnole. Beth El Symphony, West Hartford.

June 2010: TBA: Nathaniel Baker. Academy Point, Mystic.

September 19, 2010: 2PM: Stefan Gurtner. The Whitney, Hamden.

October 17, 2010: 4PM: Patricia Guadagnole. St. James Church, Farmington.

October 20, 2010: 7PM: Nathaniel Baker. Connect, Farmington Woods.

TATYANA PIKAYZEN IN SWITZERLAND

CSMTA Member Tatyana Pikayzen will be performing and will give master courses in Sion, Switzerland, in August of 2010. ACADEMIE DE MUSIQUE TIBOR VARGA.

For more information: www.amsion.ch

KATHLEEN THEISEN PERFORMS BENEFIT CONCERT

CSMTA Member Kathleen Theisen, soprano, pianist and composer, will perform a benefit concert in her hometown of Adams-Friendship, Wisconsin on May 27, 2010 to raise money for a performing arts center for the public schools in the A-F School District. She can be heard in Pawling, NY in June as the soprano soloist for Rutter's *Requiem*. Theisen will also be on the piano faculty at the *University of Illinois Summer Youth Music* in June and July. More info: www.kathleentheisen.com

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN FIND EVERYTHING ONLINE?

WWW.CSMETA.ORG

You can find all of this on the CSMTA website...

minutes of board meetings, bylaws, list of officers for state and chapters with links to email, searchable teacher database which lists email & phone for all members as well as subjects taught (search by chapter coming very soon!), conference bulletins, photos, (videos coming soon), downloadable income and expense forms, lists of competition winners, lists of state and national student activities and links to all of the chapter websites. Would you like something else to appear on the website? Let us know!





Fairfield Chapter News

www.fairfieldcountymusicteachers.com

On Saturday, January 30, eighteen talented young pianists participated in Fairfield Chapter's 25th Annual Winter Competition, adjudicated by Kristin Barone and Peter Finarovsky. The Winners' Circle program, which took place on Saturday, February 6, showcased eleven Winners and three Honorable Mentions. Teachers represented in this year's event included Tienni Chen, Elina Christova, Svitlana Fiorito, Olga Stelman, Edith G. Sullivan and Shari Weisz. We congratulate the following Winners, Honorable Mention Recipients and their teachers, and look forward to hearing them again next year!

Group 1:
Verna Yin
Elena Gribelyuk

Group 2:
Seth Blumer
Ryan Caulfield
Priyanka Altman
Alicia Wang
Luke Wang(HM)
Ethan Grzeda(HM)

Group 3:
Sean Lee
Michael Mei
Yuge Ji
Paul Whittingham(HM)

Group 4:
Benjamin Altman
Catherine Cheu

Other upcoming events for the Fairfield Chapter include Student Recitals and a Spring Student Showcase. One of the recitals this spring was designated as a community service event and participating students were given a certificate for 5 hours of community service. More information about Fairfield Chapter events is available on the chapter website: www.fairfieldcountymusicteachers.com

Students of Fairfield Chapter members were among the winners at the Schubert Club's Chopin, Bach, French and Schubert Awards in April 2010. First-prize winners performed at an Awards Recital on May 7 in Old Greenwich. Winners that are students of CSMTA members include: Chopin Award: Primary Level, 1st Prize: Luke Wang (Edith Sullivan NCTM); 2nd Prize, Chelsea Guo (Svitlana Fiorito); Chopin Award: Junior Level, 1st Prize: Robert Cheng (Fiorito); Honorable Mention: Christine Xu (Yoshie Akimoto); Chopin Award: Senior Level, 1st Prize: Alex Beyer (Akimoto); 2nd Prize: Eduardo Sanchez (Tatyana Pikayzen); Bach Award: Primary Level, 1st Prize: Seth Blumer (Fiorito); HM: Mark Xu (Akimoto); Bach Award: Junior Level: 1st Prize, Jackie Xu (Fiorito), 2nd Prize: Stanley Cai (Pikayzen); HM: Gita Abhiraman (Deborah Kahan); HM: Alicia Wang (Sullivan); Bach Award, Senior Level: 1st Prize: Benjamin Altman (Sullivan); 2nd Prize: Kuang He (Pikayzen); French Award, Primary Level; 1st Prize, Seth Blumer (Fiorito); French Award, Junior Level: Christine Xu (Akimoto); HM: Gita Abhiraman (Kahan), French Award, Senior Level: Alex Beyer (Akimoto); 2nd Prize: Elizabeth Froelich (Sullivan); Music of Franz Schubert Award, Primary Level: 1st Prize: Chelsea Guo (Fiorito), 2nd Prize: Luke Wang (Sullivan); Music of Franz Schubert Award, Senior Level: 1st Prize: Connie Zhou (Sullivan); Benjamin Altman (Sullivan); HM: Catherine Cheu (Olga Stelman).

Western Chapter News

www.wcmta.org

On February 28, 2010, 28 student groups representing 11 teachers performed an ensemble program at Western Connecticut State University. The student groups included a string quartet, singer with piano trio, euphonium, guitar, harp, piano duos, trio and 8 hands/2 pianos and piano/cello. The program included classical and contemporary music by Mozart, Grieg, Grill, Norton and Ikeda. The students ranged in age from 6 to adult. Participating teachers included Max Vladimiroff, Beate Neblett, Pat kendziorski, Sherry Wisener, Diane Cooke, Cassia Verzello, Nancy McMillan. The Western Chapter is also in need of a President to lead the Chapter. If you are interested, please contact the current chapter leaders.



New Haven Chapter hosted Chopin Lecture

Dr. Watson Morrison, from the Hartford chapter (Hartt School of Music), performed a Chopin lecture/recital for the New Haven Chapter in March 2010. The lecture was held at the Whitney Center in Hamden and was open to teachers and students.

Pictured (left to right) are Linda Franklin- Biggs, Dr. Morrison, Yelena Gerovich, Sabina Khaykin, & Adele Huffman.



New Haven Chapter News

www.musicteachersnewhaven.com

On May 1, 24 students participated in the New Haven MAP Auditions (Levels 1-6), chaired by Linda Franklin-Biggs. All students took the full MAP program. Felicia Zhang & Kathleen Bartkowski adjudicated. Participating teachers included Sabina Khaykin, Yelena Getovich and Suzan Korman. For more information about the New Haven Chapter, please visit their website: www.musicteachersnewhaven.com

On Saturday, Jan. 1, 2010, 24 talented young pianists submitted recordings to the New Haven Chapter's 14th Annual Taped Piano Competition. The competition was chaired by Adele Huffman and adjudicated by Stephen Oyler. The Winners Circle Program, which showcased 17 winners, took place at the Whitney Center in Hamden, on Saturday Feb. 6, 2010. Teachers represented in this year's competition included Yelena Gerovich, Adele Huffman, Sabina Kaykin, John Metz, Patricia Neznec, Harriet Seder and Felicia Zhang. We congratulate the 17 winners and their teachers and look forward to hearing them perform again next year.

Student	School Grade	Teacher	Student	School Grade	Teacher
Clara Tu	Grade 1	Felicia Zhang	Don Sun	Grade 8	Felicia Zhang
Ying Yu	Grade 3	Yelena Gerovich	Kristin Zakoworotny	Grade 8	Yelena Gerovich
Kristina Yarovinsky	Grade 4	Yelena Gerovich	Victoria Holt	Grade 8	John Metz
Eliza Khokhar	Grade 5	Patricia Neznec	Helen Zhao	Grade 9	Yelena Gerovich
Rachel Tan	Grade 5	John Metz	Ioana Soaita	Grade 9	John Metz
William Wang	Grade 6	Yelena Gerovich	Natasha Flath	Grade 10	Yelena Gerovich
Angus Li	Grade 6	Felicia Zhang	Jessica Plude	Grade 11	Patricia Neznec
Kevin Su	Grade 6	John Metz	Pauline Dutka	Grade 11	Yelena Gerovich
			Rhiannon Brown	Grade 12	Patricia Neznec

Middlesex/New London Chapter News

www.msnlmta.com

The Middlesex/New London Chapter has continued with its successful recital tradition! On January 30, select students performed at a "Teachers Choice" Recital, and on March 13, a large number of young students performed in an informal "Cabaret" recital. Honor's Recital auditions were held on May 1; fifteen pianists were selected to perform on Saturday, May 8. Many students participated in the annual MAP event, which was held on April 24.

The Middlesex/New London Chapter has continued its series of interesting programs which are presented as part of each month's chapter meeting. On February 10, John Metz demonstrated an octavina harpsichord and discussed historical temperaments and tunings. In March, Donna Stamm gave a scholarly discussion of Haydn's piano music. To illustrate the discussion, Victoria Reeve performed the Haydn *Piano Sonata Number 31 in A-flat*. April 7 brought a performance of piano duets of the Russian composer Valery Gavrilin, featuring Oxana Lauria and Olga Kalinina performing piano, four-hands. The next chapter meeting on May 12 will be at John Metz's home. It will include a program by the cello/bassoon/French horn ensemble *TripleEssence*. They will perform the *Neoteric Suite* by Daniel Baldwin, and duets for cello and bassoon by Mozart.

The chapter is currently discussing ways in which they can increase the range of programs and events they can offer pianists in Southeast Connecticut.



Renew your MTNA Membership before July First

Benefits MTNA offers its members:

- A nationwide network of 22,000 music-teaching professionals, performers and pedagogues representing all applied areas
- Low-cost insurance, merchant services and support for zoning, tax and legal issues
- Practical resources such as *American Music Teacher* magazine and the *MTNA e-Journal*
- Programs and activities to inspire and motivate your everyday students, in addition to recognizing excellence
- Opportunities for continuing education and career advancement through conferences, seminars, workshops and the MTNA Professional Certification Program
- National Student Performance and Composition Competitions

If you have any ideas or suggestions about membership recruitment and retention, please e-mail MTNA headquarters at mtnanet@mtna.org. We'd love to hear from you!

ARE YOU ON FACEBOOK?

Visit the MTNA Facebook page & become a fan!

This is another great way to keep up with MTNA and for MTNA to keep up with you. Click here: [MTNA Facebook Page](#) or search for "Music Teachers National Association" on Facebook.

MTNA Performance & Composition Competitions

Please consider entering your students into the MTNA national competitions!

Entry deadline: September 14, 2010.

Complete information is available on the MTNA website: <http://mtna.org/Programs/Competitions/CompetitionsOverviewGuidelines/tabid/304/Default.aspx>

Chamber Music Performance Competition

The MTNA Chamber Music Performance Competition is the youngest of the Competitions, having begun in 1988 to encourage music making in ensembles. The Chamber Music Competition has shown growth in numbers, particularly from the 32 entrants of 2001–2002 to the 94 entrants of the 2009–2010 competition year.

As musicians, we all spend much time in a practice room honing our skills as performers. And most of that time is spent **alone**, in most cases necessarily so. More and more, however, students/teachers/coaches are encouraging the joy of ensemble music making and have found/are finding that students improve their listening, phrasing, imitating, anticipating, technical skills and general musicianship when making music with others in an ensemble. In addition to learning to share time, musical ideas, motivating each other and the joy of companionship in music making together, lasting friendships can, and do, develop. There is no doubt that the great composers of the western world have contributed much fine music to this genre.

Playing chamber music requires careful attention to music-making techniques that might be taken for granted when performing music alone. Is the phrase shaped the same way among the players? Are the lengths of notes played the same (both legato and staccato)? Is the singing line sounding the same when played by the piano, violin and cello, and other instruments (either together or separately)? Does the crescendo or diminuendo show consistency among the players in the ensemble? All of these questions and more come into being when learning from each other and sharing music making together, resulting in the enhancement of the music-making skills of each participant. Thus, ensemble members can be exposed to wonderful repertoire and characteristics of composers that they might never have experienced in performing only solo music.

I hope that you as teachers/coaches will seriously consider bringing your students together into ensembles and offering them the music-making opportunities available playing the trios, quartets, quintets and sextets of the great composers (with and without piano). The MTNA Chamber Music Performance Competition is one vehicle your Association offers for you to provide this added joy and music-making experience for your students.

The MTNA Competition application deadline for the 2010–2011 year is September 14, 2010. The **average age** of the members in an ensemble must be 18–26 years of age. This allows for a range of varying ages among the performers in any group. Please see the MTNA website at www.mtna.org for all the Competition rules and requirements.

James C. Norden, National Coordinator
MTNA Chamber Music Performance Competition



CORRECTIONS TO THE 2009-10 CSMTA DIRECTORY

Elina Christova: change spelling of her first name to "ELINA"

Barbara Johnson: please change email to: christodo@hartford.edu

Pi-Hsun Shih: please change email to: pihsunshih@yahoo.com

Kathleen Theisen: zip code for Danbury address should be 06810

Felicia Zhang: address should be 66 Glen Lane

Sarah Steinhardt: address change: 41 West 85th St, Apt B, NY NY 10024 (phone is same)

Laura Friday: new home phone number: 860-761-9927

We are terribly sorry that some pages were omitted from the published copy of the directory. The 'missing pages' from the CSMTA Directory were emailed and/or snail-mailed to all members. If you did not receive it on email, please check your spam filter for emails from CSMTA and add our email address to your 'safe list.' We are including a copy of the missing page with this newsletter just in case you did not receive yours.

We also have a PDF file of the entire directory with all updates and corrections. It is a large file, but please send an email to: connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com if you would like to receive a copy of it via email. The website teacher directory also has up-to-date information for all members.

To keep mailing costs down, CSMTA will be emailing newsletters and other information to members who have email addresses on file. Please add connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com to your address book so that CSMTA emails reach you and don't 'hit' your spam filter. Thank you.

Have a pedagogical or business issue or question? E-mail the MTNA Professional Support Line.

The Professional Support Line is a way for MTNA to provide assistance to members who have questions of a pedagogical or business nature and would like to consult with someone knowledgeable about their situation.

Rachel Kramer, NCTM, is an MTNA volunteer who has offered her expertise to MTNA's Professional Support Line. Simply send her an e-mail, and she will be sure to get back to you.

Rachel has been a vital part of MTNA for many years, serving as assistant executive director from 1998–2001 and director of education and member liaison for MTNA from 2003–2009. She holds master's degrees in piano performance and pedagogy and has been president of the Music Learning Center, Inc. in Cincinnati for 13 years. Rachel was also manager of educational programs for the Baldwin Piano & Organ Co. from 1990-1996. Currently, she is an Adjunct Faculty member at Wilmington College and is president-elect for the OMTA-Southwest District MTA.

The Professional Support Line is available to members of MTNA to support day-to-day questions in two broad areas—pedagogy and business. Past questions addressed have included such topics as 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, writing studio policies, finding out of print music, music merchandise questions, prospective member information, lesson fee structure, assistance helping a member supplement their dues through local and state support, health insurance, special learners, finding other music teachers, non-compete agreements, independent contractor/employee contracts, buying and selling music studios, contractual arrangements with ensembles and partnerships and zoning. The Professional Support Line is also the point of contact for any legal consultation services.

To reach Rachel and the Professional Support Line, simply e-mail: professionalsupport@mtna.org



Contact CSMTA

(Blue names are clickable links in the PDF)

WEBSITE:

www.csmta.org

EMAIL:

connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com

Officers

President: [Kathleen Theisen, NCTM](#)
President-Elect: OPEN
Vice-President: OPEN
Recording Secretary: [Roxane Lee, NCTM](#)
Treasurer: [Felicia Zhang](#)
Immediate Past President: [Steven Oyler](#)

Executive Board Members

Archivist: [Edith Sullivan, NCTM](#)
Certification: [Sharon Girard, NCTM](#)
College Faculty: [Bridget de Moura Castro](#)
Commissions: [Sima Brodsky](#)
Community Outreach: [Lean-Cheng Tan](#)

MTNA Competition Coordinators

Competition Chair: [Margreet Francis](#)
Chamber Music: [David Westfall](#)
Composition: [Carolyn Halsted](#)
Junior: [David Westfall](#)
Senior: [Margreet Francis](#)
Young Artist: [Margreet Francis](#)

State Competition Coordinators

Concerto for Piano & Strings
(Junior and Senior Levels): OPEN
Young Artist Piano:
[Bridget de Moura Castro](#) and [Estrid Eklof](#)

Other Officers

Foundation: [Diane Ransom](#)
Local Chapters: [Carolyn Halsted](#)
Membership: OPEN
Newsletter: OPEN
Paranov Award: [Neal Larrabee](#)
Theory (MAP): [Linda MacGougan](#)
Website Admin: [Kathleen Theisen, NCTM](#)



Sharon Girard, Frederic Chiu and Kathleen Theisen at MTNA Conference in Albuquerque.

News:

Do you have news to share with CSMTA members? Please submit newsletter items to:

connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com



State Pride Drawing @ MTNA Conference



Eugénie Rocherolle at MTNA

Special Thanks to Eugénie Rocherolle, “Dr. Joe” Utterback, John Metz, Bridget deMoura Castro and Luiz deMoura Castro, who donated autographed CDs which were offered as a ‘package’ to a prize-winner in the MTNA

Foundation Fund State Pride Prize Drawing at the national conference in Albuquerque.

The State Pride Drawing is always a popular event at the National Conference, and this year's contributions netted \$1,185.00 to benefit the MTNA Foundation. Each state contributes something that is unique to their state. I have heard from the winner of the Connecticut ‘prize’ and she is just thrilled with her prize and said she listens to the CDs over and over in her car! If you have ideas about next year’s ‘prize’ that represents the state of Connecticut, please contact any board member.

CSMTA Calendar

July 1, 2010

Dues renewal date for MTNA & CSMTA

October 30, 2010

2010 CSMTA State Conference
Hartford, CT

January 7-8, 2011

Eastern Division Competitions and
Conference

January 22, 2011

World-wide Day of Collaborative Music

March 26-30, 2011

MTNA National Conference
Milwaukee, WI

March 2012

MTNA National Conference
New York City

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CSMTA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization