



Maryland State Music Teachers Association



Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association

www.msmta.org

A bi-monthly publication of the Maryland State Music Teachers Association

April 2016

From the President...



It is now April and our busy season is upon us. We look forward to competitions, High School Piano Examinations, Guild exams or end of year evaluations and our final recitals.

I have just returned from the MTNA Conference in San Antonio and am rejuvenated by the sessions and recitals that I attended. Weekley & Arganbright presented a duet session and introduced us to

some new music. It was wonderful to hear them play at their advanced ages and to know that they were still enjoying performing.

The Advanced Master Class with Seymour Bernstein was really good. He is an inspiring teacher. The first student, a sixth grade young man, played S. Bernstein's composition Birds. The playing was most imaginative and Mr. Bernstein had helpful suggestions. The other performer was a High School Senior who played the Chopin G minor Ballade which she had learned in only three weeks! That raised many eyebrows I can tell you. She had a good command of the technique and had a good sense of the style. She said that it was one of her favorite pieces and that she had listened to it for a long time. Mr. Bernstein worked with her on the sensitive musical aspects of the composition. Both of these students were excellent for a Master Class as they were able to respond well to the teacher. The Intermediate Master Class with master teacher Jane Magrath was less inspiring. I felt that while the students were well prepared they didn't respond to the teacher particularly well. I don't know how the students are chosen for such a master class but I feel there has to be great care taken to get the student with the right personality for a successful class.

I also attended the session with Peter Takács' interpretation of the Beethoven Sonata and found it well presented and most

interesting. Ingrid Clarfield and Peter Mack gave a most humorous session on "Creating Magic in the Unexpected" as they shared their teaching ideas from dynamics to stage deportment. Mary Robbins talked about how to play the five different types of sounds in Mozart's music. Unfortunately there were some audio problems which made the session difficult.

Time for Three gave an amazing recital on Saturday evening. I had never heard them play and couldn't believe my ears. They play classical, jazz, improvisation – and they are fun – kind of a Canadian Brass for strings. The group consists of Nicolas Kendall, violin and Ranaan Meyer, cello both founding members and Nikki Chooi, violin. They are all Curtis graduates. If you have never heard them try listening to them on You Tube. We finished the conference with an incredible all Beethoven performance by Emanuel Ax.

It was a truly wonderful conference. Some of the Maryland delegation were able to get together for a few meals as well as enjoying a boat trip down the river. I managed to walk to the Alamo the morning of my return – couldn't leave Texas without doing that!

We can all look forward to the 2017 conference here in Baltimore.

Constance Fische

ANNOUNCEMENT

By July 1, 2016, MSMTA members will have to opt in to continue to receive paper copies of the MSMTA Newsletter by mail. Members will notify the editor of the Newsletter, Richard Hartzell, if this is their choice. You may reach him either by email: rlhartzell@verizon.net, or by telephone: (301) 649-4112. If no such notification is received, members will start receiving the newsletter electronically via the internet.

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NEWS FROM THE BOARD

JORDAN KITT'S GRANTS

As in past years, Jordan Kitt's will be offering grants for MSMTA teachers in memory of the former owner, Mr. William J. McCormick, Jr. President and CEO of Kitt's, Mr. Chris Syllaba has been in close contact with Junko Takahashi about this generous offer. They decided that it might be better to have an earlier deadline by which to apply for a grant. The application notice will be coming as an email from Kitt's sometime in May, so please be watching for it! The deadline will be August 1, 2016.

Jordan Kitt's will be offering four grants, each in the amount of \$400. The grants can be used towards either (1) lesson tuition for a student in need or (2) continuing professional education fees of a teacher.

Examples of possible applications: (1) a family has come upon hard times due to unemployment or illness and needs help paying for piano lessons; (2) a teacher would like to take further music lessons, or would like to attend a special workshop or conference (note: this is for the teacher, only!) If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Kathy Stansbery, MSMTA Local Association Chair

MTNA CONFERENCE



Top Row: Deborah White-Bondhus, Constance Fischel, Edwina Hunter, Narjes Soliman. Bottom Row: Ann Matteson, Martha Sallet, Cynthia Cathcart

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Cynthia Cathcart



Ann Matteson, Lily Chang, Hannah Wagner, Lori Wagner, Drea Wagner, Constance Fischel



Brad Bondhus (Deborah's husband), Constance Fischel, Deborah White Bondhus, Cynthia Cathcart, Lily Chang.



Marian Hahn from Peabody talking to pianist Emmanuel Ax, the convention artist

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

MSMTA CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

The MSMTA Chamber Music Festival was held on March 13, 2016 in the Peters Music Center on the campus of Washington Adventist University. The judges for the event were Dr. Ron Warren (composer, pianist, and Native American flutist) and Dr. Preston Hawes (conductor, violinist, and pianist). Six-seven students making up 28 chamber groups participated in the event, and the studios of Laurien Laufman, Deborah White-Bondhus, Yaling Yeh, Douglas Guiles, Jaewon Lee, Chen-Li Tzeng, Claudia Chudacoff, Amanda Ambrose-Brown, Jane Oleshkevich, Melanie Kuperstein, and Anne Hsueh Chen were represented. Many thanks to all for helping to make this event a continued success.

CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL RESULTS

March 13, 2016

Category A (Pre-High School)

- 1st place: Holly Lam, piano/violin and Collin Wong, piano/violin (Jane Oleshkevich)
2nd place: Jessica Jiang, cello and Jing-Jing Chang, harp (Laurien Laufman)
3rd place: Flora Ye, piano and Justin Zhang, piano (Yaling Yeh)
Honorable Mention: Catalina Lennon, piano and Mariana Lennon, piano (Deborah White-Bondhus)

Category B (High School)

- 1st place: Evelyn Song, violin; Eileen Moudou, violin; Brian Slawta, viola; and Raymond Lin, cello (Chen-Li Tzeng and Claudia Chudacoff)
2nd place: Ken Chen, clarinet and Nick Zou, piano (Douglas Guiles)

Daniel Lau, Chair

2016 MSMTA PIANO ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

March 20, 2016

The MSMTA Piano Ensemble Festival was held at the Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts, University of Maryland, College Park on March 20, 2016.

There were 607 students presenting compositions in teams of duets, trios, duos and quartets in 35 recitals.

46 MSMTA teachers participated and include:

Elena Arseniev, Maja Blagojevic, Patricia Blanchard, Deborah Brown, Jeannine Case, Anne Chen, Gary Dinn, Larissa Domracheva, Irina Dvoynoy, Sima Elkis, Elena Eliseeva, Kathryn Evans-Santiago, Connie Fischel, Yu-Hua Gu, Meri Gugushvili, Irina Gurevich, Christopher Hall, Claudette Horwitz, Annie Hou, Edwina Hunter, Conchita Jan, Shwu-Ching Jeng, Bonnie Kellert, Bok-Hwa Kim, Hyunsook Kim, Teresa Kung, Olga Kuperstein, David Kuperstein, Chia-Hsuan Lee, Mei Yu Lin, Lori McCarthy, Alla Merport, Yevgeniya Oleshkevich, Marina Ovtcharenko, Hyun Park, Jamie Pasho, Olga Soukhoveev, Janet Swaney, Svetlana Volkova, Helen Weems, Deborah White-Bondhus, Carol Wolfe-Ralph, Jun Yang, Tzi-Ming Yang, Jia-Yue Yang, Yaling Yeh.

Many thanks to all students and teachers who helped make this event successful and enjoyable!

Sincerely,

Dr. Deborah Brown and Dr. Junko Takahashi, competition co-chairs

SOLO FESTIVAL FOR STRINGS

VIOLIN 1ST PLACE WINNERS

| STUDENT | TEACHER |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Matthew Branning | Zina Gendel |
| Adrian Cheung | Olga Khroulevitch |
| Ryan Cho | Zina Gendel |
| Jing Fan | Rebecca Henry |
| Qiao Jacqui Fan | Rebecca Henry |
| Chaewon Kim | Olga Khroulevitch |
| Hawon Lee | JinHee Kate Kim |
| Rekha Leonard | Jennifer Shannon |
| Julia Li | Swiatoslaw Kuznick |
| Jason Lu | Lya Stern |
| Josiah Luo | Jennifer Shannon |
| Lillian Naill | Christian Tremblay |
| Alex Olsen | Chang Liu |
| Nina Shih | Rebecca Henry |
| Albert Shyu | Emil Chudnovsky |
| Connie Sun | Emil Chudnovsky |
| Joseph Tao | Olga Khroulevitch |
| Audrey Weeks | Emil Chudnovsky |
| Collin Wong | Yakov Shapiro |

VIOLIN 2ND PLACE WINNERS

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Karen Cao | Yakov Shapiro |
| Claire Hu | Christian Tremblay |
| Alyssa Kim | Lya Stern |
| Dongjoo Kim | Olga Khroulevitch |
| Holly Lam | Yakov Shapiro |
| Erica Lee | Swiatoslaw Kuznick |
| Lindsey Lee | Sarah Lee |
| Lindsey Lim | Claire Cho |
| Evan Liu | Olga Khroulevitch |
| Molly Moore | Jennifer Shannon |
| Helena Munoz | Emil Chudnovsky |
| Ilan Naill | Christian Tremblay |
| Joyce Qi | Olga Khroulevitch |
| Melody Qian | Olga Khroulevitch |
| Anjan Sesetty | Yakov Shapiro |
| Eleanor Shen | Emil Chudnovsky |
| Fonda Shen | Zina Gendel |
| Ethan Shyu | Emil Chudnovsky |
| Katherine Song | Olga Khroulevitch |
| Elizabeth Wnek | Rebecca Henry |
| Gracie Yoon | Sarah Lee |
| Adeline Yu | Lya Stern |

VIOLIN 3RD PLACE WINNERS

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Camilla Abdullaeva | Zina Gendel |
| Justin Chen | Zina Gendel |
| Ashley Chon | Olga Khroulevitch |
| Iris Duan | Shu-Ting Yao |
| Michaela Frey | Olga Khroulevitch |
| Jade Gjemundsen | Shu-Ting Yao |
| Sophie Heitfield vl | Zina Gendel |
| Adam Hsu | Olga Khroulevitch |
| Elizabeth Hur | Emil Chudnovsky |
| Jeanne Kim | Kelly Hsu |
| Esther Lee | Claire Cho |
| Hana Lee | Emil Chudnovsky |
| Yee-Lynn Lee | Sarah Lee |
| Alan Li | Shu-Ting Yao |
| Alanna Li | Zina Gendel |
| Charles Lin | Zina Gendel |
| Elijah Liu | Zina Gendel |
| Grace Ma | Chang Liu |
| Orrin Ni | Yakov Shapiro |
| Yui Puttkammer | Zina Gendel |
| Hannah Sturges | Jennifer Shannon |
| Ivan Tang | Zina Gendel |
| Spencer Tate | Yakov Shapiro |
| Grace Yang | Olga Khroulevitch |
| Jianna Yoon | Sarah Lee |
| Chad Yu | Yakov Shapiro |
| Hannah Zhang | Yakov Shapiro |

VIOLIN HONORABLE MENTION

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Joonseo Baek | Yakov Shapiro |
| Cara Kuo Chow | Yoon Mee Chong |
| Andy Cui | Shy-Luen Chen |
| William Cui | Shy-Luen Chen |
| Nicolas Goode | Olga Khroulevitch |
| Florian Grader-Beck | Christian Tremblay |
| Lela M. Greene | Yoon Mee Chong |
| Jude Lwin | Julianna Chitwood |
| Sarah Mahoney | Sarah Lee |
| Amelie Marasigan | Yoon Mee Chong |
| Madison Plunkert | Yoon Mee Chong |
| Caroline Wagner | Emil Chudnovsky |
| Brian Xi | Yakov Shapiro |
| Angela Yang | Olga Khroulevitch |
| Dalton Yul | Yakov Shapiro |
| Heavenly Zheng | Shy-Luen Chen |

VIOLA 1ST PLACE WINNERS

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Yubin Kim | Claire Cho |
| Anna Lee | Maria Montano |
| Joshua Lee | Maria Montano |
| Stephanie Wang | Maria Montano |
| Jessica Zhang | Maria Montano |

VIOLA 2ND PLACE WINNERS

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Chloe Choi | Claire Cho |
| Palek Kavi | Maria Montano |
| Hannah Kim | Maria Montano |
| Klara Schmidt | Maria Montano |
| Emmy Song | Maria Montano |

CELLO 1ST PLACE WINNERS

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Sergey Blinov | Cecylia Barczyk |
| Sophia Chuen | Vasily Popov |
| Matthew Cummings | John Kaboff |
| Jessica Jiang | Laurien Laufman |
| Liana Kai | Alicia Ward |
| Richard Kim | Alicia Ward |
| Sean Kim | Alicia Ward |
| Chris Lee | Ken Ding |
| Benjamin Li | Duck Hee O'Donnell |
| Michael Li | Pei Lu |
| James Ma | Hyun Jin Ro |
| Seyun Park | Laurien Laufman |
| Azra Syed | Alicia Ward |
| Angela Wang | Kerry Van Laanen |

CELLO 2ND PLACE WINNERS

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Megan Chen | Duck Hee O'Donnell |
| Max Golub | John Kaboff |
| Colin Hill | John Kaboff |
| Ryan Kim | Cecylia Barczyk |
| Emmanuel Liu | Ken Ding |
| Emma Moon | Hyun Jin Ro |
| Grace S. Oh | Ken Ding |
| Nathan Reiser | John Kaboff |
| Julia Shin | Duck Hee O'Donnell |
| Justin Song | Laurien Laufman |

CELLO 3RD PLACE WINNERS

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| James Chung | Alicia Ward |
| Hanna Kim | Hyun Jin Ro |
| Ryan Kim | Duck Hee O'Donnell |
| Simin Li | Kerry Van Laanen |
| Tyler Lin | Hyun Jin Ro |
| Grant Liu | Duck Hee O'Donnell |
| Mina Park | Alicia Ward |
| Laney Reiser | John Kaboff |
| Zoe Seitz | Swiatoslaw Kuznick |
| Elena Shih | Alicia Ward |
| Leena Shin | Kerry Van Laanen |
| Ethan Yen | Duck Hee O'Donnell |
| Alan Zhang | John Kaboff |
| Jack Zhao | Ken Ding |
| Emily Mucchetti | John Kaboff |

CELLO HONORABLE MENTION

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| William Bass | Barbara Brown |
| Charlotte Chang | Ken Ding |
| Selina Chang | Ken Ding |
| Samuel Cho | Daniel Levitov |
| Phoebe Freeman | Ken Ding |
| Natanel Ha | Duck Hee O'Donnell |
| Dylan Jeon | Duck Hee O'Donnell |
| Bryan Kim | Duck Hee O'Donnell |
| John Kim | Duck Hee O'Donnell |
| Chloe Lim | Duck Hee O'Donnell |
| Jayden Lim | Duck Hee O'Donnell |
| Michelle Ma | Ken Ding |
| Olivia Wang | Ken Ding |

GUITAR 1ST PLACE WINNERS

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Robert Kazimirov | Vladimir Fridman |
| Sean Liu | Vladimir Fridman |

GUITAR 2ND PLACE WINNERS

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Priya Buddhavarapu | Vladimir Fridman |
| Andrew Calem | Vladimir Fridman |

Jean Provine, Chair

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ELEMENTARY DISTINGUISHED MUSIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

MSMTA is very proud to announce the names of the 29 students from the studios of nine teachers who have qualified for the Elementary Distinguished Music Achievement Awards so far this season. These students in grades 1 through 5 have participated in the Theory Tests, the Keyboard Exams, the Local Association recitals, a school music performance, and several other MSMTA performance events.

This is an excellent introduction to the many exciting and worthwhile opportunities afforded to our students by the Student Activities program chaired by Daniel Lau with the help of so many dedicated and hardworking chairpersons. Congratulations to all participants and their teachers and all those who make it possible.

In alphabetical order by teacher:

Ziyi Lu (Claudette Horwitz); Jeffrey Huang and Kaitlyn Ro (Bok Hwa Kim); Jason Jia (David Kuperstein); Abigail Ko, Amy Wang and Claire Huang (Olga Kuperstein); Rachel Wang and Benjamin Hann (Mei-Yu Lin); Justin Tsai (Alla

Merport); Esther Pustylnik, Tawbon Taleghani, Patrick Young and Connor Young (Olga Soukhoveev); Vladimir Volkov, Richard Luo, Julia Yue, William Lu, Allison Fan, Supriya Ramanujam, Shreyas Ramanujam and Zachary Edenbaum (Dr. Svetlana Volkova); Patrick Zhang, Lillian Zhao, Ahan Patani, Andrew Zhong, Sherry Chen and Anthony Ren (Yaling Yeh).

*Lori McCarthy, Chair,
MSMTA Theory Testing Program*

Claudette Horwitz, Chair

MEMBER NEWS

BONNIE KELLERT and **JUNKO TAKAHASHI** are giving a duo/duet piano recital on Sunday, May 22 at PianoCraft in Gaithersburg. Music includes compositions by Arensky, Brahms, Debussy, Dvorak, and Mozart.

A TRIBUTE TO REYNALDO REYES: PIANIST, TEACHER, MENTOR, ROLE-MODEL

As I write this entry, I am on a Delta flight from Baltimore to Detroit, listening to a recording of a piece that's on tomorrow night's program with cellist Amit Peled. This work, "Kaddish" by Mark Kopytman, is a powerful tribute to a father and a heart-wrenching interpretation of the traditional prayer that is recited by a son at his father's funeral. I can't help but reflect on my love for my own parents, as well as teachers who have been a crucial part of my personal and musical upbringing, and have profoundly impacted my life.

Just a few weeks ago my most influential teacher and mentor, Reynaldo Reyes, passed away at a young 82. Reyes truly was my musical father (as he was for many of his students). I studied with him as a teen, continued on for my undergraduate studies, and continued to return to him for guidance in performing and teaching (including bringing several of my own students to him for consultations). I knew him my whole life: my Mom joined the faculty of Towson University and became a member of the Baltimore Trio with Reyes and violinist Zoltan Szabo just a few months before I was born.

A couple years ago I took Professor Reyes out to lunch. We discussed life, teaching, music—even politics. The most memorable moment of that conversation: he told me that he had no desire to stop teaching so long as he was living. "After all," he laughed,

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“I just keep getting better and learning more, and have more to share with my students!”

In April 2015, we celebrated his decades of service to the Towson University community with a gala concert and tribute that brought together his colleagues and former students from around the world. Though the event was advertised as his “retirement” celebration he continued to teach students at the university (including one of my former students). This past January he had spent several weeks touring through the Philippines. Certainly, his dedication to music and people was a powerful motivating factor in his life.

Though I am still coming to grips with knowing that he is no longer here, I am grateful for his incredible influence on me as a person, and as a pianist and teacher. He not only taught young pianists and inspired audiences through his performances - he touched the lives of his students with such genuine care and concern for their total development as humans that has manifested in lifelong gratitude, inspiration, and a legacy that will not be forgotten. He was among the rare breed of teachers who believe that every student is capable of learning anything. He would prove it to each student themselves by helping them learn works that surpassed their greatest expectations, and then laughing as he exclaimed, “See - it’s easy!” His genuine love of teaching, exploring music, and overseeing the technical, artistic, and personal growth in his students made him a role model for all who aspire to be a teacher.

Indeed, teachers are a crucial part of the fabric of our lives. The opportunity to work one-on-one with a mentor for years is something very special in this world and inevitably is linked to a student’s personal development. Students remember a teacher’s comments, suggestions, and practice techniques, but even more so, their way of being an example. As teachers ourselves, our best way of paying tribute to those who cared for us is to pay it forward to our own students. May Professor Reyes’ love of music and people live on long into the future!

Excerpts from an interview with Reynaldo Reyes in March 2015:

Elizabeth Borowsky (EB): Tell us about your childhood, and specifically, how you got into music.

Reynaldo Reyes (RR): I come from a family that was very ambitious. My parents had seven kids, and wanted their children to be successful. I was the second youngest. They chose what we’d be: The firstborn must be a doctor. There next would be a pharmacist. There must be a lawyer...

EB: So... you were chosen to be the pianist?

RR: No! It was an accident. My sisters learned piano and

taught me. We came from a small town and didn’t know much. The piano we had at home was not intended for me - it was intended for everyone. My sisters were my first teachers. When I was seven I started taking lessons with a real piano teacher. But she lived 17 kilometers away. How do you think I got to my lesson each week?

EB: Bus? Hitchhiking? Bicycle?

RR: No! I walked!

EB: No way!

RR: Yes. I walked! It was during the war and everything was destroyed. There was no transportation. We walked four hours each way, each week, for a one hour lesson. When my students call me and say “Mr. Reyes, I can’t come to my lesson as my car doesn’t work” I laugh and tell them this story. The challenge is not the point. Piano lessons were so important. I would never be absent, for anything, for any reason!

EB: Were you an exceptional talent?

RR: I didn’t have anyone to compare myself to, and that wasn’t important for me. Also, I didn’t know the word “talent” or what it means. I was... capable. I never complained when I was given something difficult. In fact, the harder it was, the more I liked it. It challenged me. I didn’t do it because I was talented or because I liked it so much. I didn’t understand those words and their complex meaning.

EB: Why do you teach?

RR: For me, teaching is sharing yourself. I have always had the idea that I want to share what I have.

EB: Why do you perform?

RR: So that I can teach better! If I cannot do it myself well, how can I tell?

EB: What do you want for your students?

RR: I want them to discover that what they are afraid of is nothing to be afraid of. I’m not interested in the notes, they’ll learn the notes later.

EB: Why do you encourage students to participate in competitions?

RR: If you push someone to a competition, they will practice. It forces you to learn, whether you like it or not. Now, it doesn’t mean that you’ll win first prize. It means you’ll win first prize for you. Just to be selected, is winning. You represent everything you have done up to that point. Competition is important because it teaches you character. It makes you stronger as a person. When you lose, you accept it. Maybe, if you don’t win, you think about what you could do better. The real first prize is that you learn! You cannot win all the time. If you go through life without winning anything, that’s perfectly alright. You win according to how you accept

it. When you accept something, you're a winner. When you don't accept it, you're a loser. At any rate, the most important philosophy of that is "If you don't participate, you can't win."

EB: How do you practice now?

RR: At the age of 81, I have chosen to force myself to learn new music for the recital... even if just to test myself and answer the question: can I still do it? I could say, "It's hard. It's difficult. I'm old. I cannot memorize anymore." But I'm not going to give into this fear. I'm not going to be defeated. If I can't learn it, I shouldn't be playing! I'm learning with the sheer belief that I was taught how to learn, and how to compete with myself. That competition — that challenge — is making me learn it. If I can do it, it means I really can still play and learn anything.

For video excerpts of the interview, visit www.YouTube.com/ElizabethBorowsky

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Prince George's Music Teachers' Association has held three very successful events during the winter months of 2015-2016.

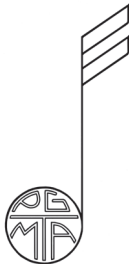
The MSMTA Keyboard Musicianship Test was held on Saturday, December 12 at Prince George's Community College. Thirty-four students participated. This event was chaired by Hui-yen Chang.

The Saul Roas Memorial Scholarship Competition, featuring Latin-American Music, was held at Corkran United Methodist Church in Temple Hills, Md. on February 6. The winners of the three levels performed on March 13 at the Broad Creek Music Festival Winners' Concert. The event was chaired by June Miller.

On Saturday, March 12, approximately 80 students, with their parents and friends, came to Marlboro Hall at Prince George's Community College to take part in the 54th Broad Creek Music Festival. This year's theme was "The Animal Kingdom," featuring music with appropriate titles. The 2016 Test Piece List was composed by Hui-yen Chang. The winners of the 20 categories (16 solo and 4 duet divisions) performed on Sunday, March 13, along with the winners of the Saul Roas Memorial Scholarship Competition, at the beautiful Harmony Hall situated in the Broad Creek historic area of southern Prince George's County.

PGMTA is very thankful to Linda Head, who has served as secretary and/or chairman of the Broad Creek Music Festival for 32 years. We are also indebted to Ms. Angelina Shumway, Music Coordinator of Prince George's Community College, and to Robert Muncie and Gary Kirkeby who were our PGCC faculty sponsors for March 12.

PGMTA has also welcomed three new members since the fall: Rita Sloan of College Park, Josanne Fiona Francis of Greenbelt and Fumiko Reeder of Hyattsville.



PGMTA's spring events include:

MSMTA Theory Test on April 16

MSMTA Scholarship for Performance and Eunice Wilson Greene Scholarship Competitions on May 1

Spring Student and Adult Recital on May 14

Membership Meeting, program, and pot luck luncheon on May 19

Janet Swaney, President

The end of the program year brings with it many changes. We thank the members who are resigning from lovingly long-

held posts as event chairs and welcome new ones:

Montgomery County Music Teachers Association



Mei-Yu Lin and YooH Huh are

stepping down from chairing our judged recitals after more than ten years. Many thanks for their careful tending of that important event, as well as for training our new chairs Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich and Guity Adjoodani.

Jamie Pasho has served as co-chairperson of our Intermediate/Advanced Recitals for five years. She steps aside to care for her young family, handing her hat to Olga Soukhoveev.

Our brand new event, The Ensemble Recital, has passed the board and by the time you read this I expect it will have been approved by the general membership. It will be chaired by Alice Ma, who is also our new president elect for Montgomery County, serving during the final year of my term as president. She assumes the office of president in May 2017.

Cynthia Cathcart, President

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GREATER COLUMBIA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

It's competition season everywhere, no exception with GCMTA, where we are getting ready for our Spring Piano Solo Competition and our High School Award Competition (which is open to other instruments).

On May 17, from 7pm until 9:15pm, GCMTA is holding a Master Class with Marci Kamper, flutist with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. We invite non-member teachers to attend for free, or students to audit for \$10 each. Seating is limited. Please RSVP to newhall.flute@gmail.com or (410) 258-4224 to get directions and to reserve a seat. It's so lovely to have a non-competitive event at the end of May to celebrate the year.

Helen Weems, President



Spring has sprung and on Friday April 15, a fine and sunny day, our group held a theme Piano Party at the Steinway Gallery in Hunt Valley. The theme was "I love that piece". In an informal setting, each student, having received a number on arriving, so that he or she knew when it was his or her turn to perform, would rise and let the large audience know why he or she loved the piece he or she was about to perform. Forty students performed, so the piano gallery was at first jammed with family members. Because people could quietly come and go as they needed because of other commitments, etc., it was a relaxed setting, and by the end of the evening, at 8:00, the number of people had subsided considerably. Still, there were treats to eat and drink afterwards for those who performed towards the end. Many curious teens hanging out at the Hunt Valley Mall gazed with curiosity at our crowd, intrigued by what was going on that drew such a large crowd of families! The party was a success and we plan to hold one next spring at the Steinway Gallery. Cheers to Ann McCandliss and Joanna Greenwood, who kept things running seamlessly. And thanks to Matt Bachman for hosting our Piano Party at his venue.

Earlier in the year, on the third week of March we were privileged to have Brian Ganz hold a workshop for us on several Chopin Etudes, with suggestions for practicing certain passages. He listed "The Magic Four" as practicing in different ways and combinations; "HATT", hands alone, then together; "The Metronome March"; and "Rhythmic Variety". After this discussion, Brian Ganz performed several Chopin Etudes, and it was such a pleasure to just listen to

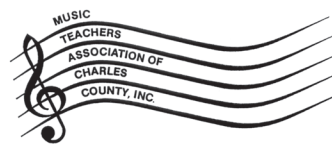
such beautifully performed music of Chopin, a composer about whose music Ganz has always been impassioned.

The workshop was followed by a master class at the same venue, the Towson Campus of the Peabody Conservatory, where six students performed pieces by Chopin and other composers and Ganz gave constructive critiques and made comments of encouragement. Our thanks go to Brian Ganz for such a lovely afternoon.

Barbara Stumpf, in charge of our twice-yearly Adult Musical Gathering, reports: On Sunday April 17th, MTAGB hosted a musical gathering for adult students at the Steinway Gallery in Hunt Valley. Many thanks to Matt Bachman and Steinway for making this possible! Ann McCandliss, Pat Graham, Barbara Gruver, Marjorie Liss, and Barbara Stumpf presented six adults who played music ranging from Bach and Haydn to Chopin, Grieg, Brahms, Bacharach, and Baltimore composer Hillary Kruh. Families, friends, student auditors with their teachers Kathy Kaneda and Catherine Renggli enjoyed a reception afterwards. Our participation grows, and we look forward to the next event!

MTAGB also held the once-monthly Matinee which sadly I could not attend, but I heard went very well, with the performance of the second movement of a Mozart Concerto as well as many fine duets.

Wendy Balder, President



Spring has been musical and eventful in Charles County! MTACC hosted the MSMTA Theory Exams on Saturday, March 5. The

2nd Annual Spring Evaluation was held on Saturday, March 12, at Grace Lutheran Church, featuring piano students performing for in-house judges. And all eyes and ears are focused on Saturday, April 23, as our flagship event, the Sonatina & Sonata Festival, will occur at Christ Church and Grace Lutheran, in La Plata. First and second place winners will perform again on Sunday, April 24, at the Concert of Winners at Christ Church. Much time and preparation has gone into this large event and everyone is excited about it.

Looking ahead, we will host our Annual Scholarship Competition on Saturday, May 7, meet to elect new officers at our May meeting, plan an exciting and eventful calendar for next year, and close the year with a follow-up program by Diana Bradley, who will offer further instruction on the Alexander Technique.

Mary Wolf, President



MTAB's third meeting of the season was held on February 3, and featured a program of Polish children's songs composed by Karol Szymanowski, well presented and delightfully performed by new member Dr. Laura Kafka (voice) and Tomasz Tobak (piano). On February 25, the biennial Classical Competition was held at Village Baptist and Belcroft Bible Churches, with 55 students performing from the studios of eight teachers. There were six groups with three 1st place ties, so nine 1st place winners performed at the winners' recital on Wednesday, March 2, and received their certificates and monetary awards. These winners are pictured here, holding their beautiful certificates prepared by Terry Merchant, husband of one of MTAB's teachers. Our next event was the MSMTA Theory Exam, held on March 12, with 54 tests, and chaired by Bonnie Pausic. Then came the MSMTA Keyboard Exams, held on April 2 at Village Baptist Church,



with keyboard examiners Janet Swaney, Carol Wolfe-Ralph, Jeanne Wernly and Jeannine Case, also chair of this event. On Saturday, April 23, ten seniors will compete in our annual Senior Awards Competition, chaired by Wendy Dengler, and assisted by Jeannine Case and Hui-Yen Chang. Eight of these seniors also applied for the Gottlieb Scholarship, and will receive additional monetary awards as well as a lovely framed certificate prepared by Jeannine Case, chair of the Gottlieb Memorial Scholarship. The presentation and performance of these senior winners will be held on Wednesday, April 27, which is MTAB's last meeting of the season. The last student event, the Spring Competition and Evaluation, will occur on Saturday, May 14 at three churches in Bowie. Ten teachers have entered 100 students in six competitive and three evaluation recitals. The students will be judged by Dr. Stephanie Bruning, Thomas Hunter and Lois Jones. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners receive engraved plaques and HM's receive medals. All participating students receive a certificate and critique, and "superior" ratings in the Evaluation receive a small bronze medal. Our Spring luncheon will be held on Wednesday, May 18 at Four Season's Grille in Gambrills. Our June board meeting will include a pot-luck lunch and will be held at the home of co-president Jeannine Case, and presided at by co-president Barbara Lancaster on Wednesday, June 8.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank MSMTA members who have been so supportive of me during my recent breast cancer diagnosis, surgery and radiation treatment in March. Unless one has gone through a serious illness such as cancer, no one really realizes how much a card, a phone call, an email of strong support or flowers, plants and other gifts mean to an individual.

And of course, the best support has come in the form of prayers which mean so very much to me. THANK YOU!!

Anne Arundel Music Teachers Association



Jeannine Case, President



AAMTA hosted the annual Ensemble Recital on February 13th at Woods Presbyterian Church in Severna Park. Adriana Schueckler served as chairperson. Thirty-eight students offered beautiful performances of duets and trios on piano, violin, and cello. The MSMTA theory test was held on March 12th at Anne Arundel Community College. Diane Kinsley chaired the event with 140 students participating. Students are preparing to participate in the AAMTA Spring Solo Festival, chaired by Chris Sanders and the Royal Conservatory Examinations, chaired by Helen Smith Tarchalski, respectively. Both events are scheduled to be held at Anne Arundel Community College.

Helen Smith Tarchalski, President

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| | Member | Non-member |
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| 1/8 page | \$20.00 | \$30.00 |
| 1/4 page | \$40.00 | \$50.00 |
| 1/2 page | \$80.00 | \$90.00 |
| Full page | \$135.00 | \$150.00 |

For more information, contact **Richard Hartzell** at:

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Please email all notices and copy for inclusion in the June 2016 MSMTA newsletter by **Monday, June 6, 2016**, to:
rlhartzell@verizon.net or mail to:

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