



Key Issue

Volume XLIX Edition 1

August-September 2014

From the President

Music Teachers Helper

Every new beginning is a chance to do things better than we had before. As small business owners, book-keeping is an integral part of what we do. If you are anything like me, I would much prefer teaching over handling my finances and preparing tax forms.

After having spent many frustrating hours and days re-creating lesson schedules and payments for families who wanted clarification over their financial status, I knew I needed help. At that time I began my subscription to Music Teachers Helper and found it paid for itself easily in the time it saved me. I also purchased Moosic Studio in an early release, hoping it could replace Music Teachers Helper, but have not found it to be as workable for me.

Music Teachers Helper keeps all my logistical information in one place. My calendar, billing, scheduling, practice minutes logged, repertoire learned, and loaned books information are all available to me. A down side to this program is that it is only available while you are on-line. For those with smart phones, this is a non-issue. For me, it means I actually do get away from my work once in a while.

Every summer, I dreaded the logistics of scheduling lessons. Last year, I experimented with a Google.docs calendar, but found many families uncomfortable with setting up a gmail account just to use it. This summer, I used Music Teachers Helper to offer times I was willing to teach and families were able to sign up for their own slots, the weeks they were available. This worked very well for me. They would also be able to cancel a lesson (with a pop-up reminder of my

cancellation policy) and reschedule the lesson themselves. I would be sent a text message whenever a lesson was cancelled. This has been the easiest summer system I have ever used. The billing is generated off of the same calendar, so much of the work is eliminated.

Last summer, I also sponsored a practice contest using Music Teachers Helper. Each student has their own log in page where they can see their next scheduled lessons, notes from me, and log their practice minutes every day. It was simple for me to check the winners every week and send a quick email to everyone announcing the leaders.

Music Teachers Helper has linked with SPPTA to offer members a 10% discount on the monthly subscription. Here's the discount link:

<http://www.musicteachershelper.com/promo/646E94>

There are several software providers who have built programs to try to make our jobs easier, but this is one of the best.

Happy Teaching,
Marilyn Henry





Minnesota Music Teacher Honored As MTNA 50-Year Member

CINCINNATI (August 2, 2014)—Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) recently honored Darlene Wolleat, as a 50-Year Member at the 2014 MTNA National Conference in Chicago, Illinois, March 22–26.

Wolleat, a nationally certified teacher of music (NCTM), has taught piano for more than 52 years. She received a bachelor's degree in applied piano from Whitworth University. She has been an active member of MTNA, the Minnesota Music Teachers Association (MMTA) and the St. Paul Piano Teachers Association (SPPTA) since her college years. Wolleat still teaches piano to approximately 30 students a week in her studio and has been a church musician since she was a teenager. She has been an accompanist in churches, public schools and colleges, and has also participated in collaborative performances with students and professional musicians.

MTNA is a nonprofit organization comprising of nearly 22,000 independent and collegiate music teachers committed to advancing the value of music study and music-making to society and to supporting the professionalism of music teachers. Founded in 1876, MTNA is the oldest professional music teacher association in the United States.

For additional information about MTNA, contact MTNA national headquarters at (888) 512-5278, mtnanet@mtna.org or visit the website at www.mtna.org.

SPPTA Motions Passed in 2013-2014

1. October: The Honors and Awards program and the Recitals program will both be modified and combined so that exceptional performances in Recitals will be invited to play in a special Honors Recital rather than competing for the Honors and Awards Recital.
2. October: Dr. Jess Johnson was to be compensated with a \$300 stipend rather than \$200. for the master class in March, 2014.
3. March: We accepted the ballot of incoming officers.
4. May: We will raise the fees paid to Contest Workshop Presenters: Sr. B. presenter will receive \$400 rather than \$300. Sr. A \$350 rather than \$275. Other levels \$250 rather than \$200.
5. May: Recital programmers will be compensated for their work in that the host of any recital may enter up to 4 students in that particular recital without registration fee.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Keno

East Suburban Federation Music Club

Our fall meeting will be Friday, October 3, 2014, at K&S Studio in Woodbury at 10:00 a.m. Registration packets will be available for the Festival in February. Please contact Kathy Martinez at kathyschleusner@gmail.com with any questions.

Thank you.
Kathy Martinez
President, ESFMC

Calendar of Events

9/9 **Extra social hour!** Baker's Square in Roseville
Details on page 4
9:00 a.m.

General Meeting – Schmitt Music (Roseville)
Starting a State-of-the-Art Studio, presented
by Mellisa Weinert from Eighty Eight Notes
School of Music
10:00 Social time
10:20 Meeting
11:50 Board meeting

9/16 **Book Club** – Cafe Latte, St. Paul
10:00-11:30

MMTA Contest Materials Workshops

Roseville Schmitt Music Auditorium
Thursdays 10:00-12:30 - \$18 per session

9/5	Senior B	Dr. Susan Billmeyer
9/12	Senior A	Dr. Nancy Paddleford
9/19	Intermediate B	Mary Duncan
9/26	Intermediate A	Richard Tostenson
10/3	Junior B	Merrily Stone
10/10	Pre-Primary Primary Junior A	Suzanne Greer

Concerto Competition

So...What are you doing in February?

As the school year starts and our students are selecting backpacks and other supplies, those looking to participate in SPPTA's Concerto Competition are also selecting their piece. To prepare a song to this level of excellence, play it for judges, receive quality feedback, possibly win one of the cash prizes, and be in the running to play your piece in concert with the Mississippi Valley Orchestra...It's amazing! But what about the students who will not be competing? It can be amazing for them as well. Please don't dismiss this event or deem it somehow inapplicable; that would not be accurate.

As you are making your studio schedule for the year, do your students the favor of including 7:30pm, Saturday, November 15th at Schmitt Music in Roseville, and 4pm, Sunday, February 22nd at First Lutheran Church in Columbia Heights on your list of upcoming events. By showing both the Finalists' Concert (where the winner is determined), as well as the winner's performance date with the orchestra, there are two chances for students to watch a fellow-musician nearer their own age create something incredible!

This proximity in age automatically makes the performance more relevant. Observation skills go on full-alert and attention spans are stretched, noticing details that could otherwise have gone by un-remarked. Not only can attending have the benefit of challenging and inspiring the listener to increased efforts personally at the piano, it empowers the attendee to play an active role in supporting and affirming another musician in his/her growth. Both of these benefits have ongoing value. Compared to the busyness of springtime schedules, when last year's concert was in May, far less will be competing for calendar time mid-winter, so I ask you, "What are you doing in February?" My students and I invite your students and you, to come and be smiling, clapping, and encouraging audience-members at the Concerto Competition events this year! See you then!

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Olson, SPPTA
Concerto Competition Chair



Coffee Social Hour for New and Returning SPPTA members

Are you a new member of SPPTA? Are you hoping to network with colleagues, share ideas, get insights and build friendships? We want to get to know you! Join us before the September 9th SPPTA meeting for a coffee hour at 9 am, at Baker's Square located along the Hwy 36 Frontage Road in Roseville, near Schmitt Music.

SPPTA ADVERTISING POLICY

Advertising will be accepted for the SPPTA KEY ISSUE at the discretion of the editor and the executive board. Advertising may be submitted by any member of MMTA or professionally-related person or organization. Copy must be accompanied by payment and submitted on or before the newsletter deadline date. Checks are to be made payable to SPPTA. Materials and inquiries are to be addressed to the newsletter editor. Advertising would include items for sale or services for sale. Philanthropic and nonprofit information should be submitted in the form of a news story. Advertising rates are:

Full page ad: \$40.00
Half page ad: \$20.00
Fourth page ad: \$10.00
Column Inch (six typewritten lines): \$6.00

Third Vice President: Kathy Martinez
Newsletter Editor: Mitch Grussing
Circulation Editor: Mitch Grussing

MMTA Teacher Party!

This party is for teachers that want a chance to meet other teachers and discuss what they like about MMTA programs. We will be going through the online registration process as well, so if you need a little help when it comes to online registration for MMTA programs, this is the party for you! Coffee and light refreshments will be available. Parties will be led by Twin Cities Site Administrator, Sarah Mensen. The first party of the year will be on Thursday September 25th at 10:00 a.m.

Location: MMTA Office, 10800 Lyndale Ave, Suite 263, Bloomington 55420

Please RSVP to Sarah Mensen, mensen.sarah@gmail.com, or 651-315-2217 by Thursday September 18th.

What to bring

- Credit Card/Debit Card for MMTA program registration fees
- Student's Name and Age
- Student Carpool Information
- All information on their program. (i.e. level, list of pieces with composer, level of theory they have passed, etc.)
- Student's Schedule Request/Other tests that day
- If the student has any special needs
- Laptop computer if you have one

From the Editor

Hello! I'm so pleased and honored to be taking on the tasks of newsletters, website, and publicity for SPPTA. Should you need to get in touch with me, please do so at the e-mail address or phone number below. I look forward to my new involvements in SPPTA, and to sharing in our efforts to promote exceptional musicianship in and around St. Paul. I hope to become better acquainted with you soon.

Mitch Grussing
mitch@grussingmusic.com
(612) 787-2132

2014 SPPTA Piano Concerto Competition Registration Form

This year's Concerto Competition will be held Sunday, November 23, 2014. All auditions, daytime and evening, will be held at the Roseville Schmitt Music Auditorium at 2436 Cleveland Ave. N., Roseville, MN 55113. Rules and regulations can be found in the SPPTA directory as well as online at www.sppta.org. Please review them carefully, as infractions will result in disqualification from the competition. We will do our best to accommodate the time you request below; however, please understand that there are occasions when that is not possible.

Applications will be accepted between the postmarked dates of Sept. 1st and Oct. 12th.

Mail registration forms to:

Beverly Olson, Attn: Concerto Competition, 1017 Glen Paul Court, Shoreview, MN 55126

She can be reached at: Bev@BenchandBow.com and (651) 341-0353 if you have questions.

Checklist for enclosures:

The completed registration form

The \$60 entrance fee for each participant

Please enclose one check per teacher payable to SPPTA. Checks must be submitted by teacher only.

Enclose one self-addressed, stamped envelope with correct amount of postage large enough to accommodate all forms (1-2 entries=1 stamp; 3-4 entries=2 stamps; 5-7 entries=3 stamps)

2014 SPPTA Piano Concerto Competition

Student Number _____

(Office use only)

Contestant Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Concerto Number and Mvt. _____ Composer _____

Preliminary audition time length _____ Final Audition time length _____

(Exact timing - not to exceed 10 minutes)

(Exact timing -12 minutes or less including tutti)

Teacher _____ Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Music Link Teacher ID # _____

Time Preference: Morning _____ Afternoon _____

Accompanist _____ Accompanist Email _____

Please read and sign: I confirm that the above named contestant is my student and has been for at least one year. I also confirm that I am a member of SPPTA and I am the student's primary piano teacher.

Teacher Signature _____

Must be signed and submitted by teacher only.
Notification will be sent by mail and internet.