



SPRING NEWSLETTER

April 30, 2015



Hello everyone:

Last month I returned from Las Vegas where I attended the 2015 Music Teachers National Conference. As your President, I attended leadership meetings, annual business meetings, workshops and concerts. It was a very stimulating experience and the best conference yet.

Technology has revitalized the national conference. No longer do I have to rush to get a good seat in the large halls for concerts, master classes, competitions and major speakers. Two large video screens provide close-up viewing (just like major sporting events). Technology has also improved the seminars and workshops with video screens. Presenters e-mail their handouts and you can access the daily schedule on your phone. Each technique enhances the attendee's comfort and learning.

While at the conference, I met Elizabeth Borowsky, the Executive Director of The International Music Institute and Festival USA. As a first time national conference attendee, Elizabeth wrote of her conference experience for the Maryland MTA newsletter. Her article is printed in this newsletter with her permission. "In short, the conference was to music teachers what Disney World is to children. I am so looking forward to the next MTNA conference in San Antonio from April 2-6, 2016", she wrote. Elizabeth will be re-locating to the White River Junction area in the fall.

I hope you will plan now and consider attending an upcoming conference:

- 2016 San Antonio
- 2017 Baltimore
- 2018 Orlando (Disney World)

You will not regret attending.

Marie Johnson, President

2015 VMTA Calendar

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| June 15, 2015 | Deadline for Summer Newsletter articles |
| September 15, 2015 | Competitive Auditions applications deadline for online submission |
| October 2, 2015 | VMTA 50th Anniversary Celebration |
| October 3, 2015 | Quad State Convention |
| November 8, 2015 | Competitive Auditions at the Richmond Free Library. |

Spring Festival



On Saturday, April 4th, the VMTA held its annual Spring Festival at St. Michael's McCarthy Arts Center. Seventy students from the studios of 16 member teachers participated. There are many people to thank. We are grateful to all participating students, their parents and teachers. We are especially grateful to the teachers who helped by judging and monitoring. We are grateful to our sponsors, particularly St. Michael's College Fine Arts Department under the chairmanship of Susan Summerfield. Without her sponsorship, this day would not have been possible. As a Vermont piano teacher and member of VMTA, I think this is the most important VMTA event of the year. No other event brings us together as teachers in such a collaborative way or provides an important performance and learning opportunity for such a large number of our students. For this reason, I hope to continue to chair this event for many years. Thanks to all!

Lilly Ramsey

MTNA Dues

MTNA has mailed out your 2015-2016 Dues. Make sure you have paid your dues by July 1st so that you will not miss out on our VMTA publications. Our VMTA 2014-2015 calendar year ends on June 30 and the 2015-2016 calendar year begins on July 1st. Next year will be an important year for our organization. We will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary as well as hosting Quad State. If any of your contact information changes please contact Teresa Miranda at 802-893-1919 or tgmiranda@comcast.net



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VMTA Celebrates 50 years

Do you have a story you'd like to share about VMTA's history? Do you know of a teacher that has moved but may like to be part of the celebration? Have you had contact with former members or families of members that are no longer with us? Please contact Patty Bergeron! You can e-mail her at pcberg@myfairpont.net. We'd like to get as many involved in celebrating the VMTA's long and wonderful history.

Patty Bergeron, 50th Anniversary Chair

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QUAD STATE CONVENTION: October 2 - 3, 2015

Plans are well underway for Quad State 2015! Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!!! The convention will be held at St. Michael's College in Colchester, VT.

The weekend will start with a concert on Friday evening presented by Brian Connelly. Brian is an artist, piano instructor, and director of the piano and chamber music accompanying program at the Shepherd School of Music of Rice University. This concert is being presented in celebration of the VMTA 50th Anniversary.



Saturday, October 3, there will be two workshops and a concert highlighting state commissioned compositions. Gary Ingle, Executive Director and CEO of MTNA will be joining us for our Quad State Convention.



Saturday morning will feature Vermont's own Sylvia Parker. Her presentation is titled, BELA BARTOK- PEASANT JEWELS. She will share pictures and stories from Bartok's time in Vermont (just down the road from her house) as well as New York and Massachusetts. She will talk about his ground-breaking research on East European folk music. Bartok collected peasant melodies from Hungary and neighboring countries that were all part of the great Austro-Hungarian Empire before World War I. He turned many of those peasant "jewels" into arrangements for piano and other instruments. Sylvia Parker's session features the sounds of peasants singing and playing their violins, flutes, and bagpipes on his field recordings. His piano arrangements of those same melodies, and even his own performances are included. Sylvia will show Bartok's field notations and research documentations along with scores of his piano arrangements. Sylvia would like to invite students from each of the four states to perform pieces from Bartok's 150-plus piano arrangements. Please see the article following in this newsletter for more information.

The Saturday afternoon session presenter will be Dr. Nicholas Quarrier from Ithaca, NY. Dr. Quarrier is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy at Ithaca College. For over 25 years he has specialized in treating injured musicians. Dr Quarrier has published and lectured throughout the country about music-related injuries. He developed and taught The Healthy Musician Workshop in Ithaca for over 15 years. He will speak to the group about why so many musicians get hurt playing their instrument and how we can prevent these injuries. Topics he will discuss are: poor posture, muscle tension, and stress that causes physical injuries. The topic of "tendonitis" will be reviewed: why some people have tendonitis for months and others for days, and how to treat and prevent it. There will also be an extensive discussion on how exercise relates to musician's health: should the musician lift weights and should the musician stretch and what exercises are best.



Bartok Workshop at Quad State 2015

At the Quad State convention, Sylvia Parker would like to incorporate performances by students of each of the four states for her session on Bela Bartok. She plans to play Bartok's field recordings of authentic peasant melodies followed by piano arrangements of the same tunes. Selections that would be particularly appropriate are listed below. Sylvia recommends the Dover edition of PIANO MUSIC OF BELA BARTOK. Series I includes Ten Easy Piano Pieces. Series II includes For Children, First Term at the Piano, and Sonatina. Mikrokosmos is published separately.

If you have students who would like to perform any of these pieces, please contact Sylvia at sylvia.parker@uvm.edu

You may choose from the following:

FOR CHILDREN , Volume 1 (1, 15, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 26, 37, 39)

FOR CHILDREN VOLUME 2 (4, 11, 14, 16, 25)

TEN EASY PIANO PIECES (6)

FIRST TERM AT THE PIANO (10, 13, 15)

MIKROKOSMOS (74);

Sonatina (1, 2, 3)

Get to know your colleagues from our neighboring states. Quad state will be during the foliage season. Hotel rooms will be at a premium. It has been suggested that we try and facilitate a room share for those coming from out of town or out of state. If you live in the Chittenden county area, and would be willing to act as a host during quad state, please contact Patty Bergeron. This is a great way to network with other musicians.

Patty Bergeron, Conventions Chair

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Members Only Section of MTNA Website

MTNA has added a members only section to their website. Go to <https://members.mtna.org/mtnasecure/>. Log in by entering your email address that you supplied to MTNA along with your member number. You can find your member number on the card that you received after you paid your yearly dues. If you are not sure which email address MTNA has on file or do not know your member number you may contact Melody Puller, our VMTA Membership Chair, at (802) 859-8950 or by email at melodypuller@yahoo.com



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VMTA Website



We have been working on updating the VMTA website. The web address will still be the same: www.vermontmta.net. There are several new additions to the website, though. Please check it out!

First, if anyone has any questions, comments, or suggestions on the website, please contact Arielle Hanudel by e-mail at vermontmta@gmail.com.

One of the most important additions to the website for members to note is this: we now have a “Find A Teacher” page on our site. This allows community members who are searching for a new music teacher to quickly access a directory of available music teachers in the area.

If a teacher is currently accepting new students, their name can be included in this teacher directory. (A full VMTA membership list is also available on the website, though in another location on the site.)

If you wish to have your name listed in the “Find A Teacher” directory, please contact Arielle Hanudel at vermontmta@gmail.com with the following information:

Name
E-mail Address
Phone Number
Town you are located in
Area of expertise
Website

You do not need to include all of the above information, though it is recommended you list as much contact information as you are comfortable sharing.

Another important addition to the website is our Blog. This Blog will be written by members of the VMTA, and is a great opportunity for members to share what is going on in their own music studios. If you wish to submit a blog post, please send it to vermontmta@gmail.com. Suggested blog posts include:

Humorous short stories of student interactions*
Encouraging stories of victory over struggles* (either teacher’s or student’s)
Exciting games or activities you have developed and use in your studio
Interesting information you have found on teaching or interacting with students.
Reports and/or reviews of local concerts, open mic nights, and other activities in the music community.

*Please be discrete when mentioning students/parents in your posts.

VMTA also now has Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

- LIKE the Vermont Music Teachers Association on Facebook
- FOLLOW VMTA on Twitter at @VermontMTA, #vmta
- CHECK OUT VMTA on Instagram at vermontmta, #vmta

Follow us for news about upcoming VMTA and BBVMTA events, as well as information on community music events and concerts.

Another area we could use your help is our Resources page. If you have come across any books or websites that have been especially helpful in your development as a teacher, or in educating your students, please share them! E-mail a list of book titles or websites to vermontmta@gmail.com. You can even include short reviews, if desired.

Finally, encourage your students and colleagues to check out our website! They will find links for information on finding a music teacher, helpful teacher and student resources, community events, and local performance opportunities.

Arielle Hanudel

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What Happened at SPAC?

While attending the Music Teachers National Conference, I attended the State President's Advisory Council meeting. Highlights of the meeting were as follows:

1. Vermont received a Membership Growth and Stability Award for maintaining its membership from the following year at 54 members. Have you renewed your membership yet?
2. Gary Ingle, CEO, reported that MTNA has filed required compliance reports every 30 days with the Federal Trade Commission during 2014-2015. Going forward, compliance reports need to be filed every year until 2019.
3. At the Gala MTNA Foundation dinner, Carleen Graf from New Hampshire was recognized as a MTNA Foundation Fellow. Fellow MTNA colleagues bestowed this honor on Carleen by combining individual contributions totaling \$1000 to the MTNA Foundation in her name. Last year, Ginger Hwalik was recognized with a similar honor.

The State Presidents Advisory Council will meet again during the MTNA Leadership Summit in September in Cincinnati.

Marie Johnson



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Competitive Auditions

A few notes about the 2015 Vermont Performance and Composition Competitions:

One of the benefits offered to MTNA members is the opportunity to enter students in its annual competitive auditions. All requirements for the 2015-2016 student competitions, including details for all performance categories offered and for the composition competitions, can be found online at <http://www.mtna.org/programs/competitions/>. Note that there is a chamber music category in the performance competition as well as the usual solo levels – it would be great if anyone wanted to enter an ensemble (not just for groups with piano) in this category! Applications must be submitted online by 3 p.m. EST on Wednesday, September 16, 2015. Application forms will be accessible online in August by all MTNA members whose dues for 2015-2016 are paid.

The 2015 Vermont level of the performance competitions will be held on Sunday, November 8th at the Richmond Free Library. As in the past several years, any single entrant in a category (for example, Junior High School Piano Performance) will be automatically named by MTNA as a Vermont State Representative, and is therefore required to take part in the MTNA Eastern Division Competitions in January of 2016. The location of this year's Eastern Division Competitions has yet to be decided. Applicants to the Vermont level of the MTNA performance competitions must be prepared to fulfill this requirement, if necessary, by performing their program at the MTNA January competitions, as there is often only one competitor in a given category in the Vermont level of the competition.

In addition to the performances required by competitors, any entrant named “state representative” is strongly encouraged to perform his/her complete program, as submitted in their application, at the Vermont competition on November 8th. All competitors and state representatives will receive written comments from the judge/adjudicator.

All compositions entered in the VMTA/MTNA Composition Competitions must be submitted online on computer-generated scores on MIDI files. No handwritten manuscripts will be accepted. All composition entrants will receive written comments about their pieces from a Vermont judge. The entries from winners and state representatives will then be submitted to the Eastern Division level of the competition. Winners and representatives will be invited to perform their piece(s), or have them performed, at the VMTA performers' competition in Richmond on November 8th, if time permits.

Teachers who have not previously entered students in the performance competitions should be aware of the level of difficulty of repertory being played in these competitions. Repertory from recent competitions can be requested from competitions chair Liz Metcalfe (802-863-2296 or william.metcalfe@uvm.edu) if you would like to look at some representative programs.

Elizabeth Metcalfe



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Revised MTNA Code of Ethics

The principles and aspirations found in the Code of Ethics are not conditions of membership, but are goals and ideals that each MTNA member should strive to make an essential part of his or her professional commitment to students, to colleagues and to society.

Commitment to Students

The teacher shall conduct the relationship with students and families in a professional manner.

- The teacher shall respect the personal integrity and privacy of students unless the law requires disclosure.
- The teacher shall clearly communicate the expectations of the studio.
- The teacher shall encourage, guide and develop the musical potential of each student.
- The teacher shall treat each student with dignity and respect, without discrimination of any kind.
- The teacher shall respect the student's right to obtain instruction from the teacher of his or her choice.

Commitment to Colleagues

The teacher shall maintain a professional attitude and shall act with integrity with regard to colleagues in the profession.

- The teacher shall respect the reputation of colleagues and shall refrain from making false or malicious statements about colleagues.
- The teacher shall refrain from disclosing sensitive information about colleagues obtained in the course of professional service unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law.
- The teacher shall participate in the student's change of teachers with as much communication as possible between parties, while being sensitive to the privacy rights of the student and families.

Commitment to Society

The teacher shall maintain the highest standard of professional conduct and personal integrity.

- The teacher shall accurately represent his/her professional qualifications.
- The teacher shall strive for continued growth in professional competencies.
- The teacher is encouraged to be a resource in the community.

Adopted December 2003, Revised May 2013

A Message from Debra Florian



Spring has arrived! Like many of you, I have been freshly reinvigorated and inspired by another successful MTNA National Conference. Like you, I am eager to bring fresh energy and new ideas back to my state and local associations. For those of us who organize our teaching around the academic calendar, we are preparing to wrap up another year packed with lessons, festivals, adjudications, competitions and the like. This is that wonderful time of year when we have both the opportunity to assess the year we are finishing *and* take a creative look at the upcoming year. As leaders, we want all of our members to regard involvement in MTNA as an essential element in their professional planning. Membership Renewal notices will be sent out this month. Among the biggest factors that keep members coming back are the relationships they have built with other teachers, and the value they perceive for their teaching and for their students. Some ideas to consider as our state and local associations

look to inject new life into next year's plans, always with an eye to Membership Recruitment, Engagement and Retention:

- Survey your membership for their assessment and ideas regarding programming and student activities.
- Plan programming that will foster relationship-building among your members.
- Work toward more diverse programming, to include topics also of interest to instrumental and voice teachers.
- Partner a newer member with a more experienced member to co-chair an event or activity so that newer members are already invested in next year's plans, and to encourage mentoring.
- Remind members of the many benefits they receive through membership:
- Student Opportunities
- Personal and Professional Insurance
- Networking
- Discount Programs
- Legal Consultation
- Professional Support Hotline
- Debt Collection
- Much More
 - Remind members locally and statewide to renew in the spring with e-mail blasts and newsletters. Promote upcoming state conferences and events, and local programming for fall that members won't want to miss!
 - Offer an incentive contest at the state level for the 1st local association with 100 percent renewal.

It has been my privilege to chair the MTNA Membership Committee, a group of gifted leaders passionate and dedicated to the continued growth and strength of MTNA. It has also been a distinct honor to partner with all of you toward attaining our membership goals. With the conclusion of my term as MTNA Vice President, I am pleased to welcome our new Vice President, Karen Thickstun, and to extend my warmest wishes. I have been fortunate to work with Karen for a number of years, and I know she brings passion, creative vision and energy as she assumes leadership responsibilities for the Membership Committee. We are better together! Through our MTNA membership—local, state and national—

- We are a more powerful voice and positive force for the arts in our nation and in our local communities
- We are continually challenged and empowered to grow professionally;
- And we are immeasurably enriched through our relationships with one another.

Best wishes as we continue together in the pursuit of our common goals!

Debra Florian, NCTM Outgoing MTNA Vice President

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PIANOS AND ELEPHANTS CLASH AT STATEHOUSE

Published in the Burlington Free Press on April 11, 2015

Written by April Burbank, Free Press Staff Writer

MONTPELIER – Activists are urging Vermonters to give up the option of selling anything that contains ivory.

A law banning ivory and rhinoceros horn sales would be worth the sacrifice, they say, to stop the slaughter, illegal poaching and imminent extinction of African elephants.

A House committee considered the ban this week, taking testimony from wildlife conservationists, middle school students, piano teachers — and the drummer for the band Phish.

"We know that if we don't put an absolute ban on the sale of ivory, that elephants will disappear. We know that," said Jonathan Fishman, the drummer, who called the bill a "no-brainer."

Several states already prohibit the sale of ivory. Supporters argue that state laws will cut down further on the market for ivory and the incentive for poaching.

"Federal laws cannot stop ivory from being sold within state borders," said Taegen Yardley, a student and elephant activist from Endeavor Middle School. She brought her classmates along to a meeting of the House Committee on Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources.

"If there's a legal market for ivory, there's always going to be the illegal trade behind it," said Pat Bosco, a retired fish and wildlife special agent.

Legislators saw photos of confiscated illegal ivory in a warehouse. They heard that ivory that shows up in antique shops could be new ivory made to look old, and that any ivory sales encourage poaching.

"As long as there is value in ivory, the killing will continue," said Ashley Prout McAvey of Shelburne.

"Proceeds from the illegal harvest have funded militarist groups in Africa such as al-Shabaab, Janjaweed, Lord's Resistance Army, and Boko Haram", McAvey said, and "puts money into the hands of the worst people in the world."

Ivory that has made its way into the hands of consumers would be regulated under the proposed law.

It would allow ivory art and some furniture, jewelry, antique firearms and used pianos to be passed down as part of an estate, but they would lose their resale value.

"What can I say to you? I'm sorry, but it was that or the elephants!" Fishman said.

That line of reasoning didn't convince the antique dealers and musicians who came in to testify the following day.

"We find it intrusive and counterproductive to prohibit the owner of a 1943 Steinway grand piano, for example, from selling his or her piano in the music community," said Marie Johnson, head of the Vermont Music Teachers Association.

"We do not need pianos in our landfills," Johnson added. "A Vermont ban prohibiting the sale of pianos that

contain legally-obtained ivory hurts owners of legally-obtained ivory, criminalizes piano owners and is ineffective in stopping illegal poaching."

Pianos and other instruments today are manufactured without ivory.

Banning the sale of ivory in Vermont would make private art and antique collections worthless, and could discourage people from preserving priceless cultural artifacts, said Ethan Merrill of Williston-based auction and appraisal company Duane Merrill & Co.

"Imagine your retirement package that you've saved for, hundreds of thousands of dollars — and then come January 1 next year, it's worthless," Merrill said.

The Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs is also "strenuously opposed" to the bill, Vice President Evan Hughes said in a telephone interview.

"A lot of antique very valuable firearms have ivory on them," Hughes said.

At one point in the committee meeting Thursday, Kyle Scanlon, owner of Essex-based KC Scanlon Estate Sales, told the committee "you guys have so much more important stuff you could do."

"Do you really think this law in Vermont is going to affect anything in Africa?" Scanlon asked.

"Not Vermont alone, but in concert with others, it might very well shut off the money," Rep. David Dee, D-Westminster, said.

"OK, but we already have federal guidelines that are going after the importation, you have other states that are doing exemptions, New York and Connecticut. So I mean unless we work together as 50 states banded together, how is this going to work in Vermont alone?"

Deen replied that the federal law does not cover sales within states. "It allows for a continued market — at least, that is the concern expressed by the members of this body who introduced the bill."

All sorts of objects contain ivory, Scanlon said — even Victorian chairs in the Vermont Statehouse.

(After the meeting, Scanlon and Merrill agreed to an impromptu walking tour of Statehouse chairs and window-dressings, but no obvious ivory could be found. The carved figurines on the Senate chamber's chandelier may contain some gilded ivory, Scanlon suggested. It's impossible to know without dismantling the lights.)

The committee is expected to solicit testimony from other witnesses in the coming days and determine whether the bill should move forward, with or without exemptions carved out for business.

As of April 30, House 297 is still being debated in the Fish, Wildlife and Water resources Committee. For a copy of Marie's testimony, e-mail her at mdjkiln@juno.com.

Thank you, Marie Johnson, for staying informed about this crucial bill and testifying in Montpelier. Our members in the VMTA as well as all musicians in Vermont greatly appreciate your attention to detail and dedication!

What Happened In Vegas...

My first ever trip to Las Vegas was a memorable one - most notably for the excitement of being among 2000 music teachers from across the country (and around the world) for the 2015 Music Teachers National Association National Conference. The daily schedule was jam-packed with seminars, workshops, division meetings, masterclasses, competitions, and performances. Presenters included well-known musicians, educators, composers, and researchers. The vendor hall was filled with publishers, representatives of festivals and competitions, and music technology. Headliners for masterclasses and performances were Ann Schein, Lang Lang, Alan Chow, Sir James and Lady Jeanne Galway, The Canadian Brass, and Lang Lang as well as MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year Christos Tsitsaros. In short, the conference was to music teachers what Disney World is to children.

To give readers a sense of the breadth of topics addressed, and the variety in presentation styles, I have chosen to share a selection of my favorite quotes from presenters. I'm happy to share my detailed conference notes; simply email me at eborowsky@gmail.com.

MTNA 2015

"If it's difficult to make an audible difference between forte and fortissimo, you can create the impression by playing slightly slower to elicit a feeling of heaviness." -Alan Chow

"Most musicians don't see themselves as athletes and take advantage of sports psychology. Yet, musicians would benefit from a custom tailored physical and mental training program. . . There are differences, of course: Athletes need a high level of activation. Musicians don't, especially as it interferes with fine motor activity. Athletes can discharge energy arousal just by playing their sport. Musicians usually carry it on stage and hope it tapers off. Often, we "over-activate" and we need to be able to bring it back down. . . Reassure students that pre-performance jitters are normal: it's an activation to get you into performance mode." (Patrick Gannon)

"Learning and memory are two sides of the same coin. Memory is not stored in one place. The brain deconstructs a piece into patterns and relationships which are stored throughout the brain. The more cues we have (cognitive), the more our motor memory will tie in. When it comes to memory, how well your memory holds up during performance depends on how you encoded the musical information in your brain." (Lois Svard)

"Common risk factors for musicians include excess muscle tension, long practice sessions, insufficient rest, poor posture, muscle fatigue, sudden increase in playing, repertoire scheduling, stress, lack of fitness, insufficient warm up. . . Creating the resilient performer requires Alignment, Breathing, Coordination, Diet, Exercise, Focus, Goals." (John Chong, MD and Ralph Manchester, MD).

"Tips for creating a successful blog: Be genuine. Be interested in people. Focus on your followers: your goal is not to have the largest community but rather a tight community where every member is devoted to the cause. "Everyone" is not your customer. Write for your readers instead of trying to find more readers for your writing. Strive to be so good you'll be proud of yourself later. Be worth sharing. Be undeniably good." (Joy Morin)

"Think collaboratively. We grew up with competition. It's easy to feel bitter if someone else is invited to perform in a prestigious venue and we weren't, or if a student chooses another teacher over us. Try using a more positive, beneficial way of approaching such situations: what do other musicians have that I can learn/benefit from? How can we work together? For example, if "John is taking all the good gigs" versus "I wonder if I can arrange a concert with John so that we can play together and pool audiences?" ... There are ups and downs in our lives and careers. Hectic is okay as long as it's balanced

with time that is quiet and restful and allows for reflection.” (Jani Parsons)

“It’s one thing to know something and have an idea about it. It’s another to actually do it. Practice, practice, practice. You can know how to run a 5 minute mile in theory, but actually doing it is something else.” (James Galway)

“In order to compose, I must be completely alone. It’s not a matter of inspiration. It takes time and the ability to really listen. The compositional process takes an enormous amount of effort and discipline.” (Christos Tsitsaros)

Having students count off before they start to play prompts them to check the time signature, observe the starting dynamics, think of the character and tempo, and notice the articulation of the beginning. Do a Rhythm Run-Through for a new piece. Scan the music and establish the # of beats per measure. Mark tricky spots with *. Count off and tap the rhythm while counting aloud. For the second time, try finger numbers, saying “hold, tie, or rest when appropriate.” . . . Training your fingers to listen is like training your dog to “sit.” The way you say it makes a difference. The tone of voice says “I mean business.” That’s the way you need to count. . . Teach your students to have rhythmic integrity. Ask them if all their notes are honest? It’s like making change for a dollar. If you give someone a dollar, you don’t want 3 quarters in return. . . Give them a heads up on subdivisions, e.g. “here-come-six-teenths, here-come-six-teenths.” (Mary Sallee)

“We’re gypsies when we perform - we never know what’s going to happen. . . After I won a concerto competition at Interlochen my parents put their heads together and determined that it was time for me to have a teacher who could guide me through my next phase of development. They took me to three prospective teachers. The first said, “She’ll never be a pianist - take her away!” The second said, “Yes, I would be happy to teach her but my studio is full. Please check back with me in a year.” Then we went to Peabody Conservatory and I played for the Dean, and he said, “Across the hall is exactly the right teacher for your daughter.” He introduced us to Mieczyslaw Munz, who said: “Would you be willing to give me 3-5 years of Olympic training for your daughter? She will have a long life in music. Happily, they said yes!” (Ann Schein)

“As pianists we are spoiled: we press a key and it works. It needs little preparatory motion... it’s so easy to make sound. We must use our brain to make sure that everything we play actually makes sense. . . In every piece you need a certain way to prepare and practice before you try to play it. It makes a huge difference. . . You need to know how to use energy, and how to save energy.” (Lang Lang)

“A musical instrument is better than a car - it takes you more places. . . Create a fun, safe environment in your studio that encourages creativity. Consider a modification of the Google work model (80% work, 20% creative projects on company time) for your students’ practicing. Allow one day a week off of practice, and to be used for exploration. . . Keep your own inner child active. Improvise 5 minutes a day. Interpret with imagination. PLAY the piano. Break rules, just to see what happens! Explore new books and materials. Read about the composer and the background to the piece. (Wynn Ann Rossi)

“String players have frequent opportunities to practice and perform with others. How can we offer this to our less advanced piano students? Consider the idea of a Trio Musicale performance: use piano solo pieces with added violin/cello parts. There are already plenty of arrangements available, or you can hire an arranger, or even write your own.” (Mary Ann Ranney)

In my off time, I enjoyed a Cirque du Soleil show, a dinner at Mon Ami Gabi opposite the fountains of The Bellagio, holding two 10-pound boa constrictors on The Las Vegas Strip, and hiking at Red Rock Canyon. I’m looking forward to the 2016 conference in San Antonio (April 2-6).

Ms. Elizabeth B. Borowsky,
Executive Director, International Music Institute and Festival USA

PLAY IT FORWARD: STUDENTS ATTEND PIANO CAMP FOR FREE

PUBLISHED IN THE RUTLAND HERALD ON APRIL 6, 2015

BY PATRICK McARDLE, STAFF WRITER



Polly van der Linde, director of the Sonatina piano school, instructs Mount Anthony Union High School senior Makenzie Wicks, of Shaftsbury, at the school on Tuesday. One of van der Linde's adult students is paying for Wicks, who works at the school, to receive piano lessons and other local students at local schools in the Bennington area are also going to be offered free lessons paid for by the adult students.

BENNINGTON — Students at 13 local schools, and a Mount Anthony Union High School senior, will be getting free piano lessons at the Summer Sonatina International Piano Camp this year thanks to adult students concerned about restoring Bennington's reputation as a place where good things happen.

Polly van der Linde, director of Sonatina, said the program, which she is calling PLAY IT FORWARD, started after she noticed the enrollment among younger students, 7 to 16, had declined. She was concerned it might be partially due to an article about heroin use in Bennington that appeared in March 2014.

“Yes, there is a problem in Bennington but I'm someone who likes to keep promoting the good of Bennington. ... Music has a magic way of providing healing value to a lot of people,” she said.

To help out, one couple offered to donate up to \$28,000 as a scholarship for students to spend a week at the summer camp. In response, there have been almost 70 donations for a total of \$16,000. Matched through the original pledge, the school now has \$32,000 for “Play It Forward.”

With the funding in place, van der Linde said she needed to find students. However, she called Sonatina a “best kept secret” locally.

“A lot of people don't know that this exists here and that it has such an international reputation. In the piano world, we're big but for Bennington, not a lot of people know us,” she said.

Van der Linde decided to send letters directly to the leaders of local schools including Bennington's three elementary schools and elementary schools in Shaftsbury, Pownal and Woodford. The letters, which went out Tuesday, invited the music teacher at the school to choose a student who would “best value this program.”

“Too often, things get caught up in red tape so (I decided) I'm just going to give this and see what happens,” van der Linde said.

On Wednesday, van der Linde said she hadn't gotten responses yet from the schools, which also include Mount Anthony Union middle and high schools and some of the church-affiliated local schools like Grace Christian School and the School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales. However, she said she is confident there will be a strong response.

Mount Anthony Union High School senior Makenzie Wicks, of Shaftsbury, will also be getting piano lessons this summer. While she has been the dishwasher at Sonatina for three years and sings in the school chorus, she doesn't know how to play piano.

However, she became friendly with Alfred Castino, a retired Silicon Valley executive who has attended the piano camp three times.

Castino said when he was there most recently, one of his younger classmates joked that he was part of the “lazy generation.” The comment made Castino think of Wicks who he noticed was working hard in the kitchen.

“I asked her, ‘Are you part of the lazy generation?’ She said, ‘No, I live on a farm. I have jobs. I maintain a garden on the farm.’ That’s my kind of person. So I got to know her a little bit. I’m really sympathetic to somebody who doesn’t have the money to do what they really like to do. She’s saving up for college but she told me she’d love to learn,” he said.

Castino, who said he remembered working in a kitchen and washing dishes himself, called Wicks a “really nice, disciplined teenager” and said he decided he wanted to pay her tuition to go from being an employee to a student.

“I like to give directly to somebody if I think they’re deserving and they have a goal and I can help. This is perfect so I’m very happy to do this for her,” he said.

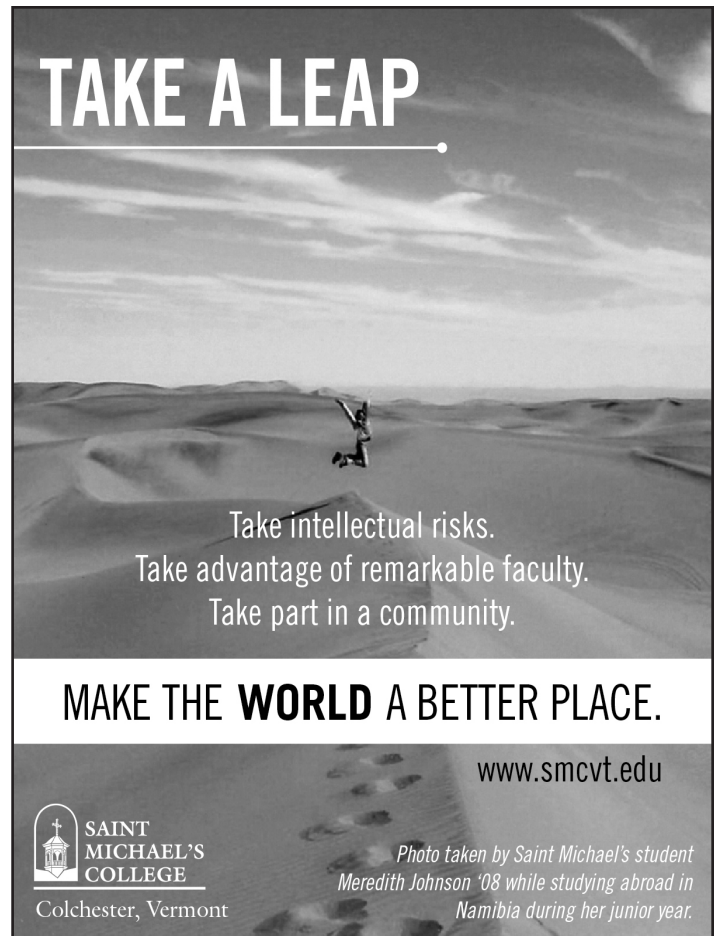
Wicks, who plans to attend the College of St. Rose in Albany, N.Y., and study speech pathology, said she was shocked when van der Linde told her that Castino had paid for her to not only attend Summer Sonatina but receive private lessons. In a letter she wrote to Castino to thank him, Wicks said, “Here I am believing that these things only happen in the movies.”

“Nothing like this happens to me or my family. It’s almost like winning the lottery, it never happens. This kind of stuff doesn’t usually happen. You don’t expect it to happen either,” she said.

About 4,000 students of varying ages have gone through Summer Sonatina in its almost-50-year history. Van der Linde called it a “full camp experience with a focus on piano” which takes place at a home in Old Bennington that has 30 pianos.

Donations to Play It Forward can still be made by contacting the school [at www.sonatina.com](http://www.sonatina.com).

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Photo taken by Saint Michael's student Meredith Johnson '08 while studying abroad in Namibia during her junior year.

Member News

Vermont Virtuosi, Vermont's dynamic chamber music series, presented *I REMEMBER*, music for mezzo-soprano, flutes, harp, and cello. Flutist and artistic director Laurel Ann Maurer were joined by mezzo-soprano Wendy Hoffman, harpist Rita Costanzi, and cellist John Dunlop in a program of music that featured *I REMEMBER*, Michael Cohen's moving composition based on the diary of Anne Frank. Says librettist Enid Futterman of this commission for



L-R, Rita Costanzi, Wendy Hoffman, Laurel Maurer and John Dunlop

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's Chamber Music Series, "*I Remember* is a distillation of the emotional, spiritual and literary journey of a young woman who transcended her crushing circumstances, and her death, by writing." Also on the program was J.S. Bach's *Suite No. 1 in G Major* for solo cello, Henriette Renié's *Contemplation* for solo harp, Jean-Michel Damase's *Sonata* for flute and harp, and the world premiere of *Nocturne* for flute and cello by Vermont composer Erik Nielsen.

The concerts took place in two locations:

Friday, April 24, 7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 82 St. Paul Street, Burlington

Saturday, April 25, 7:30 p.m., Unitarian Church, 130 Main Street, Montpelier

For more information about future concerts, email Lamaurer@sisna.com, visit www.laurelannmaurer.com, or call 802-881-9153.

Laurel Maurer



NEWS OF MY STUDENTS: Alan Chiang, winner of the UVM Concerto Competition's high school division, performed a movement of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 with the UVM Orchestra. Henry and Nathan Wu, duo-pianists, will perform on the 7th Annual "NEXT GENERATION" concert on May 15, Chandler Auditorium, Randolph VT. Teddy Ninh gave a solo recital at the Brownell Library in Essex, and will join with Matthew Wu to give a combined recital at Essex High School in May.

My new solo CD, "Piano Works of Josef Suk, Ernest Chausson, and Max Reger" has been released on the MSR label. Recent area performances have included a solo faculty recital at UVM, a collaboration with soprano Jennifer Bird as part of Bill Reed's, ART OF SINGING series at Saint Michael's College, and a solo concert honoring the memory of the Holocaust presented by the Jewish Community of Greater Stowe.



Paul Orgel



ELAINE GREENFIELD reports that the Transcontinental Piano Duo was truly *transcontinental* this year, beginning their twelve engagements in Pasadena, CA in February, and ending April 19th in Bangor, ME. Concerts and master classes occurred in AZ, CA, VT, CT, and ME.

Studio news includes Greenfield Piano Associates events featuring members in master class with visiting artist Matthew Manwarren at St. Paul's Cathedral: May 8th guest recital at 7:30 PM, May 9th master class at 9:30 AM, and a public recital on May 27th and 29th. The GPA annual recital, *PLAYER'S CHOICE*, takes place on May 27th at 7:30 PM at the Richmond Library as a benefit for the Richmond Seniors; and on May 29th at 7:30 PM in St. Paul's Cathedral. Elaine teaches and performs this summer at the Adamant Music School from July 11 through July 31. Summer events and dates are listed on the Adamant website at Adamant.org. In addition to the July Traditional three week Session, master classes of one week duration occur throughout the summer with John O'Connor, Andre Laplante, and Menahem Pressler. Participation is possible by application; auditing is an option.

Elaine Greenfield

	
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