



SPRING NEWSLETTER

August 10, 2015



GREETINGS TO EVERYONE:

Imagine 50 years ago in 1965 when VMTA was founded during the pre-digital age: no internet, no digital TV, no mobile phones or iPods, no laptops and no drones. Our President was Lyndon B. Johnson. The first US combat troops arrived in Vietnam. Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Johnson was arrested in Selma, AL during demonstrations against voter registration rules. The cost of a first class stamp was 5 cents. Winston Churchill, Nat King Cole and TS Eliot all died in 1965.

Imagine the premiere of *The Sound of Music* as an instant hit which is still popular today. The movie *Dr. Zhivago* was another favorite. *My Fair Lady* was the Academy Award for best picture. The Grammy Award for the record of the year was awarded to *The Girl from Ipanema* and song of the year to *Hello Dolly*.

Imagine teaching music 50 years ago when students practiced on acoustic pianos. There were fewer choices of new music and limited styles for new performers. There were fewer afterschool and weekend activities competing for practice time. Today, music students have access to a new digital world including You Tube, iPods, digital pianos, online computer composition programs such as Music Comp as well as computer music games to learn theory. Teachers and students can take advantage of *SKYPE* as a partner to help reduce makeup lessons, add the option for fun via the internet, or provide extra learning to the challenged student.

Fast forward to 2015 and imagine for real that VMTA has a website and digital archives! Recently, we sponsored a first ever piano deconstruction event in collaboration with the Piano Tuners Guild. VMTA has introduced a Play-a-Thon at the mall and BBVMTA sponsors the popular Monster Concert.

So much has changed over 50 years and yet our mission has remained vital to today's society: to promote music education in Vermont and to encourage growth and professional development by providing opportunities that support teaching, performance, composition and research. Come celebrate with on Friday, October 2, 2015 with a concert and birthday cupcakes.

Marie Johnson, VMTA President

2015 VMTA Calendar

October 5, 2015	Deadline for Fall 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.
January 15-17, 2016	University Mall Play-a-Thon
March 26, 2016	Spring Festival at St. Michaels College

THE VERMONT MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION TURNS 50!!!!

A special concert has been planned to help us celebrate. We'd like you to invite your students and their families and friends to celebrate with us. Please use the form in this newsletter to do that. It will give information about the concert and how to get tickets. Please copy as many as you need and distribute them to your students.

We also will have a cupcake reception following the concert to culminate the celebration. It would be most helpful to have families reserve tickets in advance of the concert so that we plan accordingly regarding the proper number of cupcakes to order.

We are also hoping to have a display to highlight VMTA's past 50 years. Do you have any stories or pictures you'd like to share? Please let Patty Bergeron know. Thank you for your help.

Patty Bergeron, Conventions

President

Marie M. Johnson
(802) 879-8863
mdjkiln@juno.com

President Elect

Unfilled at this time.
Contact Marie Johnson if
interested in this position

Secretary

Claire Black
(518) 796-4188
clairemblack@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Sarah Williams
(802) 223-5307
sarah5432@gmail.com

Convention

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(802) 878-9873
pcberg@myfairpoint.net

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cldkramsey@comcast.net

Competitive Auditions

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(802) 863-2296
william.metcalfe@uvm.edu

Certification

Sylvia Parker NCTM
(802) 223-1172
sylvia.parker@uvm.edu

Newsletter

Teresa Miranda
(802) 893-1919
tgmiranda@comcast.net

Membership

Melody M. Puller
(802) 859-8950
melodypuller@yahoo.com

Web Publicist

Arielle A. Hanudel
(802) 876-7498
gracenotespianostudio@gmail.com

Composer Commissioning

Susan Nicholas NCTM
(802) 244-5537
snicholasvt@msn.com

2015 QUAD STATE CONVENTION
HOSTED BY THE VERMONT MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

ELLEY LONG MUSIC CENTER AT ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE
233 ETHAN ALLEN DRIVE, COLCHESTER, VT

1:00 - 2:15 PM CELEBRATE THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF AMY BEACH

Beach's 150th Birthday will be in 2017. Learn interesting facts about her life and music. This musical journey takes you through all levels of her piano repertoire, starting with a piece she composed at age 4!

2:30 - 4:00 PM COMPOSITING AND IMPROVISATION

This workshop will highlight composing and improvisation techniques used by Amy Beach and others. Creative ideas will be shared to enable teachers and students to improvise and compose. Using left hand patterns and right hand fills. Also, you will hear examples of palindromes, semordnilaps, and ambigrams composed for the piano.

GAIL SMITH is an arranger/composer who has compiled over fifty books for Mel Bay Publications as well as Lillianas and FJH. She has written numerous articles for Clavier magazine and other periodicals. She is an advocate for women composers and is excited to share her knowledge of Amy Beach both as a concert pianist and composer.



5:00 -7:00 PM PRE - CONCERT RECEPTION (for those attending the evening Concert)

Celebrate VMTA's 50th anniversary with pre-concert hors d'oeuvres.
Please RSVP by September 21, 2015

7:30 CONCERT: BRIAN CONNELLY, PIANIST (TICKET REQUIRED- SEE SEPARATE ORDER FORM)

To help VMTA celebrate it's 50th Anniversary: The program will consist of:

- RACHMANINOFF** Eight Etudes-tableaux, Op. 33
- CHOPIN** Polonaise-Fantasia, Op. 61
- DEBUSSY** Selections from Twelve Etudes
- JALBERT** Preludes
- BOLCOM** The Poltergeist-Rag Fantasy
- Bolcom and Albright** Brass Knuckles

PIANIST, BRIAN CONNELLY's performances span an exceptionally broad range of historical and modern repertoires. Born in Detroit, he attended the University of Michigan, where he studied with famed Bartok protégé Gyorgy Sandor, and with American virtuoso Theodore Lettvin. Mr. Connelly teaches piano performance and chamber music for the BM, MM, AD, and DMA programs at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Houston, Texas.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A DESSERT RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE CONCERT.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

MCCARTHY ARTS CENTER, ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

1 WINOOSKI PARK, COLCHESTER, VT

9:00 - 10:30 BELA BARTOK: PEASANT JEWELS



SYLVIA PARKER'S Quad State session features Béla Bartók. She has pictures and stories from his 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. He 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. 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 of some of them. Parker will show his field notations and research documents alongside scores of his piano arrangements. Young students from each of the four states at the Quad State meeting will perform pieces from Bartók's 150-plus piano arrangements.

SYLVIA PARKER is Senior Lecturer of Music at the University of Vermont, where she teaches piano and music theory. She performs frequently as piano soloist and ensemble player in Vermont, nationally and internationally. Her new CD entitled, *BÉLA BARTÓK: PEASANT JEWELS* is published by Centaur Records (2014) and includes his complete piano settings of authentic peasant melodies. Her journal publications about Bartók include *BÉLA BARTÓK'S OTHER MICROCOSMOS* in MTNA e-Journal (2014), *A RIVERTON RETREAT: ROYAL CHARTER TO STATE FOREST* in Vermont History (Winter/Spring 2010), *BÉLA BARTÓK'S ARAB MUSIC RESEARCH AND COMPOSITION* in *Studia Musicologica* (2008), and *BARTÓK AT THE CROSSROADS: A CLASSICAL SONATINA FROM FIVE RUMANIAN FOLK DANCES* in College Music Symposium (2003).

10:45-11:15 AM REMARKS BY GARY INGLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO, MTNA

12:00-12:45 LUNCH

12:45-1:30 STATE MEETINGS

1:30-4:30 WELLNESS WORKSHOP. PRESENTER: DR NICHOLAS QUARRIER PT,DPT,OCS.

Why do so many musicians get hurt playing their instruments? What actually is tendonitis? How do we prevent these injuries? This 3-hour workshop will examine all of these issues. We will discuss how poor posture, muscle tension, and stress cause physical injuries. The topic of "tendonitis" will be reviewed: why some people have tendonitis for months and other for days, and how to take care of it/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 musicians stretch and what exercises are best.



The workshop is planned to discuss the causes of injury in the first half followed by a break and discussion/workshop in exercises for musicians (Exercise Pearls). Attendees are asked to bring their instruments, in that, as time permits demonstrations may be used to help understand the various topics.

Dr Quarrier is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy at Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY. 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. (www.healthymusicianworkshop.com)

REGISTRATION FORM
2015 QUAD STATE CONVENTION
ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE, COLCHESTER VT
OCTOBER 2-3, 2015

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ Phone:() _____

TOWN/STATE/ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

REGISTRATION RATES

MTNA MEMBER: \$50.00 _____

NON-MTNA MEMBER: \$80.00 _____

NON-MTNA MEMBER, BUT A MEMBER OF MENC: \$60.00 _____

MTNA MEMBER AND SPOUSE: \$60.00 _____

STUDENT MTNA MEMBERS (CONVENTION ONLY): Free _____

LUNCH SATURDAY WILL BE A DELI BUFFET \$14.00 _____

please request lunch by 9/21

FRIDAY EVENING CONCERT

Adult \$20.00 _____

Student \$10.00 _____

Senior (65 and over) \$15.00 _____

TOTAL _____

SEND FORM AND CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO VMTA TO:

Patricia Bergeron
166 West Street
Essex Jct., VT 05452

Any Questions? Call Patty Bergeron at (802) 878-9873 or email at pcberg@myfairpoint.net

Hotel Information

The following hotels have rooms reserved for Quad State. Please mention Vermont Music Teachers Association when booking to receive a special rate. Be advised you will need to make these reservations well in advance. Most have "book by" dates and rooms will be released to the general public after those dates.

Courtyard by Marriott Burlington/Williston

177 Hurricane Lane, Williston, VT 05495

(802) 879-0101

\$159 per night- book by 8/28 (cancellations must be made by 9/18)

Holiday Inn

1068 Williston Rd, South Burlington, VT, 05403

(802) 863-6363

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Days Inn

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

Invitation to teachers:

At the Quad State convention, Sylvia Parker plans to incorporate performances by piano students from each of the four states into her session on Bela Bartok. She will juxtapose Bartok's field recordings of authentic peasant melodies and piano arrangements of corresponding tunes. Selections that would be particularly appropriate are listed below. Some are elementary and some are more advanced. 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

MUSIC TO CHOOSE FROM:

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)

The Vermont Music Teachers Association Turns 50!!!!

Please join your teacher and fellow students and their families to celebrate. A special concert has been planned with pianist Brian Connelly. The program will consist of:

RACHMANINOFF Eight Etudes-tableaux, Op. 33

CHOPIN Polonaise-Fantasia, Op. 61

DEBUSSY Selections from Twelve Etudes

JALBERT Preludes *

BOLCOM The Poltergeist-Rag Fantasy

BOLCOM AND ALBRIGHT Brass Knuckles

* World Premier- Commissioned by VMTA in honor of their 50th anniversary



PIANIST, BRIAN CONNELLY's, performances span an exceptionally broad range of historical and modern repertoires. Born in Detroit, he attended the University of Michigan, where he studied with famed Bartok protégé Gyorgy Sandor, and with American virtuoso Theodore Lettvin. Mr. Connelly teaches piano performance and chamber music for the BM, MM, AD, and DMA programs at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Houston, Texas.

Pierre Jalbert (b. 1967) is one of the most highly regarded American composers of his generation, earning widespread notice for his richly colored and superbly crafted scores. Focusing primarily on instrumental works, Jalbert has developed a musical language that is engaging, expressive, and deeply personal. Among his many honors are the Rome Prize, the BBC Masterprize, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Stoeger Award, given biennially "in recognition of significant contributions to the chamber music repertory," and a 2010 American Academy of Arts and Letters award. Pierre grew up in northern Vermont and began piano lessons at the age of five, immersing himself in the classical repertoire. Jalbert is Professor of Composition and Theory at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music in Houston, where he has taught since 1996, and he serves as one of the artistic directors of Musiqa, a Houston-based contemporary chamber ensemble.

Please join us for a dessert reception following the concert.

Please reserve your tickets by completing the form below.

FRIDAY EVENING CONCERT, OCTOBER 2, 2015 - ELLEY-LONG MUSIC CENTER AT ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____

Town/State/Zip: _____

Email address: _____

		NUMBER OF TICKETS	
TICKETS	Adult	\$20.00	_____
	Student	\$10.00	_____
	Senior (65 and over)	\$15.00	_____
	Total		_____

Send form and check made payable to VMTA to:

Patricia Bergeron
166 West Street
Essex Jct., VT 05452

BÉLA BARTÓK: Peasant Jewels by Sylvia Parker

Published by the Times Argus/Rutland Herald on May 14, 2105

Written by Jim Lowe



Sylvia Parker's new album of Béla Bartók's folk music reflects not only the deep musical abilities of the Berlin pianist, but her lifelong passion for the Hungarian composer who looked to his homeland for inspiration.

"Béla Bartók: Peasant Jewels," a two-disc set just released by Centaur, can be enjoyed in two ways: one, as a University of Vermont senior lecturer's compilation of Bartók's complete arrangements of folk melodies for piano, or as a concert pianist's sympathetic and excellent performances of intriguing and beautiful music.

For this critic, it was mostly the latter.

Bartók (1881-1945) loved the folk music of his native Hungary and it inspired his life's work. He collected thousands of peasant melodies from not only Hungary, but from sounding Eastern European regions. From these, he composed hundreds of arrangements for voices and various instruments. Of those, some 150 are for solo piano.

Bartók, a successful concert pianist, made them more palatable for audiences by spicing up the rhythms and harmonization. Parker includes a few of the absolutely charming field recordings of singers and instruments the pieces are based upon — and comparing the versions is simply fascinating.

According to Parker's excellent liner notes, Bartók wrote, "We must penetrate into ... the special character of a folk melody ... feel it, and bring it out in sharp contours by the appropriate setting. The composition round a folk melody ... must be a work of inspiration."

Parker, who has long taught piano and theory at UVM, has made a study of this composer who lived a summer in Riverton. Her performances of these short piano pieces capture Bartók's spirit, reflecting the varying character of these miniatures. The playing is fluid, with a light singing touch and rhythmic sensitivity

With beautiful articulation, Parker delivers the music's intimacy and simple profundity.

The first of the two CDs is "For Children" (BB 53), written in 1908-09, divided between Hungarian (42) and Slovak (43) melodies. Most are less than a minute; the longest is 1:47.

The Hungarian melodies sound a bit like nursery tunes with a slightly spicy, modal edge. Many sound familiar but with irregular rhythms. Some were written to be played by beginners, while others are more advanced. In fact, they seem to increase in complexity and difficulty progressively.

The Slovak melodies have a slightly different harmonic and rhythmic flavor, perhaps a bit less acerbic. Some are more complex, deeper, with that same sense of familiarity — with a twist.

There is no sameness in these 82 miniatures, only endless variety. Parker said this is the original version, not the revision published posthumously in 1947.

Disc 2 offers more variety, including works heard in the concert hall. The Six Romanian Folk Dances (BB 68) of

1915 are regular concert fare, though they are simply Bartók's arrangements of authentic folk melodies. Parker also included three of his 1932-39 "Mikrokosmos" (BB 105), eliminating those that were more the composer's work than the original.

The 15 Hungarian Peasant Songs (BB 79) of 1914-18 are certainly meant for the concert hall. They're very different — darker, modal, more complex, more strident, much bigger and more virtuosic. In much the same vein is the six-dance movement Petite Suite (BB 113) of 1936.

Contrasting that are two of the composer's 1908 10 Easy Piano Pieces. There are also 20 Romanian Christmas Carols (BB 65) of 1915, bearing no relationship to what Americans know. But they're folksy, charming, intriguing and very short — and some are quite complex rhythmically.

Parker has beautifully combined erudition and heartfelt performance in creating a window into the deeply authentic ethnic world of Béla Bartók.

** Another review was published by SEVEN DAYS: BÉLA BARTÓK: PEASANT JEWELS BY SYLVIA PARKER on May 20, 2015, written by Amy Lilly. You can read this article at*

<http://www.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/bela-bartok-peasant-jewels-by-sylvia-parker/Content?oid=2613585>

** Sylvia Parker's CD, BÉLA BARTÓK: PEASANT JEWELS, Centaur Records.*

<http://www.centaurrecords.com/store/crc-3401-3402-bela-bartok-peasant-jewels.htm>



Béla Bartók:
Peasant Jewels
Sylvia Parker, piano



CRC 3401/3402 Bela Bartok: Peasant Jewels

Description

Bela Bartok: Peasant Jewels Sylvia Parker, piano

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Welcome to Our New Member

Hello, I'd like to 'introduce' myself to the other members of the VMTA. My name is Nancy Osborne, and I live & teach piano lessons on my Steinway M grand in South Burlington. I love children of all ages & I love to teach! My students, from the young to adults, range from beginning to advanced. Although I began my piano studies in elementary school {Ella Ahearn, group classes!} by the time I was 15 I discovered an affinity & love for the pipe organ. My studies on that instrument took me to Claire Coci, a renowned concert organist, & on to the Eastman School of Music. My past teachers have included Eleanor Neroda, Dr. Claire Coci, Dr. Richard Peek, David Bradshaw & Mathilde McKinney. I have 4 adult children, who have been my main teachers in life. For almost 30 years I was a professional church musician, holding jobs as Director of Music & Choirmaster~Organist for churches in New Jersey, South Carolina & Vermont. In 1999 I had to take early retirement to provide full-time care to a child of mine. At that time I was the Director of Music [organist-choirmaster] at the First Congregational Church in Burlington. I have extensive experience in training children's choirs, to the RSCM [Royal School of Church Music] standard, as well as adult choirs. I did quite a bit of accompanying & performing with singers and instrumentalists, including vocal coaching with young opera singers. {Goldovsky Institute, Opera North & Vermont Opera Theater}. I have also done some orchestral conducting. For a few years I played the harpsichord, and even helped a teacher build one from a Zuckermann kit. I have given private lessons on the pipe organ and the piano throughout my music career.



VMTA 2015-2016 Membership Directory

MTNA has mailed out your 2015-2016 Dues. I will be compiling our VMTA membership directory in late August to early September and would love to have all of your contact information included. If any of your contact information has changed please contact Teresa Miranda at 802-893-1919 or tgmiranda@comcast.net.

Teresa Miranda, Newsletter Editor



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VMTA Treasurer's Report, June 30, 2015

ACCOUNT BALANCES

Money Market Account

Starting balance	10,897.23	
Interest Income	21.81	
Ending Balance		10,919.04

Checking Account

Starting Balance	1,715.29	
Net Income/Expense	254.80	
Ending Balance		1,970.09

OVERALL TOTAL **12,889.13**

INCOME AND EXPENSE

Income

Competitive Auditions Income		100.00
Performance Entry Fee	40.00	
Composition Entry Fee	60.00	
Donor Program		225.00
Fall Convention Registrations		977.00
Member Dues		1,040.00
Spring Festival Registrations		860.00
Sponsor Advertisements		1,300.00
Total Income		4,502.00

Expense

Competitive Auditions Expense		180.72
Composition Judge	50.00	
Composition postage/supplies	5.72	
Facilities	75.00	
Performance Judge	50.00	
Fall Convention Expense		1,207.64
Clinician	950.00	
Facilities	100.00	
Lunches, supplies, postage, copies	157.64	
Member Support		944.99
Music-COMP subscription	175.00	
Member Recognition	19.99	
Professional Development Grants	750.00	
MTNA Foundation		100.00
MTNA Nat'l Conference		1,045.01
Raffle contribution	45.01	
Travel Reimbursement	1,000.00	
Newsletter Expense		61.00
Officer Expense		58.80
Publicity Expense		189.32
VYOA ad and directory listing	125.00	
Website	64.32	
Spring Festival Expenses*		459.72
Total Expense		4,247.20

NET Income and Expense **254.80**

*DONATIONS-IN-KIND, EXPENSES-IN-KIND (to the extent reported)

Saint Michael's College - Sponsor Ad		-200.00
Keurig coffee maker and gift certificate for auction		242.00
Auction item for MTNA Foundation - Conference		-242.00
Saint Michael's College - Spring Festival Facilities		840.00
net value		640.00

Member News




Pianist and VMTA member, **Claire Black**, presented solo recitals to celebrate the spirit of summer. The program featured sprightly dances by Debussy, Granados, and Bartok; ballades of Debussy and Chopin; and four of the jazzy Seven Virtuoso Etudes based on George Gershwin songs, by Earl Wild. Concerts took place 7/10/15 at the Richmond Free Library and 7/11/15 at the First Baptist Church in Burlington.



I am preparing A Piano Teacher's Legacy: Selected Writings of Richard Chronister for a third printing. I am the editor of this book which was first published by the Frances Clark Center for Keyboard Pedagogy in 2005. Richard was one of my teachers when I was a student at Westminster Choir College and The New School for Music Study. I will be attending the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy this summer in Lombard, IL, after which I will interview another of my college teachers, Elvina Pearce, for a possible article/interview to be included later in Clavier Companion magazine. T

Edward Darling



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<http://www.smcvt.edu>

Vermont Piano Service

Ben Giroux
64 Paquette Road
St. Albans, VT 05478
(802) 343-1333

Ben@vermontpiano.com
<http://www.vermontpiano.com>