



# VERMONT MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

*Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.*

## Winter Newsletter

### A Message from the President



It is invigorating to be the President of an organization supported by a Board of committed individuals who understand how each one's effort strengthens the organization. Each Board member leads a full life and yet finds time to support our mission and each other. Our treasurer, Sarah Williams, finds that being involved in VMTA is inspiring. While doing work for VMTA, she developed a web site for her own studio and after many years of searching found the perfect name for her studio. Our web publicist, Lisa Goodrich, is reaching beyond her comfort zone as she has learned how to maintain and update the VMTA web site. Check it out at [www.vermontmta.net](http://www.vermontmta.net). Melody Puller is our new membership chair. In her first year, our VMTA membership is up 15% and we lead the nation in overall growth. She has more new ideas for VMTA! You have recently heard from Lilly Ramsey regarding our upcoming spring festival. There is no one more organized as she runs our spring festival so very well. Patty Bergeron did a fantastic job organizing our fall convention. The

entire convention was the educational highlight of the year. Liz Metcalfe graciously leads our efforts in competitive auditions and composition competition and VMTA had a representative at the high school level for Eastern Division in piano and composition. Did you know that our Certification Chair, Sylvia Parker, is willing to give consultation sessions in the various steps to become certified? VMTA has five MTNA certified members and we need more! Lynn Smith has commissioned Diane Huling to be our commissioned composer who will debut her piece at Quad State in Maine in October. Have you put Quad State on your calendar yet? All organizations need excellent records to document official business, and VMTA is lucky to have Arielle Hanudel as our new secretary. It has been a steep learning curve for Arielle to understand the many acronyms of MTNA and keep up with the fast paced discussions at our meetings. Through it all, she is so good natured. Terry Miranda took a graphic arts class at a local college because of her interests and VMTA is the winner with an exciting newsletter. Terry is helping VMTA enter the 21st century with her new ideas and is even developing a new logo for our stationary. Even former board members pitch in when needed as Barbara Williams did when she helped with our spring festival newsletter.

Thanks to all my VMTA colleagues for their inspiring work. Think about where you might like to help the VMTA and contact me about your interests.

**Marie Johnson, President, VMTA**

## 2012 - 2013 VMTA Calendar

- March 9, 2013** VMTA Spring Festival at St. Michael's College, McCarthy Arts Center  
**March 9-13, 2013** MTNA National Conference in Anaheim, California  
**May 13-20, 2013** National Guild of Piano Teachers Auditions  
**May, 15, 2013** VMTA Spring Newsletter Deadline for articles, reports and member news  
**October 5, 2013** Quad State Convention at University of Southern Maine, Corthell Hall

Our 2013 Quad State Convention will be hosted by the Maine Music Teachers Association on October 5th, 2013. The details of the day have not been completed but prepare for an exciting day filled with...

- Keynote Speaker: Robert Duke
- Session: Alan Wittenberg, music therapist
- Panel Discussion: "Music and the Brain" - Robert Duke, Alan Wittenberg, local neurologist
- Commissioned Composer Concert

Mark your calendars now so you can join us at the University of Southern Maine for our Fall Quad State Convention.

The 2013 VMTA Spring Festival will be held on Saturday, March 9th at St. Michael's College McCarthy Arts Center in Colchester, Vermont.



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### President Elect

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

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### Composer Commissioning

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## VMTA To Launch New Donor Program

VMTA is about to launch a new donor program to expand the base of VMTA supporters and increase revenue allowing our VMTA to become more financially stable and increase programs for students and members. In the past, VMTA has not asked anyone for charitable contributions. Instead, VMTA has solicited sponsors to advertise their businesses on our website and in our newsletter. Presently, we have twelve sponsors adding \$1300 annually to our budget.

While we are always working to increase our number of sponsors, the VMTA Board has endorsed a new donor program. Each of the 60+ members of VMTA has committed parents who support the music education of their children. Many also work for businesses that would support our organization with charitable contributions and/or matching contributions. The donor program would be different than that of our sponsorship program because VMTA would not provide advertising in our publications or on our website. Instead, donors would be listed in our fall and spring program publications. All contributions would be tax deductible as our VMTA is a non-profit organization. Additionally, VMTA is now registered with the Vermont Secretary of State as a non-profit, tax exempt organization.

It is believed that many parents will support VMTA just by asking. *The major reason why people do not give is because they are not asked!* Asking parents who know the VMTA should be an easy ask as our teachers are known and represent a profession that they are already supporting by having their children enrolled in music lessons.

Monies raised by the new donor program would be used to expand programs for students and increase the training and educational opportunities for teachers.

Here is how it would work. A sample "ask" letter will be provided to all teachers. Teachers can then send the letter to the parents of their students and ask that contributions be sent to the VMTA treasurer. The sample letter can be used as presented or personalized by each teacher.

The VMTA Board has set the giving levels as follows:

Up to \$25	Andante Level
\$26- \$99	Allegro Level
\$100 - \$199	Vivace Level
\$200 +	Presto Level

Most non-profit organizations have donor programs. The donor program for VMTA will be rolled out soon and all VMTA members will receive sample letters by e-mail or mail. Your cooperation and participation is very much appreciated.

For further information, please call me (879-8863) or e-mail [mdjkiln@juno.com](mailto:mdjkiln@juno.com).

**Marie Johnson**



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Many children with a passion for music are financially unable to pursue their dreams. At the MusicLink Foundation, we give kids in financial need who show interest and commitment the opportunity to study with professional music teachers. We link nominated students with volunteer teachers who provide lessons on partial to full scholarship up to the age of 18. Our vision is simply: Anyone who has musical potential should be given the opportunity to nurture this musical promise to its full extent.

MusicLink has reached thousands of students nationally, and we just celebrated our 20th year reaching 3 important goals: We linked our 5,000th student, we are in all 50 states and we raised over \$20,000 by December, 2012! MusicLink teachers may give group or private lessons in classical, pop/rock, jazz or other genres on any instrument or voice.

We invite you to join us individually or encourage colleagues to join with you. Let us help you start a MusicLink program in your organization, school, or community.

Any teacher wanting to learn more about MusicLink should contact Judy Vanesse, NE Regional Coordinator at [jvan2006@comcast.net](mailto:jvan2006@comcast.net) or (802) 295-9092. AND..... if any teacher is already discounting lessons to a student, you already are a MusicLink teacher by your generosity and should register as one of our volunteer teachers and start taking advantage of the many discounts and opportunities for you and your student/s.”

**Judy Vanesse**

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## **VMTA/MTNA 2012 Performance and Composition Competitions**

The VMTA/MTNA 2012 Performance and Composition Competitions were presented at the Richmond Library on November 18th following the fall recital of the BBVMTA. Pianist Tyler Emerson, the only entrant and therefore the declared official Vermont State Representative in the Senior Piano Performance Competition, performed his complete program of compositions by Mozart and Chopin for Judge/Adjudicator Paul Orgel. This was followed by a performance of the composition by Jacob Morton-Black, State Representative in the Senior Composition Competition. His piece, “Three Russian Scenes”, which had already been submitted to Vermont composition judge Peter Hamlin and then forwarded to the judges for the Eastern Division competition, was performed by Berta Frank, flute, and Claire Black, piano.

An audience of enthusiastic students, parents and teachers welcomed both student competitors and the performances, and wished them well in the next level of the competitions at the Eastern Division meeting. Special thanks to Berta and Claire for their time and efforts in performing Jacob’s composition, and congratulations to Marie-Helene Belanger, teacher of Tyler Emerson, and Sandi MacLeod, teacher of Jacob Morton-Black.

**Liz Metcalfe**

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## Fall Convention 2012



The VMTA fall convention was held on Saturday, September 22 at the Richmond Free Library. It was an exciting day full of lots of wonderful information for those that attended. The day began with 4 sessions presented by Dr. Jane Magrath, professor of piano and pedagogy at the University of Oklahoma. Jane's presentations were motivating and full of much information.



In the afternoon Sandi MacLeod presented an informational session about Music-COMP (formerly the Vermont MIDI Project). As VMTA members you also have access to the Music-COMP program. Please be sure to see how you can use this in your studios.

It was exciting to see friends from past as well as welcome many new members.

**Patty Bergeron**



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## National Guild of Piano Teachers Auditions

The dates for this years auditions will be May 13-20. Auditions will be held in the McCarthy Arts Center at St. Michael's College. Please let Patty Bergeron, local guild chair, know of your plans to participate. E-mail her at [pberg@myfairpoint.net](mailto:pberg@myfairpoint.net). You may also phone her at 878-9873 if you have questions or would like information how to join Guild.

**Patty Bergeron**

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## Sharing documents by email or from the Website

Some members are experienced computer users and some are not. For those who are not, there is help available. Items that are to be linked from the website (for instance) usually need to be in PDF format, and not everyone has software that will create a PDF file. If you would like to share something by email (a poster or report or document, for example), or if you would like to have a link for it on our website, you can send a file or a printed page to Sarah Williams or Teresa Miranda and it can then be converted for accurate, secure distribution. Getting approval for distribution is a separate step, of course, which you can do by contacting Marie Johnson.

**Sarah Williams**

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## 2012 Changes to the VMTA Constitution & Bylaws and Registering as a Non-Profit Corporation in Vermont

Before June 2012, our Constitution and Bylaws were last updated in 2006. The Board of Directors began a series of changes last June by updating the definition of “quorum” for two situations. Specifically, the Bylaws may be amended at a Board meeting attended by a majority of its members (rather than by at least 8 members), and the Board may transact business as long as a majority of members (including the President or President-Elect) are present (rather than 8 members). Also, a new section was added to validate Board decisions arrived at through email discussions and that such decisions are to be recorded in the official minutes. In addition, Board positions were revised to exclude Hospitality, Archives, and Publicity and to include Web Publicist. Another group of changes was made as part of the process to register as a non-profit corporation in Vermont. These changes include the addition of “Inc.” to our name, clarification and update of the purpose and limits of VMTA, and the addition of a registered agent for contact purposes. Finally, a few capitalization and syntax improvements were made in November. All of these changes were reviewed and accepted by MTNA and the VMTA Board. VMTA has been registered as a non-profit corporation in Vermont since late November. The first biennial report is due to the Secretary of State by April 30, 2013.

Sarah Williams

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Do you want to take your professionalism to the next level? Did you know that the [MTNA Professional Certification Program](#) exists to accomplish that goal? Certification is a process that validates an individual's qualifications for a specific field of professional practice. It demonstrates to employers, clients and peers that which the individual knows and is able to do. It signifies commitment to continued excellence in professional practice. In addition, it increases visibility, builds credibility, provides a goal for personal professional achievement, and validates expertise for the individual and to those outside the field. The MTNA Certification Program exists for teachers who teach music to students of any age level in private or group settings. The program is based upon a set of five standards defining what a competent music teacher should know and be able to do.

For more information about the Certification Program, visit the [website](#) or contact the national headquarters at (888) 512-5278 or [mtnacertification@mtna.org](mailto:mtnacertification@mtna.org).

## Additions to Membership Directory

Your Membership Directory included all members that renewed or joined the VMTA by September 5, 2012. The following members are not included in your directory. We would like to welcome our new members.

### **\*Sadie Danforth-Brightman**

405 Hall Rd  
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Teaching field: Piano

### **\*Edward Darling**

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### **\*Melissa Dickerson**

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### **Susan Downing**

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### **\*Joan Bach Foster**

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Piano, Voice

### **\*Louise Gauthier**

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### **\*Vicki Gauthier**

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### **Victor Gould**

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Piano

### **\*Norine Grant**

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Early Childhood Music

### **Susanna Guthmann**

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### **Jane Chase Helms**

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### **\*Petr Kepka**

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[www.perfectpianist.com](http://www.perfectpianist.com)  
Teaching Field: Piano

### **\*Sara Lourie**

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### **\*Linda Rizvi**

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802-865-0471  
Piano

### *2012-2013 Membership Directory Legend*

*\* (before name) = member of Burlington Branch VMTA*

*NCTM (after name) = Nationally Certified Teacher of Music*

*Contact Sylvia Parker for information concerning MTNA certification, or visit the MTNA website, [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org).*

## Member News



**Alison Cerutti** will be performing the Brahms Piano Quartet in G Minor, Op. 25, with her duo partner Elizabeth Reid and Sofia Hirsch and John Dunlop on the new Steinway in White Chapel, Norwich University, at 12:10 PM on Tuesday, February 5. This is the third concert of the 2012-2013 Norwich University Classical Series sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts, and is free and open to the public. Ms. Cerutti and Ms. Reid are also members of Arioso, a chamber group which will be performing works of Loeffler, Schumann, and Erik Nielsen on March 10 at 3PM at the United Church in Northfield.

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**Pianist Diana Fanning** is looking forward to a busy spring. Three of her students at Middlebury College will perform senior recitals. Diana will play concerts in NH and VT with her long-time Duo partner, cellist Dieuwke Davydov, and heads to Prague to play a solo recital in early May. The Davydov-Fanning Duo plays at Middlebury College, at the MCFA Concert Hall, on Sunday, April 21, at 4:00 PM, and at St. Paul's Cathedral, Burlington, on Sunday, June 16, at 3:00 PM.



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**Elaine Greenfield** is happy to report several recent and upcoming professional events. Elaine and Transcontinental Piano Duo partner, Janice Meyer Thompson, recently returned from a six university tour of Wisconsin and Iowa, performing a concert and presenting a master class at each school, plus a teacher presentation at U of W at Eau Claire and two days of adjudicating for the Wisconsin Collegiate MTNA Artist Competition. The Duo next performs three concerts in Arizona in March, and one here in Burlington on Friday, April 18th, 7:30 PM, for St. Paul's Cathedral Arts. They will present a joint master class Saturday, April 19th, 9:30 - noon, which is free and open to the public. In addition to Greenfield Piano Associates participants, there will be room for one, possibly two, advanced students for this unique class which features joint instruction by the Duo. Teachers are invited to recommend student participants. The Duo also travels to Arkansas June 7/8 as two-day featured guests for ASMTA Conference at University of Arkansas-Little Rock, performing a recital, master class, and workshop presentation. Elaine Greenfield leads a GPA workshop on Saturday Feb. 9th, focusing on piano duet repertoire and performance. Greenfield Piano Associates will present a recital for St. Paul's Cathedral Arts on Friday, May 31, 7:30 pm.







**Petr Pavel Kepka** is one of the finest representatives of the Czech Organ School with more than two hundred years of tradition. He was born in 1957 in the Czech Republic (former Czechoslovakia) and has become an organist, pianist, composer, conductor and musical theorist with international credentials. He began the study of piano at the age of seven and organ at the age of twelve under Prof. Karel Hrubis (founder of the Electronic Organ School in Eastern Europe). He then studied under Prof. Petr Sovadina (winner of Leipzig International Bach Organ Competition and winner of Prague Spring, The International Organ Competition), Prof. Milan Slechta (leader of The Czech Organists School) and Prof. Jaroslav Tuma (winner of International

Competition in Organ Improvisations in Holland). In 1970 Petr Pavel Kepka was awarded for best performance at international competitive concert in Gera Eastern Germany for Brahms Rhapsody G-minor Op.79 No.2 and Chopin Revolutionary Etude Op.10 No.12 in C-Minor. He finished his piano studies under Anna Žáčková a student of famous Czech pianist and teacher Ivan Moravec, who had studied with Ilona Štěpánová-Kurzová, daughter of Vilém Kurz and Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli. He continued his education in music theory and conducting under Prof. Ivan Kurz (leading composer of contemporary music in Europe) and Prof. Josef Macenauer (conductor of The State Opera House). As a student at the Charles' University in Prague he received the honor of Laureate at the Organ Competition in Prague and the International Competition of Young Musicians in Opava in the early eighties. During his studies he recognized the power of pipeless organs that utilize sound tracking and sampling technology and at the same time he became familiar with a wide range of classical organs of various tonal and historical mechanical designs. After graduation he enhanced his skills by attending Organ Master Courses in Leipzig, Germany. His interest in church music and choir conducting brought him to several classes taught by Prof. Bohumil Korejs (leading authority in Gregorian chant at Theological Faculty in Prague).

He assumed his post of Organist and Music Director at the Cathedral of St. Bartholomew in Plzen in 1989, where as an innovative choral conductor he built up a new ecumenical choir from many churches and expanded its repertoire to a wide variety of musical styles. His performance of his Baptismal Mass became a musical event of the year. During his last years in Czechoslovakia he concentrated on conducting a local symphonic orchestra. His last work in Europe was Mozart's Requiem. As organ recitalist he soon captivated the audience with his uncommon musical interpretations and performed in many of the great cathedrals and concert halls nationwide.

Since his arrival to Vermont in 1990 he has gained wide-spread admiration for performances on both classical organs and synthesizers. He has worked as organist and choir director in several Catholic and Episcopal churches in Vermont and New York. Petr distinguished himself as a composer by the world premier of his Fugue G minor for flute, oboe, English horn and harpsichord that took place at Trinity Church in Shelburne during the Pentecost Mass in 1995. A year later it was also Trinity Episcopal Church in Shelburne where he founded an ensemble "Bis! Bis!" that performed classical concerts for local residents and the community center at Wake Robin in Shelburne.

Computer literacy and a strong technical knowledge of sequencer programming made an impact on his distinguished artistic career. He has composed numerous works of contemporary church, vocal and chamber orchestra music. In 1993-1994 he played an active part in developing and implementing an interactive teaching method for Clavinova pianos, working closely with Contois Music, Inc. as sequencer programmer and composer. Petr owns a company LAUDATE, that specializes in printing old Czech organ music, English translation and publishing of European Christmas carols, contemporary music arrangement, sequencer programming, video production and sound tracking. Teaching music and music theory has been a passion for him since the days he himself was still a student. He is currently very active in giving private piano lessons to children and adults.



Two of my students, Alan Chiang, and Teddy Ninh, both age 15, were selected to play in the annual Young Artists Concert at St. Paul’s Church in Burlington.

I only recently learned that Alan has his own channel on youtube. If you search for ABCVermont, you can see and hear his recent performances of Chopin (Ballade No. 2), Beethoven (“Appassionata” 1st movement), and much else.

Teddy Ninh has won the high school division of UVM’s Concerto Competition. He will perform the 2nd movement of Shostakovich’s Piano Concerto No. 2 with the UVM Orchestra in a concert on April 2.

## Paul Orgel

**Marilyn Taggart** has had a busy fall, unlike the Fall of 2011, when students could not get to her because of Hurricane Irene and no roads. She had deep brain stimulation surgery in August which has effectively erased the severe hand tremor which made it impossible for her to write and was starting to affect her piano playing. If you or anyone you know has essential tremor or Parkinson’s disease, get in touch with her—she recommends this approach highly and would be glad to talk about it.

The big news from her studio is the performance of her student Mitchell Goff, a 17 year old student and violinist with the VYO, who played the first movement of the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto with the VYO on Dec. 31, as part of Burlington’s First Night celebration. He did a fabulous job and will remember this experience for the rest of his life. Many a fine pianist has never played with a symphony orchestra, and this was the second time for Mitchell— he played Mozart K467 in CM. with the Burlington Chamber Orchestra in 2011. Bravo Mitchell!



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# 2013 National Conference



March 9–13 ★ Disneyland® Hotel® at the Disneyland® Resort ★ Anaheim, California

The 2013 MTNA National Conference will be a “magical” one at the Disneyland® Hotel at the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, California, March 9–13. Acclaimed piano duo Anderson & Roe will headline the evening concerts. Rick Beyer, a popular author, documentary producer and public speaker will give the keynote presentation. Pedagogy Saturday will feature five topics: jazz and popular piano, recreational music making, teaching those with special needs, collegiate/young professional, and advanced piano/teaching artistry. Attendees will be encouraged to mix and match the sessions to maximize their pre-conference experience. Other sessions by internationally known pedagogues will give attendees tools to take back to their studios. Topics pertinent to teachers in all areas will be featured throughout the conference.

MTNA will present three master classes at the 2013 MTNA National Conference. Ingrid Jacobsen Clarfield, NCTM, will present a master class on Intermediate Piano on Monday, March 11. Clarfield, nationally recognized teacher, clinician, pianist, and author is professor of piano and coordinator of the piano department at Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, New Jersey. Peter Mack, NCTM, will present a master class on Advanced Piano on Sunday, March 10. Mack, a Steinway Artist, is a professor of piano at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, Washington. Acclaimed piano duo Anderson & Roe will present a master class on Duo Piano Tuesday, March 12. Greg Anderson and Elizabeth Joy Roe have toured around the world as a four-hand, two-piano team.

Acclaimed piano duo Anderson & Roe will perform in recital Tuesday, March 12, at 8 P.M. Greg Anderson and Elizabeth Joy Roe dazzle audiences around the world as a four-hand, two-piano team. They met in 2000 at the Juilliard School, where they both earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees. They were granted the honor to perform on numerous prominent Juilliard events, and a live performance by the duo is even included on the “Sounds of Juilliard” CD celebrating the school’s centennial year. They have toured North America and beyond, and together have appeared on MTV and NPR, the Cliburn Concert Series, the Gina Bachauer International Piano Festival and dozens of summer chamber music festivals.

  
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# MTNA

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MTNA's Music For Everyone is a three-pronged program designed to help music teachers improve their studios and motivate their students. MTNA has recently revised the program and music and materials are now available online.

### Music Study Award Program

The MTNA Music Study Award motivates students by acknowledging their commitment to music lessons. As students progress through music lessons, this program offers elegant certificates celebrating their accomplishments.

### Studio Festival Program

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