



February 2018 Newsletter

www.mcmta-md.org

Next Meeting Tuesday February 13, 2018
Jordan Kitt's Music in Rockville
11726 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, MD
9:30 Networking
10:00 Information/Communication
10:30 Program "Ask the Experts"

Bring Your Questions!

Our next program on February 13 will be "Ask the Experts." You can ask the questions and a panel of three expert teachers will provide answers and share their ideas and experiences. Members of the panel are **Faye Bonner**, **Yevgeniya Oleshkevich**, and **Dr. Junko Takahashi**. Given their excellent and rich experiences and varied musical backgrounds, you can expect get great advice, hear different points of view, and get a variety of answers to your questions. See page 5 to read more about these presenters.

Questions should relate to **teaching**, **practicing**, and **performing**, and can be general ("*How do you teach velocity?*" "*What do you think about using pedal in Bach?*") or specific ("*What fingering would you suggest for m. 73 in sonata X?*" "*How fast would you play the Minute Waltz?*"). For any specific questions, be sure to bring the music so everyone can follow the discussion.

Looking forward to hearing the questions—and the answers!

Pictured below: Faye Bonner (left), Junko Takahashi (right), Yevgeniya Oleshkevich (below)





*Alice Ma
President's Page*

Happy New Year to all MCMTA Members! Welcome to year 2018, with some exciting things happening offered by MCMTA.

Online Registration and Facebook Page—We are very excited to announce that online registration is now offered for several MCMTA events. Please go to the MCMTA website to check it out. Also, the Facebook page of MCMTA has been launched under the name of Montgomery County Music Teachers Association. Please go see it and LIKE our page.

New Column 'Tips for Teachers' in newsletter—Thank you to great ideas and suggestions provided by Carol Brody (Hospitality Chair) and Bonnie Kellert (Chair for Mentoring Program), who are adding a new column, 'Tips for Teachers,' to our newsletter. Please check it out on page 3 of this newsletter.

Survey—In order for MCMTA to better serve the members, we will send out a simple online survey around March. Please take some time to fill it out. The information collected will help us a great deal for future planning.

Travelling Teachers—If any teacher (any area in Montgomery County) is willing to travel to homes to teach, please contact Kris Butler (VP for Membership) at either kbutler@cavtel.net or 301-229-5247. Kris would like to update the list for the travelling teachers for future referral upon request.

2018 MTNA National Conference (Orlando, Florida)—It will be held from March 17–21. This year, MCMTA offers up to \$200 subsidy for each attendee, up to 5 members. Orlando is a fun place to visit, in addition to attending the Conference. Please don't miss this chance to learn, mingle with colleagues, and enjoy! Whoever is interested to apply for the subsidy, please email me. See you at our February meeting!

~Alice Ma
alicemapiano@gmail.com

TIPS for TEACHERS

A New Monthly Column by Carol Brody and Bonnie Kellert

We invite you to explore a new column in this space! Carol and I will write about ideas to enhance your teaching skills, offer suggestions for repertoire, point you in the direction of resources, offer advice for enlarging your studio enrollment, and many more topics. We encourage your questions—general or specific—and also encourage you to share a tip in this column.

It's almost spring—so many events! How to prepare?

Once your students have solidified the memory of their pieces, you can help prepare them for public performances and competitive events by organizing workshops, dress rehearsals and performances outside the studio, such as at Senior facilities. Also, consider having another teacher come and give a master class or sit in on your lessons and give advice about polishing pieces. You can take your student(s) to a teacher's studio for a private coaching lesson - where you sit in and gather ideas! A second opinion can be very illuminating! Your own teaching ideas can be validated by this teacher as well! Reflect on the idea of playing your students' repertoire for another teacher—the advice can be invaluable: The teacher can offer teaching tips and interpretative ideas, as well.

Good luck with your teaching! I hope your students feel inspired by your teaching!

Bonnie

And consider signing up for the upcoming MTNA webinar, "Fresh Approaches to Old-School Teaching: Traditional Doesn't Have to be Boring," on Friday, February 9, 2018, with Peter Oehrtman. Sign up at the www.mtna.org website. Find some new, fun activities for literacy-based teaching.

新年快樂

Happy Chinese New Year

February 16, 2018

Year of the Dog

Upcoming Student Events

MCMTA application forms are available at our Yahoo group site and www.mcmta-md.org in "Activities."

For MSMTA events, see <http://www.msmta.org/documents/sa-handbook.pdf>.

- **MCMTA** Judged Recital (Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich)
Sun., Feb. 4, 2018 Jordan Kitt's Music, Rockville
Deadline Past
- **MCMTA** Festival of Music *Composers Who Died Before 40 (Guity Adjoonani)
Sat., Feb. 17, 2018 *Mozart, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Griffes, & Gershwin
Deadline Jan. 30, 2018 note change of venue Steinway Piano Gallery, Rockville
- **MCMTA** Ensemble Recital (Alice Ma)
Sun., Feb. 25, 2018 Jordan Kitt's Music, Rockville
Deadline Jan. 25, 2018
- MSMTA Theory Testing (Elena Eliseeva)
Sun., March 11, 2018, all levels Watkins Mill High School
See Student Activities Handbook on www.msmta.org website
- MSMTA Festival: Piano Ensemble (Daniel Lau; Junko Takahashi)
March 4, 2018 Clarice Smith PAC, Univ. of Maryland
Deadline Jan. 27, 2018
- MSMTA Festival: Chamber Music (Mark DiPinto; Daniel Lau)
March 11, 2018 Washington Adventist University
Deadline Feb. 11, 2018
- MSMTA Strings Plus (Kelly Hsu)
April 8, 2018 Landon School, Bethesda
Deadline Feb. 19, 2018
- MSMTA Unaccompanied Bach Competition (Strings) (Wonhee Kim)
March 31, 2018 New Hope Lutheran Church, Columbia, MD
Deadline March 12, 2018
- **MCMTA** Swarthout Hayes Piano Competition (Junko Takahashi)
April 8, 2018 PianoCraft, Gaithersburg
Deadline March 3, 2018
- MSMTA E. R. Davis Piano Competition (Junko Takahashi; Hyun Park)
April 15, 2018 Washington Adventist University
Deadline March 10, 2018
- IYAPC registration deadline (Li-Ly Chang)
April 22 and 29, 2018 www.musicalartsinternational.org
Deadline March 15, 2018

Attention, Teachers who are willing to travel to the homes of students, please let Kris Butler know who you are and the areas of the county where you work. She keeps a list of teachers to answer queries from prospective families and students.

Contact Kris at 301-229-5247 or kbutler@cavtel.net.

Presenters for MCMTA February Meeting

Faye Bonner studied with Pasquale Tallarico (piano), Heinz (voice) and Boulanger (solfege) at the Peabody Conservatory, where she was the youngest student at that time to be admitted for a double major in piano and voice. After graduating from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City, she studied piano for eight years while abroad, with Midhat Fenmin (a student of Cortot and director of the Ankara, Turkey, Conservatory), with Dusko Trbojevic (prominent East European concert artist at the Belgrade Conservatory), and finally in Moscow with Belkin (affiliated with the Moscow Conservatory). On returning home, Ms. Bonner continued with Mieczyslaw Munz for three years. Ms. Bonner has had winning students in county, state, national (including the MTNA Baldwin winner) and international competitions, including recent semi-finalists in the Busoni and Naumburg International competitions. Two of her former students, Dave Porter and Randy Cohen, are pursuing outstanding careers in music: Dave Porter wrote the musical score for *Breaking Bad*, and Randy Cohen arranges Broadway musicals (including *Hamilton*) for keyboard synthesizer.

Yevgeniya Oleshkevich began music study at the age of 3 under the guidance of her grandmother, a piano teacher who trained many prominent musicians in her native Belarus. Her mother was also a concert pianist who passed on her love of music, diligent practice habits, and dedication to the profession. Yevgeniya graduated from the Belorussian Academy of Music and Belorussian State Conservatory, earning the Bachelor's and Master's degree in Piano Performance. For more than 35 years, her teaching style and philosophy is a combination of the Russian style of education (with emphasis on technique thorough understanding of music notation), with a more individualized, creative, and flexible Western approach. Her students have earned top prizes in international, state, and county competitions, and participate in festivals and recitals around the world. Yevgeniya writes, "My mission as a teacher is to inspire, challenge, and help my students strive for perfection, while maintaining a warm, supportive, and positive approach. I believe that anyone can learn and benefit from learning to play a musical instrument, regardless of age or previous training."

Dr. Junko Takahashi attended the Eastman School of Music, where she received the B.M. in piano performance under the tutelage of Anton Nel and Fernando Laires. She received the master's and D.M.A. degrees in Piano Pedagogy from the Catholic University of America under Thomas Mastroianni where she won numerous concerto competitions. Her students have won both state and local competitions. She is the Founder and Director of Musical Expressions, Inc., a music school that now boasts over two hundred fifty students in the southern Montgomery County area. She is a past president of both MCMTA and MSMTA.

MCMTA Teachers Organize Additional Opportunities for Students

Sharon Carr has announced that two \$1,000 Scholarships will be available primarily for graduating high school seniors who have been accepted into college music departments (major or minor), but freshmen already in college who formerly studied with an MCMTA member can also apply. The deadline for applications is April 15, 2018.

The Potomac Organ Institute announces that auditions will be given (date to be decided) at St. Columba's Episcopal Church, 4201 Albemarle Street, NW, Washington, DC. There is a shortage of young organists in the U.S. and in the world, which is why the POI was established in 1988. Successful applicants receive one year of free organ lessons on the pipe organ from September through May by experienced organists who are Tri-Chapter Guild members. Auditions are given on the piano and are open to pianists from teenagers (grades 7-12) through adults of any age. A list of repertoire requirements and an application are available on the website, www.potomacorganinst.com For more information, call the POI Coordinator, Diane Heath, at 202-363-4119, or email dianeheath@verizon.net

Dr. Deborah Brown coordinates the Rockville Competition for Solo Piano and Solo Strings. The 2016 Rockville Competition will be held Sunday, May 1, at Montgomery College, Music Building, Rockville, MD. For information and applications, see: www.rockvillecompetition.com. All entries should be postmarked by April 1, 2016. The Winners recital will be Saturday, May 7, 2016. For assistance, call 301-838-5594 or email: rockvillecompetition@gmail.com.


In 1986, Li-Ly Chang created the International Young Artist Piano Competition, a festival that now embraces pianists from 5 to 30. The 2016 IYAPC Competition begins with regional rounds (Los Angeles, Brooklyn, and Maryland) or recorded materials received no later than April 18. Final rounds take place June 23-26, 2016, at Catholic University of America. For information and applications, see: www.musicalartsinternation.org/IYAPC or email: musicalartsinternational@yahoo.com.

Steinway & Sons Washington Piano Competition will take place February 19, 23, and 24, 2018. Beethoven is the required composer for this year's competition. The deadline is past, but please direct questions to Dr. Melinda Baird, mbaird@steinwaypianodc.com or (202) 774-6277.

The Friday Morning Music Club Competition for High School Pianists will take place on April 14, 2018. Location: National Presbyterian Church, 4101 Nebraska Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20016. The competition is open to piano students who are currently enrolled in grades 9 through 12, living within a 50-mile radius of Washington, DC. *First place winners from previous years are ineligible.* The application form is available on the web: www.fmmc.org under "Local Student Competitions." The application must be postmarked no later than Wednesday, March 14, 2018. There is a \$35 application fee. For questions or more information, contact Competition Chair: Chen-Li Tzeng, email: highschoolpiano@fmmc.org.

Young Musicians Inspiring Change is proud to announce the fourth **YMIC International Competition** open to student musicians enrolled in grades 1–12. This year, the YMIC International Competition will consist of only two categories: Piano Solo and Piano Ensemble (one piano, four hands). The competition will take place Saturday, March 31, 2018. The application deadline is Saturday, March 3, 2018. Applications are available online, with application fees being accepted via PayPal.

Unlike previous years, there will be no Grand Prize. Each Division will have a first, second, and third place with Honorable Mention awards. First, second, and third Prizes will include cash awards plus a performance opportunity in a Winners' concert at the Strathmore Mansion on Friday, April 13, 2018, at 6:30 pm. The 2019 YMIC International Competition is anticipated to include Strings, Winds/Brass, and Chamber Music (any combination of strings).



**WELCOME TO THE FOURTH
YMIC INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION**

Competition Guidelines | 2017 Results | 2016 Results | 2015 Results | Contact Us

2018 Piano & Piano Ensemble Competition	Competition Date: Saturday, March 31, 2018 Location: United Korean Presbyterian Church 7009 Wilson Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817
2019 String, Chamber Music Competition (String Ensembles, Ensemble with Winds/Brass, Percussion, any combination of piano, string, woodwinds, or brass)	Application Deadline: Saturday, March 3, 2018 Winners' Concert Date: Friday, April 13, 2018 at 6:30 pm Winners' Concert Location: Strathmore Mansion 10701 Rockville Pike, N. Bethesda, MD 20852

[Piano Solo Application](#) | [Piano Ensemble Application](#)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact ymiccompetition@gmail.com.

Letter from Helen Smith Tarchalski

Dear MCMTA Friends,

The time has come that I must face I am no longer in Montgomery County in any way, and will not be teaching here in the future. It was not my plan, but it is the way life has worked out. The MCMTA meetings alone are a very worthwhile reason to retain membership! But, I cannot even participate in the meetings any more as I teach a class at Anne Arundel Community College on Tuesday mornings. To that end, I am sadly discontinuing my MCMTA membership.

I have a full career's worth of fond memories as a member, president, and board member in several other capacities. As you know, MCMTA offers an unusually vast array of enriching activities for students and members; the MCMTA activities calendar far surpasses those in many state organizations. MCMTA has always been a vibrant leader in music education that is a role model for organizations across the country. If you are a member but have not been very active, I urge you to become more involved. I promise your involvement in MCMTA will provide opportunities to enhance your students' development and your career. You will also develop great friendships.

I have been extremely proud to be a member of MCMTA for the past 35 years. I did not want to "disappear" without letting you know how special I know the organization is. Thank you for being such an important part of my career and my life. I am of course staying active in MSMTA, and in my local AAMTA. We will cross paths, and I look forward to many collaborations in the future.

With fondest wishes,

Helen Smith Tarchalski
MCMTA Past President



MCMTA Judged Recitals

On December 3rd, we had four wonderful Judged recitals at Jordan Kitt's Music. All of the students were prepared very well, and performed with such good musicianship that judges awarded 23 high honors trophies and 13 honorable mention ribbons.

Thirty-six students participated in the recitals. They represented the studios of Meri Gugushvili, Miri Frenkel-Yacobovich, Svetlana Volkova, Junko Takahashi, Jamie Pasho, Jeongseon Choi, Vivian Kwok, Elena Eliseeva, Teresa Kung, Audrey Andrist, Kristin Butler, Cynthia Cathcart, Elena Dubovitsky, Chen-Li Tzeng, Sara Cronan and Larissa Domracheva.

Our excellent adjudicators were Yoon Huh and Nancy O'Neil Breth. Special thanks to Jamie Pasho, Jeongseon Choi, Meri Gugushvili, Sara Cronan, Larissa Domracheva, and Svetlana Volkova for

their help, and all teachers who participated in December's recitals.

Miri Frenkel-Yacobovich, Chair



MCMTA December Meeting



The December meeting featured creative works produced by MCMTA members Sharon Carr, Andy Zatman, Li-Ly Chang, Immanuela Gruenberg, Bonny Miller, Andrew Kraus, Michiko Yurko, and Marilyn Briant. Each spoke briefly about their materials (music, pedagogical items, CDs, and research). Guity Adjooodani demonstrated at the piano, and Lori McCarthy explained how she uses Michiko's Music Mind Games in her studio.

MINUTES FROM MCMTA GENERAL MEETING DECEMBER 12, 2017

President Alice Ma called the meeting to order at 10:41 AM at Jordan Kitt's showroom at 11726 Parklawn Drive in Rockville.

The minutes from the general meeting of November 14, 2017, were sent electronically in advance.

Alice introduced Patty Lai, who will be joining MCMTA. She teaches piano and voice at her home studio in Silver Spring.

Bonny Miller handed out the new Membership Directory. She also sent it electronically to the membership. Alice mentioned the last page is the Code of Ethics, which has been updated.

Alice sent a link to members by email to connect to the new Facebook page, and asked members to "like" the page. She explained that we have the ability to control input, post information about events, and invite others to join. Our website manager will approve items before they can appear online.

Two members, Li-ly Chang and Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich, entered the lottery and were awarded \$200 to attend the MTNA national conference in Florida. Three grants are still available. Interested members should contact Alice.

Elena Eliseeva, co-chair of the Intermediate/Advanced Recitals, demonstrated how to do online registration. She reminded members that only teachers should register, not individual students. Members go to the MSMTA website, then the local association and look for the application link on the left side of the page. For further questions, contact Elena at lenaeliseeva@gmail.com. Kris encouraged members to pay for their student's entries by check rather than credit card.

Alice said the CSMC Composer's Society of Montgomery County is encouraging our membership to participate in their events. Members can get further information by visiting their website at csmc.wonderful-music.com.

Alice adjourned the business meeting at 11:01 AM. Immanuela Gruneberg then introduced a special "poster session and exhibit hall" presentation by MCMTA members, who showcased their original compositions, CD's, publications and other creative products for teaching. Presentations included:

- Michiko Yurko-Music Mind Games
- Li-Ly Chang-CD's and compositions
- Marilyn Briant and Andy Zatman-compositions and arrangements
- Bonny Miller-Music history publications
- Andrew Kraus-Wellness articles
- Immanuela Gruenberg-editions and publications
- Sharon Carr-compositions

Following the presentations, the annual holiday potluck luncheon was enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Sinclair Smith, Recording Secretary