



May 2018 Newsletter

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Next Meeting Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Jordan Kitt's Music in Rockville

11726 Parklawn Dr., Rockville, MD

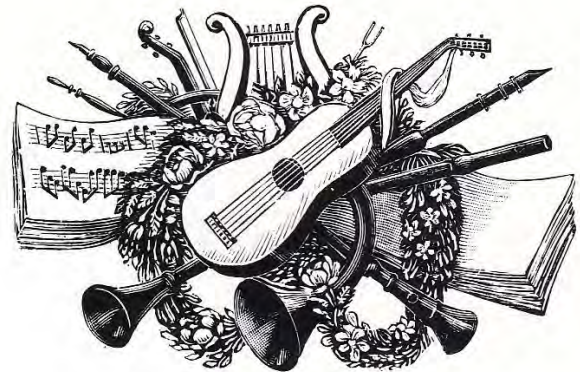
NOTE TIME: 10:30 BRIEF MEETING

11:00 Musical Program by Members

Potluck Luncheon Follows

The final meeting of the season features the traditional musical program by members, followed by a potluck luncheon.

Guity Adjoodany will play Franz Joseph Haydn, Andante and Variations in F Minor, Hob. XVII:6. New member **Ronald Butts-Boehmer** will play Frédéric Chopin, Étude in C Minor, op. 25, no. 12. **Dr. Bonny Miller** will perform Augusta Browne's "Aurora," a "Romance" dedicated to Franz Liszt. Our dynamite four-hand duo, **Alice Ma and Li-Ly Chang**, will conclude the program with three movements from *Ma mère l'oye* (Mother Goose Suite), by Maurice Ravel.



MCMTA Members: Please bring something to share at the luncheon that does not require reheating. Please avoid nuts if they are not essential to the recipes, and serve nuts on the side. Please let Carol Brody know what you plan to bring.

President's Page
Alice Ma

My first year as MCMTA President is almost over. It has been a great and positive experience for me, all because of great board members and wonderful general members. Thank you all for your support! With suggestions and feedbacks from the board, we came up new programs such as the 'High School Outstanding Achievement Award,' a new logo, and our new mug. We also added online registration for many events, new columns in the newsletter, and a Facebook page.

2017-18 MCMTA student activities

- They are officially over after the Adult Recital, 2018 Graduating Senior Recognition Awards Program, and Swarthout-Hayes Competition Winners' Recital, all held on the same day at the Strathmore Mansion on April 28. What a great year! GREAT THANKS to all event Chairs for their superior organization of the events to make every event a success. Also, we really appreciate the support from our vendors Jordan Kitt's Music, Steinway Piano Gallery, and PianoCraft for providing free venues for MCMTA events.

2018-19 School Year - We plan to implement more programs for the upcoming school year. Stay tuned for news! Please remember to share all the exciting news with music teachers whom you know, and invite them to join MCMTA.

Grants for Continuing Education for Teachers – It's not too early to plan for your enrichment opportunities, such as classes, workshops, and even learning pedagogy methods with a local teacher. MCMTA will again provide \$500 each for up to eight teachers (see the article on page 4 of this newsletter). Please go to the MCMTA website for details. The deadline is June 1, 2018. Any questions, please contact Sharon Carr at sacarr@live.com.

The Margaret E. Weissenfluh Fund - This is a grant-in-aid program for assisting children who are musically inclined and wish to study and learn to play but who otherwise would not be able to do so. Please go to MCMTA website for application details. Any questions, please contact Ingrid Mongini at ingridpiano@verizon.net. The deadline is June 30, 2018.

Summer Festivals (Classical Music) - There are many summer festivals being held during summertime within driving distances. Many concerts will be performed during Summer Festivals by faculty and/or students. Some of the concerts are even free and open to the public. It will be so fun to visit some of these summer festivals as part of your vacation plan!

Have a nice summer break! I will talk to you again in the mid-summer!

Alice Ma
alicemapiano@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

- **MSMTA** Spring Festival: Piano Solo (Carol Wolfe-Ralph; John Ralph)
May 5, 2018 Univ. of Maryland, College Park
Deadline past
- **MSMTA** Weaver Competition (Strings) (Mia Choi)
May 12, 2018 Jordan Kitt's Music, Rockville
Deadline past
- **MSMTA** Solo String Festival (Brian Liu, Preston Hawes)
May 20, 2018 Washington Adventist University, Takoma Park
Deadline past
- **MSMTA** Sonata Competition (Douglas Guiles)
and **MSMTA** Gottlieb Competition (Douglas Guiles)
May 20, 2018 Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore County
Deadline past

More Reminders for Teachers

MSMTA awards for Distinguished Music Achievement and Student Scholarship for Performance have June deadlines. Please consult the Student Activities Calendar on the MSMTA website for details.

June 30, 2018, is the deadline to apply for Weissenfluh grants. These need-based grants are intended "To assist children who are musically inclined and wish to study and learn to play but who otherwise would not be able to do so.") Contact Ingrid Mongini. Application forms are in the Student Activities Packet.

Final rounds of the 2018 **International Young Artist Piano Competition** take place June 21–23, 2018, at Catholic University of America. For information and applications, contact Li-Ly Chang at musicalartsinternational@yahoo.com, or go to www.musicalartsinternational.org/IYAPC.



TIPS for TEACHERS

A Monthly Column by Carol Brody and Bonnie Kellert

As the teaching year for many closes or condenses for the summer, breaks will ensue for both you and your students. The following are some suggestions to help you unwind. While at lunch recently with several piano teachers, various recommendations were shared in how they unwind. The suggestions were as follows: attend a summer workshop or music camp that will enhance and revitalize you as a professional. Another suggestion is to have some time together with other professionals over the summer, when there's more opportunity in everybody's schedules to discuss music or books (methods, anthologies, solos) that you have used and best practices re business and students alike.

Taking care of yourself is essential as well. What indeed would that mean? For some, perhaps a monthly spa day, reading some good books, or attending musical concerts that were not possible on weeknights during the school year due to lessons. Many enjoy travel and family time with children and grandchildren. Sometimes just relaxing in your home and catching up on detailed home improvements is comforting.

Summer should be a time to unwind and recharge your battery for the upcoming school year. For others, working throughout the year is their comfort and energy boost. Whatever works for you individually with the results that enhance your teaching are suggestions that fuel us as productive educators. Have a wonderful summer, enjoy, and relax.

Carol Brody

MCMTA Grants for Teachers for Continuing Education

June 1, 2018, is the deadline to apply for **MCMTA Grants for Continuing Education for Teachers**. Contact Sharon Carr, sacarr@live.com.

Eight grants of \$500 each are available for continuing study summer courses, participation in workshops, teacher training by a mentor, or festivals. This past year Carol Edison participated in Music Mind Games, a week-long class by MCMTA's own Michiko Yurko. Linda Benoit attended the Golandski Summer Symposium and International Piano Festival at Princeton University. Olga Soukhoveev used Skype to receive instruction from her professor in Russia in piano performance and theory. These are only a few of the opportunities teachers enjoyed in 2017 using their MCMTA teacher grants. Applications will be accepted this year until June 1, 2018. Apply NOW!

NCTM: Why Not Get National Certification?

By Ella Wu, NCTM

Our organization president, Alice Ma, asked me to write an article about MTNA certification. One of the bonuses of becoming certified is the intensive studying and learning during the certification preparation. The certification requirements encourage applicants to review the basics, and to think about the philosophy and rules that you want for your studio. MTNA wants to ensure the applicants cover the necessary materials to become a true professional before being nationally certified.

From a personal standpoint, here are three benefits I have greatly enjoyed from certification. First, I noticed that by completing the process and the certification renewals, I am highly motivated to learn more by discussing with my colleagues, other certified teachers and master teachers or even piano dealers for my musical needs, whether at a masterclass, at a workshop, or at a monthly meeting. The certification title allows me to further view myself as a professional, and that I have a responsibility to keep up with current pedagogy and familiarity with new pianos, such as knowing there are player pianos called Spirio out there from Steinway and Sons, and Yamaha Enspire, a hybrid piano and keyboard which provides full recording and playback functionality that you can practice along with, to further engage with students. I noticed that after being certified, I spent more time researching and thinking about what more I could offer to my music community and to my students. This psychological award gives me a sense of obligation and a sense of achievement, especially when I discover that my new teaching skills have inspired my piano students.

Secondly, I have received phone calls and email inquiries from parents out of state, requesting an interview for their children because of parents' future job relocation. One of my students, originally from Chicago, found me through the MTNA certified teachers list and has been studying with me for ten years. This example demonstrates that certification gives you an extra benefit in recruiting new transfer students because you have an additional level of credibility, and from there, you can choose which students you would prefer to teach.

Lastly, and the most important, the certification enhances me in having greater earning power and more credibility in the music circle. I think that is the biggest incentive out there for becoming certified. You can work less but earn more money. Why not get nationally certified?

If you are interested in being certified, the first step is to read the article, MTNA certification 101 (<http://www.mtnacertification.org/media/39317/Certification%20101.pdf>), then click on the MTNA official certification at <http://mtnacertification.org> for the application package. Helen Weems, our State Vice President for Certification, highly recommends that you read the certification 101 article before you click the certification package link. That way you have a better understanding about the process and won't feel overwhelmed.

I reviewed the current application process, which has very different formats than the last time I took the four-hour written tests as part of the certification at a California state

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conference sixteen years ago! The process and requirements have changed over the years. Here are the updates I would like to share with you.

New application requirements: MTNA does not require that an applicant hold a music degree or have attended college piano pedagogy classes prior to applying for a certification. However, MTNA does require the applicant to write your teaching philosophy, and to record videotaped teaching demonstrations of the same student at different periods of time. The applicant also needs to demonstrate performance capabilities equivalent to Level 7 or above, playing repertoire that follows the guidelines in Jane Magrath's *The Pianist's Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance Literature*. The performance should be video recorded, and the length can be somewhere between 5-10 minutes. The performance does not have to be memorized. The repertoire should exhibit good technique, accuracy, fluency, musicality, and an understanding of correct stylistic interpretation.

If you are thinking to start the process and need buddies to do it together, no problem, you have a helping hand available at no cost. There is a group study meeting held every other month. The next one in our area will take place at Chipotle in Olney on Wednesday, May 23, at 11:45am. You will meet your study buddies and Helen Weems to discuss your concerns, progress, and questions. Melissa Curtice, the MTNA headquarters Membership and Certification manager from Cincinnati, will also stand by at that time to answer your questions. The meeting usually lasts for an hour to an hour and a half, and more time can be accommodated if needed. You will have all the support and help you need from Helen, Melissa, and your study buddies. Helen graciously offered her contact information to us if you are interested in certification and have questions for her. Her email is weemspianostudio@gmail.com.

Swarthout-Hayes Competition

First place:	Angela Wu (D. Nazarenko)
Second place:	Teddi Yoo (B. Kellert)
Third place:	Andrew Zhang (D. Nazarenko)
Honorable Mention:	Maggie Wang (J. Lee) Caleb Kim (J. Lee) Maggie Chen (H. Park)

American composer prize: Maggie Wang (J. Lee)

Judges: Dr. Mark DiPinto and Dr. Chen Li Tzeng

Swarthout-Hayes winners Angela Wu, Caleb Kim, Maggie Chen, and Maggie Wang performed at the Senior Recognition and Awards event at the Strathmore Mansion on April 28. [Photos will be in the summer newsletter.]

Junko Takahashi, Chair

Judged Recitals

On April 22nd, we had five fantastic Judged recitals at the Jordan Kitt's Music. All the students played very well, and performed with such good musicianship that judges awarded 20 high honors trophies and 17 honorable mention ribbons.

Forty-four students participated in the Judged recitals. They were studios of: San-Qing Lu-Bennaman, Svetlana Volkova, Junko Takahashi, Meri Gugushvili, Irina Gurevich, Bonnie Kellert, Yeechen Pao, Guity Adjoodani, Mei-Yu Lin, Svetlana Em, Sharon Carr, Marina Ovcharenko, Linda Benoit, Alice Ma, Jeongseon Choi, Hsien-Ann Meng, Asya Mirvis.

Our honorable adjudicators were Anna Soukiassian and Dr. Audrey Andrist. Special thanks to Irina Gurevich, Guity Adjoodani, Junko Takashashi, Mei-Yu Lin, Hsien-Ann Meng, Meri Gugushvili, Marina Ovcharenko, and Yeechen Pao for their help, and all teachers for their participation in April's recitals.

Sincerely,
Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich
Chair of MCMTA Judged Recitals



MTNA 2018 National Conference

Li-Ly Chang and Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich received MCMTA stipends assist them to attend the MTNA national conference in Buena Vista, Florida. President Alice Ma also received support to go to the conference. They have shared their experiences, photos, and what they learned at the convention.

Li-Ly writes: Going to the convention, I am always in awe with the high level of experienced teachers, musicians, artists all together in one giant event. All the presentations and competitions are like a huge smorgasbord, filled with gourmet dishes. Attendees can choose freely from the different dishes and flavors. To me, I gained the most in my own motivation and reconfirming all the involvement in music business. It is never an easy road in the music profession. But coming to this huge event, making friends, exchanging ideas, also having fun outings to relax, reconnect, are all the good reasons that draw me year after year.

There are many different sessions. Just like dentists, each has a different specialty. We are in the music forces with different expertise and emphasis. Just to know more possibilities to do our work well or simply sit back listening to the amazing Jeremy Denk as an audience, adds so much joy and positive reinforcement.

Attending the Conference in the middle of our busy schedule is never an easy task. One of my roommates had to double/triple to make up ahead of time all the lessons that she would miss. Other roommates changed their room reservations from four nights to three, then to two nights. Not easy with all the responsibilities. That is why I feel so lucky to be able to move things around and attend. But as long as we are active, we are growing.

Most seminars the I attended addressed performance: ensemble, Bach, interpretation, pedaling, composing, improvisation, as well as competitions performed by many talented players. I have collected some pamphlets and fliers through the presentations. Hope to find time soon to read and digest all that good information.

All in all, as my music teachers advised me when I chose this career - you just have to love music very much to live it. Each class, I may not understand everything to use immediately. But I know that just being part of it, I will love and live music more. Keep it up. We can all do it when we do it together!

Miri says: I would like to thank MCMTA for the opportunity to attend this year's MTNA conference! It was a wonderful experience. It is always great to go to conferences and workshops to continue the never-ending learning process.

I attended one day, on Sunday. Early in the morning I participated in the Hal Leonard showcase with Jennifer Linn and other presenters. They introduced a new book "All-in-One Piano scales, chords and arpeggios," duets with pop songs "Pop Hits for Piano duet," fun Disney duets for late elementary to early intermediate levels, an Irish folk songs collection, and more. Later that day was the keynote lecture by Dr. Eckart Altenmuller about [Preventing Overuse And Curing Injuries: A Neurological-Psychological Perspective From A Physician-Flutist](#) (there is a PDF on the MTNA website that you can view).

I really enjoyed the Intermediate piano master classes with Fei Xu. He gave different suggestions about technique and interpretations for the pieces: the Rondo alla Turca by Mozart; the second movement from Sonata, op.79, by Beethoven; and the Impromptu, op.90, no. 2, by Schubert. I attended a few more workshops before I took the "magical express" to the airport. It was a long and intensive day full of learning, excitement, and curiosity. Thanks so much again for the opportunity!

Photos from the 2018 MTNA Conference



Maryland lunch: David Holmes, Sylvie Beaudoin, Connie Fischel, Alice Ma, Jacqueline Banks, Ann Matteson, and Li-Ly Chang, who quickly entered into the spirit of Disney World.



Advanced Master Class by Pavlina Dokovska.

Photos from the 2018 MTNA Conference



Winners' Concert.



Workshop with Jim Brickman.

Montgomery County Music Teachers Association

MINUTES FROM MCMTA GENERAL MEETING APRIL 10, 2018

President Alice Ma called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM at Jordan Kitt's showroom at 11726 Parklawn Drive in Rockville. The minutes from the general meeting of March 13, 2018 were sent electronically in advance.

Alice shared her experience attending the MTNA Conference in Florida in March. She said there were numerous interesting master classes, workshops, and the opportunity to watch students performing in the national competition finals. Miri Fenkel-Yacubovich also attended the Conference and said she enjoyed the master classes.

Alice said one presentation was particularly good that featured four teachers who visited each other's studios, then shared their findings. She asked if anyone had visited other teacher's studios. Several members had, and felt the experience was very valuable.

Alice attended the state meeting at the Conference. Other presidents spoke about the importance of national certification. Helen Weems is MSMTA's chair and is giving teachers info and training on how to apply.

Alice reminded us that the final meeting is next month and is the annual potluck. Carol Brody asked that people email her what they would like to bring to avoid too many duplications. She reminded everyone to please avoid bringing food with peanuts.

The May program will feature member teachers performing. Those that would like to perform should send a request to Immanuela Gruenberg. The potluck lunch will be held at 12:00.

Sharon Carr said April 15 is the deadline for the graduating senior scholarship.

Eugenia Posey-Marcus spoke about the upcoming Senior Recognition Ceremony and Adult Recital, which will be held at Strathmore Mansion. She encouraged members to participate.

Kris Butler is having trouble with her email. Please call her until it is resolved.

Michiko spoke about a difficult situation she is having with a neighbor complaining about her business. She asked for ideas and help. Carol Brody said her husband is an attorney and had some experience with this type of situation. The rule is specific about traffic and parking. Teachers need to register with the county and pay a fee. The fee relates to the number of people parking on the property.

Alice adjourned the meeting at 10:35 AM. She then introduced the program by pianist and author Alan Fraser, "Arm Weight Technique, the Hand's Arch Structure & the Anti-Gravity Function: Myth and Reality".

Respectfully submitted, Tina Sinclair Smith, Recording Secretary