

## MCMTA November 2018 Newsletter

Visit Us on the Web <http://www.mcmta-md.org>

**Our Next Meeting is Tuesday, November 13, 2018**

**Jordan Kitt's Music in Rockville**

**11726 Parklawn Dr., Rockville, MD**

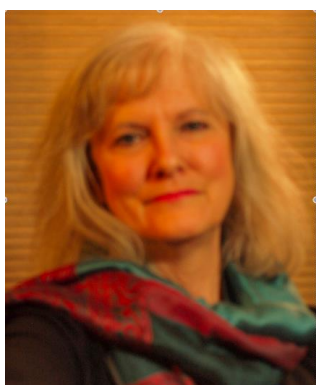
**9:30 Networking**

**10:00 Information**

**10:30 Presentation by Dr. Peggy Otwell**

### **Purposeful Practicing**

Inspired by ideas from the popular online performance enhancement site, "Bulletproof Musician," **Peggy Otwell** explores new strategies for practice success with students of all ability levels. She will share specific steps to enable students to "own" their practice sessions and become mindful musicians.



Peggy Otwell is a master teacher who has taught students from ages five to eighty in group and private lessons in her independent piano studio and at several universities. She is a published author and

composer, and a respected music reviewer and editor (G. Schirmer Editions, Hal Leonard, Kjos Music, *Clavier Companion*). Otwell is a nationally known presenter in piano pedagogy, and a pianist in solo and chamber music concerts throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe. As a Director of Educational Keyboard Publications at Hal Leonard Corporation, she played a critical role in the development of the Schirmer Performance Editions and the Hal Leonard Student Piano Library.

Dr. Otwell currently serves on the music faculty of the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, where she teaches piano, piano pedagogy, and graduate courses in the history of piano repertoire. She holds a D.M.A. degree in piano performance from the University of Maryland, where she studied with Stewart Gordon and Thomas Schumacher. As a Fulbright scholar in Paris, she studied with renowned pianist Gaby Casadesus while researching the music of French composer Déodat de Séverac. She recorded Séverac's complete works for solo piano for Musical Heritage Society records.



## *Alice Ma*

## *President's Page*

**20 MCMTA members attended the MSMTA Mini-Conference** - I am very excited to tell you that we had around twenty MCMTA members attending the MSMTA Mini-Conference which was held few weeks ago. Many teachers enjoyed the Conference that day. We include some pictures in this newsletter, please check them out for some wonderful moments.

Nancy O'Neill Breth was the master teacher for the Masterclass. Nancy's pedagogy inspired many teachers at the Conference. James Litzelman was the speaker. He presented a wellness workshop talking about developing and maintaining healthy practice habits. He was diagnosed with focal dystonia, a neuromuscular disorder that afflicts classical pianists and guitarists in a disproportionate number. He began to use symmetrical inversion as a practice strategy to help regain his capabilities at the instrument. At the 2018 MTNA Conference, he presented on the topic of pianists with focal dystonia who have returned to playing. He is going to present a follow-up session and a paper on "Symmetrical Inversion as a Treatment Modality for Focal Dystonia" at the 2019 MTNA Conference. If you have missed his presentation in the MSMTA Conference, you might want to plan to attend his presentation at the 2019 MTNA Conference.

**2019 MTNA Conference** - Speaking of the MTNA Conference, it's not too early to plan for attending the 2019 MTNA Conference in Spokane, Washington from March 16–20, 2019. The early bird registration deadline ends December 5. Please go to [www.MTNA.org](http://www.MTNA.org) or [https://www.mtna.org/Conference/Conference\\_Home/Conference/Home.aspx](https://www.mtna.org/Conference/Conference_Home/Conference/Home.aspx) to check out the details for the Conference. A few MCMTA members already mentioned to me that they are planning to be there. Hope that more of you can make it to this beautiful city.

**Mentoring Programs** – In addition to the special Musical Camaraderie meeting, the Mentoring Program also offers opportunities for members to observe other teachers teach. For details, please look at MCMTA Mentoring Program in this newsletter.

**Visitors are welcome to Membership Meeting** – The MCMTA general membership meeting is open to visitors. If you know of any music colleague/educator who hasn't joined MCMTA yet, please invite them to come to our meeting. Our meeting is held every second Tuesday of the month from September to May, except in January.

**November and December** are my favorite months of the year because they are filled with holidays. Hope that you will have some nice time with families and/or friends in addition to preparing recitals and music events.

Alice Ma, President  
[alicemapiano@gmail.com](mailto:alicemapiano@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Student Activities

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MCMTA</b> Intermediate/Advanced recital<br/>Nov. 10<br/>Deadline past</li> <li>• <b>MSMTA</b> Keyboard Musicianship Test<br/>Nov. 18<br/>See MSMTA website for information</li> <li>• <b>MCMTA</b> Judged recital<br/>Dec. 2<br/><b>Deadline Nov. 2</b></li> <li>• <b>MCMTA</b> Elementary “Holiday” Recital<br/>Dec. 15<br/><b>Deadline Nov. 15</b></li> <li>• <b>MCMTA</b> Intermediate/Advanced recital<br/>Dec. 16<br/><b>Deadline Nov. 16</b></li> </ul> | <p>Elena Eliseeva<br/>Steinway Piano Gallery, Rockville</p> <p>Svetlana Volkova<br/>Washington Adventist University, Takoma Park</p> <p>Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich<br/>Steinway Piano Gallery, Rockville</p> <p>Olga Soukhoveev<br/>Jordan Kitt’s Music, Rockville</p> <p>Elena Eliseeva<br/>Steinway Piano Gallery, Rockville</p> |
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Most MCMTA (and MSMTA) events in 2018–2019 will be **PAPERLESS**, which means **online registration**, followed by a check mailed or delivered by the teacher to the event chair. Chairpersons will be happy to assist members with the online registration; just give them a call. In addition, a “how-to” video is available on the MCMTA website under “Video Help.”

**VOLUNTEER POLICY:** All teachers who participate in Association events are required to volunteer for these events. The organization can only function if teachers volunteer to assist with student activities. The number of volunteer hours must be commensurate with the number of students entered as specified on the application. The event chair decides the number of hours to be served and the type of service to be given. Teachers may find a substitute to work for them at the event, but the substitute **MUST be an MTNA member**. Failure to adhere to the policy will disqualify teachers from entering students in events the following program year.

**Newsletter items, information, columns, and stories are due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month for the next newsletter.** Your editor tries to have the newsletter delivered by the beginning of the calendar month. Send newsletter materials to Bonny Miller [bonnym@bellsouth.net](mailto:bonnym@bellsouth.net).

## “Coming Attractions”

Our December meeting will feature a concert performed by MCMTA members and the traditional holiday potluck luncheon to follow.

**December 11: Members Concert**, with focus on chamber ensembles, including piano ensembles. If interested in performing, please email your proposals to Immanuela Gruenberg, [igruenberg@yahoo.com](mailto:igruenberg@yahoo.com). **Time limit: 8 minutes. Deadline: November 4.**

## Best Practices—Tips for Teachers

Greetings, MCMTA Colleagues!

With the start of the school year it's a good time to think about organizing studio activities and events, and studio recitals for your students.

Many teachers find it rewarding to have small, intimate venues for their students with a recital theme to encourage and nurture student interest. Students can help invent a storyline that incorporates titles of their pieces. Students can draw, paint, sketch pictures and paintings to decorate the walls. Poems can be written - or researched - that describe pieces that are being performed. Students can introduce themselves before each piece and talk about themselves and the composer and the repertoire to be performed. On that note (♪) students can prepare videos ahead of time and the teacher can project their introductions on a large video screen. Along that same genre, students can interview one another - a great way to bond and get to know each other better. A recital theme might be: Pieces by a featured composer, from a particular country, from a particular musical period, of a certain genre (dance music, festive/holiday music, folk music).

Venues can include the teacher's studio, a student's house, a retirement community, a church group. Consider "piggy backing" with another teacher and share a venue while letting the kids socialize on another level. Rentals can be expensive, so consider other options, like a local community building. Some libraries in the area have a piano - but you'd have to investigate to be sure it's a decent instrument.

If you haven't done so already, be sure to give your studio a "fall cleaning." Clear out "old" papers that are no longer necessary... Consider organizing paperwork in note books or folders that are well marked, perhaps with colorful stickers to make your office space more welcoming. Investigate new repertoire possibilities so you don't find yourself teaching the same ol' pieces from the same ol' books. Expand your horizons! Discover a new composer! Go to the local music store, look online, peruse old programs from MCMTA and MSMTA events or ask colleagues for suggestions. You'll feel energized and refreshed with new pieces for you and your students to explore together!

Other studio activities: Here are some thoughts for those of you who do not participate in the MSMTA Keyboard Musicianship Program. (KMP) First, you might consider this program - it requires students to be well-rounded in their musical studies, concentrating on note reading, scales, arpeggios, harmonizing, transposing and improvisation. Any of these concepts can be organized and designed to fit your studio and teaching philosophy - to either help your students prepare for the KMP (and earn points in the process) or for you to devise your own ideas that incorporate these concepts. Be sure to include sight singing and rhythm games - such important aspects of music instruction! Each month could have a new "theme." By next year you'll be all set to participate in the Keyboard Program! Refer to the MSMTA website or contact the MSMTA Keyboard Chair, Laurel Carroll at: [laurelnotes@gmail.com](mailto:laurelnotes@gmail.com)

I wish you all the best in the coming months exploring music and sharing all its joys with your students!

Bonnie Kellert  
Mentoring Chair, MCMTA

## Musical Camaraderie

On October 26 we had our first *Musical Camaraderie* Get Together. The purpose is to meet casually and have open discussions about any topics that arise or have been suggested ahead of time. Having a small group (under 20) allows for more participation by each individual and I think we covered a lot of territory. Discussion topics included: Students having problems with understanding strong and weak beats; Students not progressing; Parental involvement; Finding new ways to inspire and motivate students; Recording devices to use at lessons; Practice ideas for productive results; Repertoire suggestions; Workshops/ Repertoire Classes.

Our next meeting will be Friday, December 7 at Bonnie Kellert's home. It was decided to extend the length, so we will meet from 10 am to 12 Noon. If you are interested, please RSVP: Bonnie at [bkellert@verizon.net](mailto:bkellert@verizon.net)



## October Meeting

Dr. Dylan Savage (UNC-Charlotte) gave a wide-ranging and thought-provoking talk about aspects of musical entrepreneurship. He encouraged today's music teachers and performers to think of instruction as educating consumers. He shared many anecdotes from his own career that illustrated these concepts: from selling cars to creating an agent for his informal performances in restaurants, hotels, etc. The study of music offers significant life lessons in organization, working on one's own, attending to detail, and self-correction. These are all skills that benefit businesses. Dr. Savage has taken his wealth of music pedagogy and transformed into how-to workshops for large corporations.

## MTNA Certification and Professional Growth

Every year I try to find new ways to creatively inspire my students and myself. I have always been interested in learning new teaching techniques, and about a decade ago I decided becoming certified seemed like the next logical step. I gave myself several months to do all of the required work. I probably could have completed it sooner, but I wanted to take my time to really think about my goals and how I would approach the certification process. I chose a high school student to focus on, and the goal we set was to prepare her for the Maryland State Music Teacher's high school exam for credit. This required her to learn a specific technical regimen as well as repertoire from three historical periods. I enjoyed the process of preparing her in the technical requirements, and we both benefited from analyzing her repertoire. As for myself, I learned there was more to teaching than only relying on my past experiences. I had to go deeper and explain exactly what I was trying to accomplish. That required a critical self examination of how I had been teaching piano lessons. I discovered how much knowledge my own music education had provided me, and how I wanted to pass it along to my students so that they too would love the piano as much as I do. I also realized that as a teacher I sometimes glossed over areas because of time constraints or maybe my own lack of enthusiasm. Working toward certification taught me how important it is to have a plan and stay with it. After I became certified, I started receiving inquiries from families looking for a teacher with that extra qualification. Other, more experienced teachers reached out to me, asking me to participate in various events, including running a competition, judging, and even joining a group of teachers to share our ideas about teaching. I believe going through the process helped me grow as a teacher and gave me the confidence to see myself as the professional I always wanted to be.

Hedy Bannon, NCTM

## MCMTA Mentoring Program

### Mentoring Program - Opportunities to observe a Teacher

Among its many activities, the Mentoring Program offers an opportunity for teachers to share their experience and expertise. By sitting in on lessons by an accomplished and skilled teacher, you can enrich your musical and instructional goals. Teachers and coaches of all levels are available in different locations around the Montgomery County environs. If you would like to participate and expand your teaching abilities, contact Bonnie Kellert, Mentoring Chair: [bkellert@verizon.net](mailto:bkellert@verizon.net)

## MSMTA Mini-Conference

The MSMTA mini-conference took place on October 7. Twenty MCMTA members attended. Most took advantage of the MCMTA lottery to cover the cost of registration.

The Master Class with Nancy O'Neill Breth featured performers Alyssa Yu (Yoon Huh), playing Sonata Op. 36 No. 4 in F Major, Mov. III by M. Clementi, and Invention No. 8 in F Major by J.S. Bach; Julian Freisinger (Junko Takahashi/Sara Cronan), playing Waltz Op. 69, No. 1, in A-flat Major, by F. Chopin; and Alex Doan & David Wang (Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich) performing a duet "Waltz" by Petrov and Petrova.



## Judged Recitals

On October 21st, we had three wonderful Judged Recitals at Jordan Kitt's Music in Rockville. All of the students played very well, and performed with such good musicianship that judges awarded twenty-two high honors trophies and three honorable mention ribbons. Twenty-five students participated in the Judged Recitals from the studios of: Jaewon Lee, Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich, Svetlana Volkova, Junko Takahashi, Junko Takahashi/Sara Cronan, Elena Eliseeva, Elena Dubovitsky, Irina Gurevich, Hsien-Ann Meng, Mei-Yu Lin, Rachel Frank, and Lara Parris. Our honored adjudicators were Li-Ly Chang and Janice Wood. Special thanks to Jaewon Lee and Elena Eliseeva for their help and to all those teachers who participated in October's recitals.

Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich  
Judged Recitals Chair





## New MCMTA Directory

Greetings Dear Teachers! Your MCMTA directory comes to you directly as an electronic PDF to your email address. In addition, **print copies** will be available at general meetings and from event chairs at their respective events. This year you can choose to pick up your print directory—with large, easy-to-read font—in a three-ring binder, ready to use in your studio. Or you can just take a packet of the insert pages to put in your own gently-used binder. The directory will be available in November.

## MSMTA Composer Commission

The Maryland State Music Teachers Association, with a matching grant from MTNA, is very pleased to present the 2018 MSMTA Composer Commission to Mark Wilson, a faculty member of the University of Maryland. The concert is set for Sunday, November 4, 2018, 3 pm, at Gildenhorn Hall, Clarice Smith Center, University of Maryland, College Park. Free admission. MSMTA thanks Mark Wilson and the members of the Left Bank String Quartet—David Salness and Sally McLain, violins; Katherine Murdock, viola; and Eric Kutz, cello—for the premiere of *Dream-Crossed Twilight*. The title of the piece is a reference to T. S. Eliot's description of human existence in his poem, *Ash Wednesday*. The work is in three contrasting movements: I. Striving; II. Dreams; III. Spiro. Spero. (I breathe. I hope.)

## Young Musicians Inspiring Change

### 2018 YMIC Metropolitan Music Festival

Competition Date: Saturday, December 15, 2018

Application Deadline: Saturday, November 17, 2018

Location: United Korean Presbyterian Church, 7009 Wilson Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817

Open to young musicians in grades K–12 in the following categories:

Solo Festival: Piano, Strings, Woodwinds/Brass, Voice

Chamber Festival: Piano Duet/Trio/Quartet (on one piano), Duet/Trio/Quartet/Quintet (any combination of piano/strings/winds/brass/guitar)

See website, [www.ymicus.org](http://www.ymicus.org), to access application forms and festival information. If you have any inquiries, please direct them to [ymic.metro.festival@gmail.com](mailto:ymic.metro.festival@gmail.com)

Tracy Kim  
Competition Coordinator, YMIC

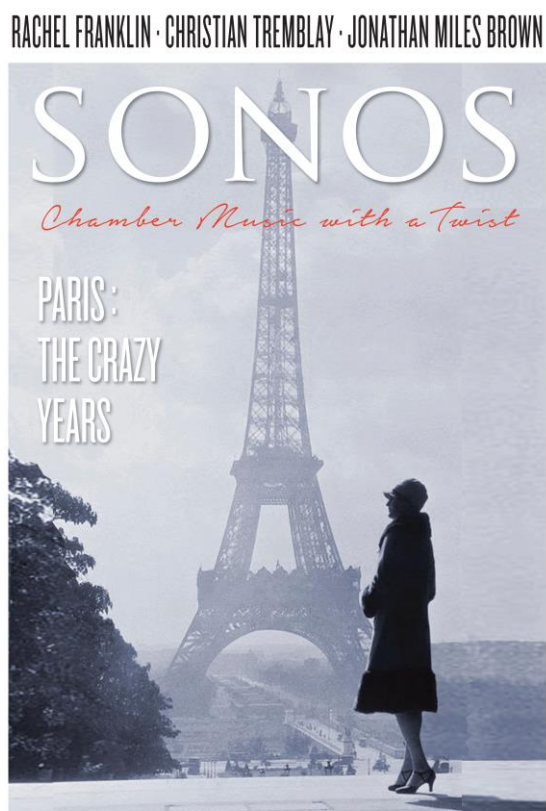
## Armistice Day Centenary Concert

MCMTA member Dr. Rachel Franklin will perform with classical/jazz trio SONOS in an upcoming concert that commemorates the end of World War I.

**November 11, 7 pm, at the Old Parish House, College Park Arts Exchange, 4711 Knox Rd, College Park, MD 20740, close to the UMCP campus**

On the precise centenary of the signing of the Armistice, Sonos will repeat “Paris - The Crazy Years,” commemorating the end of the First World War. Those momentous times encompassed five years of devastation, the arrival of millions of Americans in France, and the extraordinary post-1918 period in Paris known as the Crazy Years, *Les Années Folles*. The concert was premiered at Strathmore Mansion last fall. The program includes pieces by Debussy, Ravel, Charlie Parker, Cole Porter, Satie, Stravinsky, Thelonious Monk, Jonathan M. Brown’s arrangement of the war poem “In Flanders’ Fields,” and Gershwin’s *An American in Paris*.

Rachel Franklin <[rff@rachelfranklin.com](mailto:rff@rachelfranklin.com)>  
Jonathan Miles Brown  
Christian Tremblay





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MINUTES FROM MCMTA GENERAL MEETING  
OCTOBER 9, 2018

President Alice Ma called the meeting to order at 10:13 AM at Jordan Kitt's showroom at 11726 Parklawn Drive in Rockville.

The minutes from the general meeting of September 11, 2018, were sent electronically in advance.

The new group activity 'Musical Camaraderie' will meet Friday, Oct. 26 from 10 to 11:30AM at the home of Mentoring Chair Bonnie Kellert in Potomac. Ten teachers have already responded that they will attend. Light refreshments will be provided. Those who wish to attend should RSVP Bonnie at [bkellert@verion.net](mailto:bkellert@verion.net). Teachers are encouraged to submit topics or questions for discussion to Bonnie.

Teachers are also asked to submit comments, or ideas for subjects of discussion, to Carol Brody for the new 'Tips for Teachers' Column in the Newsletter.

The MSMTA Mini-Conference was held October 7 at the University of Maryland, College Park. MCMTA was well represented with 20 members attending the event. MCMTA provided a \$20 subsidy to cover registration. Dr. James Litzelman and Nancy Breth were featured speakers. Dr. Litzelman will continue his talk about wellness at the upcoming MTNA Conference in Spokane, Washington

To encourage giving to support victims of Hurricane Florence, MCMTA is offering to match donations to the MTNA Benevolence Fund, up to \$500. Kris Butler said paying by check or cash is fine.

Bonny Miller spoke about the revised Directory. She is providing binders for those who want them. Members who have changed their email or home address should notify Bonny, as well as MTNA.

Several new members were in attendance: Marc Donnelly, Hanni Zhang, and Yao (Lina) Lin. Elaine Kaviani was a visitor who may become a member. She currently travels to student's homes to teach. Kris said she is always looking for names of teachers who travel. Those who do this should contact her.

It was announced that member Lori McCarthy recently had surgery.

Junko said planning is now beginning for the next MSMTA Conference. Contact her with ideas.

Alice adjourned the meeting at 10:30 AM. Immanuela Gruenberg introduced recording artist and author Dr. Dylan Savage, who gave the presentation "Entrepreneurship for Musicians."

Respectfully submitted,  
Tina Sinclair Smith, Recording Secretary