



February 2019 Newsletter
www.mcmta-md.org

Next Meeting Tuesday February 12, 2019
Jordan Kitt's Music in Rockville
11726 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, MD
9:30 Networking
10:00 Information/Communication
10:30 Program by Bradford Gowen

500 Years of English Keyboard Music
That's WAY Too Good to Ignore!

If you ask someone “Are you practicing some English music for your recital?” you can probably guess that the response will be “Are you kidding?” if not just a confused stare. There are understandable reasons, having more to do with history than with quality, why most of us pianists consider music by English composers barely more than a footnote in our repertoire. And yet, there exists a huge and varied literature from pre-Elizabethans to our own time! This presentation will deal with perceptions, composers, and LOTS of good pieces at all levels.

Bradford Gowen has received widespread attention since winning First Prize in the 1978 Kennedy Center/Rockefeller Foundation International Competition for Excellence in the Performance of American Music. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Eastman School of Music where he studied piano with Cecile Genhart and composition with Samuel Adler. He later studied piano with Leon Fleisher and with Dorothy Taubman. Since 1981 he has been on the faculty at the School of Music of the University of Maryland. Prof. Gowen wrote for over twenty years for *The Piano Quarterly* and *Piano & Keyboard*, and he made a number of recordings for *The Piano Quarterly*.

On Memorial Day 1980, he performed Aaron Copland's Piano Concerto on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol with the National Symphony Orchestra under the baton of the composer; the next year he performed several more times with that orchestra under Mstislav Rostropovich and Maxim Shostakovich. In January 1985 he performed the world premiere of Samuel Adler's Concerto for Piano and Orchestra at the Kennedy Center, and in 2000 he gave the world premiere of the *Sonata for Piano Solo* by Judith Lang Zaimont. Other activities have included many performances and residencies at colleges and universities throughout the United States.

His numerous chamber music performances have included the Library of Congress Summer Chamber Festival and concerts with cellist David Soyer, the Kronos Quartet, and the Guarneri Quartet. He has made many duo appearances with his wife, pianist Maribeth Gowen, including a Schubert bicentennial concert at the National Gallery of Art devoted to the composer's four-hand works.

Perhaps most unusually, he performed at the Kennedy Center Opera House at a TEDMED conference, as one of twelve pianists playing simultaneously on a single piano, to demonstrate innovative use of a common concept. Put online by TEDMED and Steinway, it is been viewed well over a million times.



Alice Ma

President's Page

Hope that many of you got some relaxed time during the holiday break and feel recharged. There is some important information regarding our upcoming events that I would like to share with you:

Date and Location Changes for Brewster Strings Competition (H. Stevens Brewster, Jr., Memorial Competition for Strings) – The date and location has been changed due to an unexpected schedule conflict. It is now being held on Sunday, May 5, 2019, at Potter Violins. This competition is open to all MSMTA members, even though this event is organized by MCMTA and ASTA. For details of this event, please look at this newsletter for the separate column for this event. Any questions, please contact the Chair Lya Stern at Lyasdc@verizon.net.

***SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT to Potter Violins** for their generous sponsorship in providing the venue and ALL prizes for this event.

All instruments are welcome for Judged Recital and Ensemble Recital – Please note that Judged Recital and Ensemble Recital are open to all instruments, not just for piano. Hope to see more instruments to be performed in these events.

Three 'Musical Camaraderie' Group Meetings – Attending teachers loved this meeting so much that three meetings have already been held per request since October. Meeting usually being held on Friday from 10 am to 12 noon at our Mentoring Chair Bonnie Kellert's home.

Benevolence Fund - MCMTA met our goal of \$500, and exceeded it up to \$685, to provide a matching grant to MTNA's Benevolence Fund

2019 MTNA Conference (March 16–20, 2019 at Spokane, Washington) – It is not too late to register for the national conference. To find out the topics and check out the details for the Conference, please go to www.MTNA.org.

~Alice Ma
alicemapiano@gmail.com



TIPS for TEACHERS



Happy New Year to all!

How often we welcome new students with excitement, enthusiasm, and our passion for sharing our musical professionalism! When we have parental support and student enthusiasm it's a wonderful match. But alternately we may have our students who have been with us find new interests with little time to contour with the dedication and practicing that requires forward movement in piano. Some of the signs: Students say typically over several weeks: I didn't have time, I don't understand the piece, I'm so busy and the name all of the activities of involvement. Of course real life has times of total busyness and other times with some breathing room. Setting out a schedule for the child or speaking to the child/parent can help remedy these issues and bring practice back to the venue. A student who has decided though that other things take precedent and declines the suggestions is best left to discuss what they want to get out of the lesson. Sometimes it's therapeutic for the student to play for that time period and have someone's undivided attention. Other times it's because parents deem it necessary. Every teacher can consider what goals they have for their studio as well as their individual students. There are no judgements just thoughts on what your goals are as a teacher and how to reach them without compromising your beliefs. Enjoy the winter ❄️ and stay warm. See everyone at the next meeting.

Carol Brody

Upcoming Student Events

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

- ✓ **MCMTA** Judged Recital
Feb. 3, 2019
Deadline Past
Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich
Jordan Kitt's Music, Rockville
- ✓ **MCMTA** Festival of Music "Dance Music Through the Ages" Guity Adjoonani
February 23, 2019
Steinway Piano Gallery, Rockville
Deadline Jan. 26, 2019
- ✓ MSMTA Theory Testing
Sun., March 3, 2019, all levels
See Student Activities Handbook on www.msmta.org website
Elena Eliseeva
Watkins Mill High School
- ✓ **MCMTA** Ensemble Recital
March 10, 2019
Alice Ma
Jordan Kitt's Music, Rockville
Deadline Feb. 11, 2019
- ✓ **MCMTA** Elementary Recital "Spring Fling" Olga Soukhoveev
March 30, 2019
Jordan Kitt's Music, Rockville
Deadline Feb. 28, 2019
- ✓ MSMTA Festival: Piano Ensemble
March 24, 2019
Daniel Lau; Junko Takahashi
Clarice Smith PAC, Univ. of Maryland
Deadline Feb. 16, 2019
- ✓ MSMTA Festival: Chamber Music
March 10, 2019
Mark Di Pinto
Washington Adventist University
Deadline Feb. 9, 2019
- ✓ MSMTA Strings Plus
April 7, 2019
Kelly Hsu
Landon School, Bethesda
Deadline Feb. 18, 2019
- ✓ **MCMTA** Swarthout Hayes Piano Competition Bonnie Kellert; Junko Takahashi
April 7, 2019
PianoCraft, Gaithersburg
Deadline March 11, 2019
- ✓ MSMTA E. R. Davis Piano Competition
April 14, 2019
Junko Takahashi; Hyun Park
Washington Adventist University
Deadline March 9, 2019

Most MCMTA student events are now **PAPERLESS**, which means **online registration**, followed by a check mailed or delivered by the teacher to the event chair. A "how-to" video is available on the MCMTA website under "Video Help." Call the event chair if you are still overwhelmed. **VOLUNTEER POLICY:** All teachers who participate in Association events are required to volunteer for these events. 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.

Coming Attractions

- ✓ Dr. Ronit Seter will speak on teaching contemporary music at the meeting on March 12, 2019.
- ✓ A presentation on teaching music to the blind is planned for the meeting on April 9, 2019.
- ✓ **DATE & LOCATION CHANGES for Brewster Strings Competition (H. Stevens Brewster, Jr., Memorial Competition for Strings)** – Due to an unexpected schedule conflict, the event date has changed to May 5, 2019 (Sunday), starting at 1 pm. The location is now John Kendall Recital Hall at Potter Violin. This competition is open to all MSMTA members, even though this event is organized by MCMTA and ASTA. There are two divisions: Senior and Junior Level. Cash prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place winners. Required repertoire is TWO works of contrasting styles and periods: Baroque, Classical, Romantic or Contemporary. For details, please consult the MCMTA website or Student Activities Packet. Any questions, please contact the Chair, Lya Stern at Lyasdc@verizon.net. ***SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT to Potter Violins** for their generous sponsorship in providing the venue and ALL prizes for this event.
- ✓ October 6, 2019, will be the date for the next MSMTA mini-conference. Below see photos from the 2018 mini-conference registration and master class with Nancy Breth.



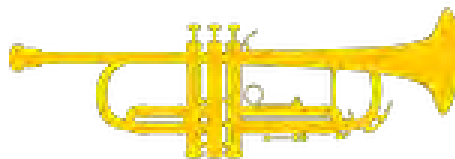
MCMTA Teachers Organize Additional Opportunities for Students

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, 2019.

In 1986, Li-Ly Chang created the International Young Artist Piano Competition, a festival that now embraces pianists from 5 to 30. The 34th International Young Artist Piano Competition will hold regional rounds at the University of Southern California on April 20, 2019; at Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music, April 20, 2019; and at Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore, April 28, 2019. Finals at Catholic University of America take place June 27–30, 2019. It is for young pianists age 30 and under, divided into 6 groups. Cash awards, performance opportunities at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, U.S. State Department, Washington Piano Festival, National Institute of Health, and Lancaster International Piano Festival. For more information, please email musicalartsinternational@yahoo.com or call 301-933-3715.

Dr. Deborah Brown coordinates the Rockville Music Competition for Solo Piano, Solo Strings, and Solo Voice. The 2019 Rockville Competition will be held Sunday, May 19, at Montgomery College, Music Building, Rockville, MD. For information and applications, see: www.rockvillecompetition.com. The application deadline is May 1, 2019. The Winners recital will be Saturday, May 24, 2019. For assistance, call 301-838-5594 or email: rockvillecompetition@gmail.com.

The Potomac Organ Institute announces that auditions take place on Friday, June 21, and Saturday, June 22, 2019, at Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church, 46833 Harry Byrd Highway, Sterling, VA, 20164. 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 free organ from 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. Repertoire requirements and an application are available on the website, www.potomacorganinst.org. Application materials are to be submitted electronically by June 14, 2019, to Claire Scheppe, at 703-430-0811, ext. 123, or email clmcaruso@gmail.com.



MCMTA Judged Recitals

Dear MCMTA Friends,

On December 2, 2018, we had three fantastic Judged recitals at the Steinway Piano Gallery. All the students played very well, and performed with such good musicianship that judges awarded eighteen high honors trophies and nine honorable mention ribbons.

Twenty-seven students participated in the Judged recitals. They represented the studios of: Svetlana Volkova, Junko Takahashi, Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich, Irina Gurevich, Audrey Andrist, Mei-Yu Lin, Katerina Zaitseva, Elena Dubovitsky, Hsien-Ann Meng, Doris Mattingly, Li-ly Chang, and Aglaia Koras.

Our esteemed adjudicators were Yoon Huh and Nancy O'Neill Breth. Special thanks to Mei-Yun Lin and Svetlana Volkova for helping with monitoring.

Miri Frenkel-Yakubovich, Chair



MCMTA December Meeting



Alice Ma with MCMTA performers George Peachey, Barbara Wing, and Vladimir Fridman



During the luncheon Andy Zatman played and Vlad joined in.

MCMTA Member Directories

The 2018–2019 MCMTA Member Directory was sent in December as a PDF attachment to all members with an email address. You can also pick up a print copy of the new MCMTA Member Directory at the February meeting.

Welcome back! Reinstating members **Gloria Youn** (gypianostudio@gmail.com), **Scott Schoem** (scottschoem@gmail.com), and **Allen Greenberg** (allen.greenberg@verizon.net).

Please make a note in your print directory of several corrections:

The correct email address for **Patty Lai** is lai.patty@gmail.com (not gmail.net).

The correct email address for **Allen Greenberg** is allen.greenberg@verizon.net (not allengreenberg@verizon as printed in the directory).

Recent member **Martha Blakely** holds MTNA national certification. Her name was omitted from the list of NCTM teachers on p. 22 of the directory.



February 5, 2019

Year of the Pig

MINUTES FROM MCMTA GENERAL MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2018

President Alice Ma called the meeting to order at 10:45 AM at Jordan Kitt's showroom at 11726 Parklawn Drive in Rockville.

The minutes from the general meeting of November 13, 2018, were sent electronically in advance.

The new Musical Camaraderie will meet again on January 18 from 10:00-noon at Bonnie Kellert's home. This is an informal discussion group for conversation and exchange about topics of interest. Those who wish to attend or contribute discussion topics and questions should email Bonnie. Please RSVP Bonnie if you plan to attend.

Junko Takahashi has announced that the MSMTA mini-conference will take place on Sunday, October 6, 2019, at the University of Maryland, College Park. The program will include a concert, details to be announced, along with presenters and master classes.

Alice announced that Tina Smith had been ill. New member Hanni Zhang recently had a baby.

Alice requested members to check our chapter Facebook page using the full name of the group: Montgomery County Music Teachers Association. She asked members to sign up for the Facebook group and to "like" the posts.

MCMTA member Muriel Hom coordinated a concert of the DC Federation of Music Clubs at the Strathmore Mansion on December 13.

The next MTNA Teacher Certification study group, coordinated by Helen Weems, will be held January 28, 2019, at the Olney Public Library. Four teachers have begun the certification process. For more information teachers can contact Helen at weemspianostudio@gmail.com.

Bonny Miller brought print copies of the new Membership Directory in colorful binders. The Directory was sent as a PDF file to all MCMTA members with an email address on December 9, 2018.

Alice introduced MCMTA performers Barbara Wing, George Peachey, and Vladimir Fridman. Repertoire in the concert by Bach, Mozart, Brahms, Albeniz, Piazzolla, and Fridman represented Baroque, Classical, Romantic, 20th-century, and 21st-century compositions. At the request of the audience, Vlad performed a third number, "Unreal Run," which he composed to play at the Kennedy Center.

Alice adjourned the meeting at 11:31, followed by the traditional holiday season luncheon. We enjoyed delicious food and goodies, plus an impromptu jam with Andy Zatman at the piano and Vlad Fridman on guitar.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonny Miller, substituting for Tina Smith