

MCMTA Newsletter

Montgomery County Music Teacher's Association

September/October 2019



The **September Membership meeting** is set for September 10, 2019 at Jordan Kitt's Music, located at 11726 Parklawn Dr, Rockville, MD 20852. The meeting begins with networking and general visiting at 9:30, business meeting begins at 10:00, and the program generally begins at 10:30 and runs until noon.

The October membership meeting is scheduled for October 8. Same place, same time.

What's happened to our beautiful newsletter?!

When Bonny Miller took over the newsletter in 2013, she changed the format from a printed and mailed newsletter to electronic only. When it was no longer feasible to send bulk emails through individual accounts (too often, these were filtered out as spam at the receiving end) Mailchimp became our platform to send bulk messages, in part because it is free for a nonprofit of our size.



Bonny has retired, but she left us with a very complete and forward-looking plan for the future of our newsletter, our website, and all our means of communication. A new Vice President of Publications has been identified, and will be announced shortly. This person, once approved by the board of directors of MCMTA and the membership, will take over this position effective January, 2020.

In the meanwhile, this bare-bones newsletter will serve for the months of September and October. It will be followed by another, similarly formatted, newsletter for November and December. The first newsletter of 2020 is scheduled, as usual, to be released at the beginning of February under the guidance of our new editor, when we will return to a beautiful newsletter, with (perhaps) a coordinated look on our website. Stay tuned in with us!

Please join us for the September Presentation by David Abbott:

"Issues in Performance Practice of 18/19th Century Keyboard Music: Expression through Articulation"

This lecture will briefly discuss some concepts of articulation from this time period and then demonstrate how gesture and musical "Affekt" can be affected through examples varying articulation in short musical excerpts. The use of pedal as an expressive device will also be demonstrated in certain musical examples.

David Abbott is a versatile pianist equally at home in chamber music or solo performance both on modern as well as historical instruments. He resided for ten years in Switzerland performing both as soloist and collaborative artist throughout Switzerland and Germany and toured in Australia and Europe as a member of the *Swiss Chamber Soloists*. His recording of Schumann's piano quartet and quintet won the coveted *Prix d'Or* prize for outstanding chamber music recording.



Dr. Abbott has served on the faculties of the Zürich and Schaffhausen Conservatories of Music (Switzerland), and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (USA). He has directed summer courses in both piano and chamber music in Europe as well as in the United States for over 30 years. He appears frequently in recitals in many college campuses and music festivals across the country.

He was awarded a Bronze medal and two special prizes at the 1980 International Music Competition in Geneva. He recorded a two-CD recording set of solo and chamber music by 20th century composer Dmitri Shostakovich. He is currently engaged in a project researching and performing the solo piano and chamber music of Johannes Brahms. He has been a member of the faculty of Albion College, Albion, Michigan since 2005 where he serves as Professor of Piano, Chamber Music, and Music History.

The 2019/2020 Student Activities Calendar has been posted to our website. Please visit: www.mcmta-md.org/ and click on “Calendar” under the Activities bullet point (on the left side of the screen). The application forms and online registration for our events will be posted after the MCMTA Board Meeting on September 3.

**Please mark your calendar now for the October 9th membership meeting.
Our October Presentation by Susan Chan:**

"Contemporary Chinese Piano Repertoire for Teaching and Performing"



In this multimedia lecture recital, a selection of contemporary Chinese piano pieces suitable for teaching and performing are introduced and demonstrated. These works range from intermediate to advanced levels. Composed and arranged by internationally renowned living Chinese composers Zhang Zhao, Tan Dun, Chen Yi and Zhou Long, these pieces have their roots in music from various regions of China. Pedagogical and performance issues are discussed, and artworks or photographs of scenery pertaining to the music are displayed as Powerpoint slides during the performance.

Susan Chan has performed on four continents, and actively promotes music from Asia and that written by women composers in addition to traditional repertoire. She has performed in such venues as Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall; Chopin's birth house in Poland; Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall; and Steinway Halls in New York, London and Tokyo. She has appeared as soloist with the Dnepropetrovsk State Philharmonic (Ukraine), Hong Kong Sinfonietta, and Portland Columbia Symphony. She is a member of the Rose City Trio and has performed chamber music with members of the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra, Hamburg Symphony, Oregon Symphony, and Music from China.

Dr. Chan is also an active masterclass teacher, presenter and adjudicator. She has been guest artist at institutions such as the Royal College of Music in London, UK, the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory at the National University of Singapore, University of Sydney in Australia, and the Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. Her students have received awards from international competitions.

Ms. Chan holds a Doctor of Music degree from Indiana University and MPhil and BA degrees from the University of Hong Kong. Her major piano teachers include György Sebök, Menahem Pressler and Eleanor Wong. She currently serves as Professor of Music and Piano Area Coordinator at Portland State University, where she is also founder and director of the PSU Steinway Piano Series.

Minutes from the May 14, 2019 Membership Meeting

President Alice Ma called the meeting to order at 10:32 AM at Jordan Kitt's showroom at 11726 Parklawn Drive in Rockville.

The minutes from the general meeting of April 9, 2019, were sent electronically in advance.

Guity Adjoodani introduced her friend Amir Razmara, a guitar and piano teacher, who travels to student's homes.

Alice shared some teaching materials she received at the MTNA National Conference in Spokane, Washington. She reminded members they can go to MTNA's website to get free handouts.

Carol Edison asked the current Board to stand and thanked them for their service. She said they had all agreed to continue for another term, except for Bonny Miller who is retiring. Those in attendance voted in favor of accepting the new Board.

Alice reminded members they can log onto the Facebook page and post information. The name of the page is called the Montgomery County Music Teachers Association. Alice also reminded everyone to be sure they have subscribed to the MailChimp mail server. Members can also communicate with each other and share informal information about upcoming events on the Yahoo group. Cynthia Cathcart said you must have a Yahoo address to join a Yahoo group, which is called MCMTA. You set yourself up with your email address and password, go to MCMTA and click to join. To use your preferred email, you select the option to manage the group. You can then change the default email to the one you prefer. To limit how many emails you receive, you can select what type you want to receive.

Sharon Carr reminded members to apply for the Grant for Continuing Education. MCMTA members are eligible to apply every four years for this benefit. Sharon encouraged members to be creative in their thinking about how they could use funds to further their teacher education.

Alice asked Bonny Miller to come forward to be recognized for her outstanding, lengthy service as Vice President of Publications. Bonny said she and her husband are planning to move soon to the family farm in North Carolina. Alice said Bonny created a professional looking Newsletter every month, took meeting minutes, Board meeting minutes, and handled the production of the Member Directory each year.

Carol Edison thanked Alice for her excellent leadership as President.

Alice thanked Tom and the staff at Jordan Kitts for their supportive help providing membership meetings, and helping with many last minute requests that we always have. Ingrid Mongini presented Tom with gift certificates from Trader Joe's to give to the staff.

Richard Hartzell asked to spread the word that he is looking for a Baldwin Acrosonic spinet.

Susan Roberts is retiring and brought her music to sell at a discount. Members can contact her if they are interested.

Carol Edison announced an upcoming concert of the City Choir of Washington. It will be held Sunday, May 19 at 5pm at the National Presbyterian Church.

Alice adjourned the meeting at 11AM, then introduced a varied program of piano music featuring MCMTA members Marilyn Bryant, Guity Adjoodani, Hani Jin, Li-Ly Chang, and herself. Marilyn performed student literature composed by herself and Andrew Zatman. Guity performed works by Marcel Der Stepani and Javad Marudi. Hai performed Nightingale from Goyescas by Enrique Granados. Li-Ly Chang performed a set of student literature that she had composed. Li-Ly and Alice performed Clementi's Sonatina in C Major for Two Pianos, Op 36, No1. Hanni Zhang was also scheduled to play but was unable to attend due to family illness. Following the program everyone enjoyed a delicious potluck luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Sinclair Smith, Recording Secretary

