

MCMTA Newsletter

Montgomery County Music Teacher's Association

November/December 2019



The **November Membership meeting** is November 12, 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 **December Membership meeting** is scheduled for December 10, with a presentation as well as our annual Holiday Season Potluck Luncheon. The meeting is the same place, **and the same time!**

Apologies are due to all for the previous version of this newsletter. We got our emails tangled, and miss-represented the programming of our next two meetings. We're blaming the temporary editor, who will be happier than most upon the New Year when our new, permanent editor Marc Donnelly will take over the newsletter and communications in general.

Marc is an excellent candidate for this office. He has outstanding credentials as a piano teacher, church musician, and most important for us, he is technically savvy. We expect that he will bring to our publications the latest techniques and knowledge.

Please Join us for the November 12 presentation by Catherine Kautsky: Debussy in Context: Postcards from Paris

Politics, art, literature, not to mention racism, orientalism, and nationalism – a potent mix in fin-de siècle Paris. Come hear how Claude Debussy, who died 100 years ago, combined them all in music whose sheer beauty and elegance belies its revolutionary impact on the new century. Pianist Catherine Kautsky, whose recent book, *Debussy's Paris: Piano Portraits of the Belle Époque*, was touted by Richard Goode as “a wonderful book, a kind of total immersion in the Debussyan magic,” will perform, as well as guide us knowledgeably through Paris, “the capital of the nineteenth century,” as it careens into a turbulent modernism.



Catherine Kautsky, the George and Marjorie Olsen Chandler Professor of Music and Chair of Keyboard Studies at Lawrence University, has been lauded by the New York Times as a pianist whose “music spoke directly to the listener, with neither obfuscation nor pretense.” Her recent recording of the complete Debussy *Preludes* was said to “bring out all the power, majesty, and mystery of Debussy’s conception,” and she has just issued a recording of the Brahms *Sonatas for Violin and Piano*. Ms. Kautsky, whose teachers have included Rosina Lhevinne, Gyorgy Sebok, Martin Canin, and Gilbert Kalish, has concertized widely, performing in Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Recital Hall, and the Phillips Collection and abroad on six continents. She teaches and performs at the Interharmony International Music Festival in Italy and the Saarburg International Music Festival in Germany during the summers.

Prof. Kautsky has taught at Lawrence University since 1987, with a 6 -year hiatus as both a faculty member and chair of the Keyboard Dept. at University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the winner of the

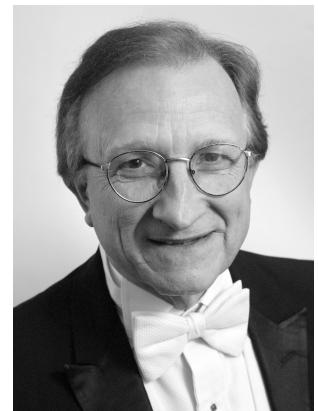
2016 Lawrence University Excellence in Teaching Award and the 2013 Faculty Convocation Award. She is also known for her cross-disciplinary interests and was awarded the distinguished Arts Institute Creative Arts Award while at UW-Madison for her work on the intersections of literature, music, and social history. She is a frequent presenter at national conferences, and her articles have appeared in *Clavier Companion*, *American Music Teacher*, and *International Piano*. Her book, *Debussy's Paris: Piano Portraits of the Belle Époque*, appeared to excellent reviews in September, 2017.

You are invited to visit her website at <http://faculty.lawrence.edu/kautskyc/>



**Please Join us December 10 for the presentation 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. After winning the American music prize, Mr. Gowen made his New York recital debut at Alice Tully Hall and recorded an album of American music for New World Records.

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* of 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.

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.

Since 1981 he has been on the faculty at the School of Music at UMd. He taught also for ten years at the Washington Conservatory of Music and for two years at the Levine School of Music. He is one of the 48 pianists featured in Benjamin Saver's 1993 book *The Most Wanted Piano Teachers in the USA*.

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 are also posted in our brand-new listserve at <https://groups.io/g/MCMTA-Maryland> (That's right: YahooGroups is going away).

Report from the Elementary Recital in October

We had 63 students participating in four Elementary Recitals October 26th in Jordan Kitt’s Music, Rockville.

Participating Teachers: Florence Ahn, Chan Mo Chum, Lana Em, Suzanne Ferall, Meri Frenkel-Yakubovich, Annie Hou, Vivian Kwok, Larisa McKay, Olga Soukhoveev, Lara Parris, and Katerina Zaitseva.

Special thanks to the Miri Frenkel-Yakubovich Family for editing the programs; Annie Hou and Katerina Zaitseva for Monitoring Recitals; Lara Paris and Chan Mo Chum for registration and setting up prior recital.

We look forward seeing you next Elementary Recital on December 21st! Registration deadline November 21st. Glad to have our young musicians performing in friendly and happy atmosphere.

– Chairperson Olga Soukhoveev

Photo Gallery from the Elementary Recitals:



participating teachers Lara Parris, Larissa McKay, Olga Soukhoveev



Photographs by Lily Chang

Report from the Judged Recital on October 20

On October 20th, we had 3 wonderful Judged Recitals at the Jordan Kitt's Music.

Thirty-three students participated in the Judged Recitals. There were studios of: Cynthia Cathcart, Elena Eliseeva, Svetlana Em, Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich, Irina Gurevich, Jaewon Lee, Mei-Yu Lin, Hsien-Ann Meng, Yee-Chen Pao, Lara Paris, Hyun Park, Junko Takahashi, Svetlana Volkova.

Our honorable adjudicators were Lily Chang and Janice Wood. The judges awarded 32 high honors and 1 honorable mention.

Many thanks for Jordan Kitt's Music for hosting us again! Special thanks to Hsien-Ann Meng and Cynthia Cathcart for helping with monitoring.

Our next Judged Recital will be held on December 8th at *Steinway Gallery*. Just a friendly reminder that **each studio has a time limit of 18 minutes only**. Please check the time of your students carefully to ensure that it won't exceed the limit before submitting your applications.

When you choose the repertoire please make sure to refer to the pieces of level 4 or above in the book *The Pianist's Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance Literature* by Jane Magrath, Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. Thank you very much, and I am looking forward to seeing your students on December 8th. Sincerely,

– Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich
Chair of MCMTA Judged Recitals

Photo Gallery from the Judged Recitals:



Upcoming Activities:

It is advisable to sign up for student activities in a timely manner. Some events reach capacity before the deadline and thus are forced to close their applications. In general, deadlines are one month prior to the event.

Judged Recital; Sunday December 8 at Steinway Piano Gallery in Rockville

MSMTA Keyboard Musicianship Exam; Sunday December 15 at Washington Adventist University

Elementary "Let It Snow" Recital; Saturday December 21 at Jordan Kitt's Music in Rockville



Minutes from the September 10, 2019 Membership Meeting

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 May 14, 2019, were sent electronically in advance.

The Student Activities Packet is available on the Yahoo list serve. Alice announced one change, which is the MSMTA Theory Testing is March 15.

Hospitality Chair Carol Brody is no longer providing food items at meetings, other than drinks. She will provide a signup list for members who wish to bring refreshments to meetings.

The MSMTA Conference will be held on October 6 at UMCP, starting in the afternoon. The fee for the event is only \$20 and includes master classes and a winners concert with voice, strings and piano students. Junko Takahashi said it is not too late to send an audio tape of a student for the master class. The piece cannot be longer than 10 minutes. She said volunteers are needed for the MD State Conference.

The first MCMTA event is the Judged Recital on October 20. Chair Miri Frenkel-Yacubovich said the registration is online. One change this year is that teachers can enter up to 6 students. She encouraged teachers to send students. It is a very nice event and not too stressful because students do not compete against others, and all ages and levels are included. The judge gives scores which lead to many levels of awards, the highest receiving a trophy. There are 4 judged recitals in all during the year.

Barbara Wing spoke about a four-session series she will give for teachers about the Preludes, beginning October 18 and continuing for 3 consecutive Fridays at her home in Bethesda, which is just inside the Beltway off River Road. The cost is \$160 for four 1 ½ hr sessions. For more information email Barbara at wing1@gmail.com.

Cynthia Cathcart addressed members about the budget, which was approved at the September 3 board meeting. She said for the first time in many years we have a budget. Previously, MCMTA always adjusted our expenses to fit income as the year progressed. Therefore, a Finance Committee comprised of board members met in June to develop that budget. As they reviewed our finances and made recommendations, they honored all of MCMTA's priorities. They decided to increase fees \$2 for the Elementary and Advanced Recitals, Judged Recitals, and Festival of Music. Fees for three of these events have not been increased in 10 years. The budget for expenses for our student activities will be the same. There will be some reductions in other areas, such as members bringing snacks to meetings. Scholarships and grants will continue but be reduced in number. There will be only one Grant for a High School Senior of \$1,000, and one MCMTA Teacher Grant for continuing education of \$500. It was felt these were important to our mission, and that we need to have a budget in place to ensure funds are available to continue them.

In summary, Cynthia summarized that with this budget we will continue to put our funds towards what is important to us, as is stated in our By Laws: "To provide and promote educational opportunities in music for teachers and students, to uphold and elevate the standards of music study and thereby increase appreciation for the arts of music and skill in its performance, and to raise funds for carrying out the purpose set forth herein."

Alice adjourned the meeting at 11AM. Immanuela Gruenberg then introduced Dr. David Abbott who gave the presentation "Expression through Articulation, Issues in Performance Practice of 18/19th Century Keyboard Music". Dr. Abbott resided for ten years in Switzerland, serving on the faculties of the Zurich and Schaffhausen Conservatories of Music. He has directed summer and chamber music courses in Europe and the US for many years, performs as both a soloist and collaborative artist, and is an award-winning recording artist. He is currently Professor of Piano, Chamber Music and Music History at Albion College in Michigan.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Sinclair Smith
Recording Secretary



Minutes from the October 8, 2019 Membership Meeting

President Alice Ma called the meeting to order at 10:15AM at Jordan Kitt's showroom at 11726 Parklawn Drive in Rockville.

The Student Activities Packet is available on the Yahoo list serve.

Alice said that starting this school year, we are providing chances for members to bring refreshments and related items again. Hospitality Chair Carol Brody and Robin Schultz are coordinating the signup list. Members can sign up during meetings, or go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409044daca2ca13-mcmta>. You must first log in and set up an account, which is easy to do, and is free.

Jordan Kitt's Music is hiring teachers to work at Beltsville location. Junko said that Peabody Preparatory is also hiring.

Those that attended the Maryland State Conference said the sessions were informative, and featured some great student performances. Junko asked for feedback on how to increase participation in the State Conference.

Two brothers from the Brewster family and a previous student of Mr. Steven Brewster visited the meeting to thank MCMTA for partnering with them to put on the event. Each one of them spoke Mr. Steven Brewster, and what a positive influence he was on them. Mr. Brewster was top notch musician who was principal bassist in the National Symphony. He was also a wonderful teacher who inspired many students, and a tremendous mentor. His passion inspired his sons, all of whom are musicians. Lee Brewster is a violinist with local organizations, and teaches at a private boys' school. They spoke about their dedication to continued financial support for the Brewster Competition, and their hope that MCMTA would also continue to support the event which honors their father's memory. They are willing to search for additional partners to keep the legacy going. In addition to monetary support they are willing to act as adjudicators.

Alice adjourned the meeting at 11AM. Immanuela Gruenberg then introduced Dr. Susan Chan, Professor of Music at Portland State University. A popular presenter at the 2019 MTNA Conference in Spokane, her sabbatical this year allows her to travel to our area. She gave a multimedia lecture recital, "Contemporary Chinese Piano Repertoire for Teaching and Performing", sharing a selection of contemporary Chinese piano pieces suitable for teaching and performing. The works, ranging from intermediate to advanced levels, were all composed and arranged by internationally renowned living Chinese composers.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Sinclair Smith
Recording Secretary

