



Newsletter – Winter 2005

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, SHELLEY REEVES, NCTM

The “No Child Left Behind” Act of 2001 (NCLB) lists “The Arts” as one of the cores subjects, ranking them with reading, math, science and other academic disciplines. However, it does not define the term (specifically, it never mentions music). Each state can determine its own definition of the arts. As of July, 2004, the state of Massachusetts hasn’t mandated arts educations or assessment, but fortunately, it has created voluntary standards for music (www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/current.html) and it’s up to us to know what they are, and to be able to explain how what we do in our studios and classrooms support those standards, especially if your local school doesn’t meet them.

There are five standards: 1. Singing 2. Reading and Notation 3. Playing instruments
4. Improvisation and Composition and 5. Critical response (analysis).

Knowing what each standard entails will help you explain why you teach “all that other stuff” when a parent or student grumbles. Have a copy of these on your waiting room table and challenge your parents to find out where your students’ education falls short and how you can fill in those gaps

NCLB also emphasizes accountability and increasing the number of highly qualified teachers. This is how MMTA can help you.

1. Have your students assessed. They may take part in our non-competitive evaluations, RACE program, Bay State Contest or you may organize your own MTNA Studio Festival (<http://www.mtna.org/studfest.htm>)
2. Take a workshop to increase your competency in one of these standards. The Southeastern Chapter of MMTA is offering a composition workshop with Eugenie Rocherolle this spring, and next year’s Quad State Conference will feature Tony Caramia who can speak on improvisation (both Standards #4). Or, read through the offerings at this year’s MTNA Conference in your latest American Music Teacher magazine and consider attending.
3. Do you meet the definition of a highly qualified teacher? Although independent teachers aren’t affected by NCLB, it’s not a bad idea to hold ourselves up to those guidelines (www.ed.gov/teachers/nclbguide). Consider pursuing national certification. And above all, learn how to use the Internet. You can’t credibly claim to be “up-to-date” without knowledge of the resources available to you and your students there.
4. Take advantage of our scholarships. The Herbert H. Bowker Scholarship helps send a student to music camp; The Reed Family Fund will help you attend the MTNA Conference; The Nancy Oliva Scholarship encourages your high school students to enter the Bay State Contest and pursue music study at the college level.
5. Last, use this newsletter forum, newsletter@mmta.net or, via mail to Michelle Gordon, MMTA Newsletter Editor, PO Box 729, Mattapoisett, MA 02739. What unique or unusual things do you do with your students that might help all of us meet these challenging arts standards?

MTNA COMPETITION NEWS

The MTNA competitions were held on November 13, 2004, at Regis College, in Weston. There were 7 entrants at the Junior Competition, 3 - at the Senior Competition, and 5 - at the Young Artist Competition. All students gave impressive performances, and we had distinguished teachers as judges. Our State Winners and Representatives are now advancing to the Eastern Division Competitions that will be held on January 7-8, 2005, at Plymouth State University, in New Hampshire.

The State Winners are:

Junior Competition - Ricky Chen, piano, student of Nilly Shilo

Senior Competition - Daniel Suo, piano, student of A. Ramon Rivera

The State Young Artist Representatives are:

Joseph Shippee - Piano, student of Doris Stevenson

Vito Giacalone - Saxophone, student of Carrie Koffman

Sheridan Randolph - Viola, student of Kathryn Lockwood

Krystal Bly - Voice, student of D'Anna Fortunato

News flash! Results of the Eastern Division Competitions:

Young Artist, Voice: Winner, Krystal Bly

Elementary Composition: 3rd place, Amani Carson-Rose, student of Alla Cohen

Junior Composition: Winner, Douglon Tse, student of Alla Cohen

Young Artist Composition: Winner, Brian Buch, student of Alla Cohen

Look for the rest of the results on the website, www.mmta.net

Royal American Conservatory Examinations (RACE)

Things progress apace for the establishment of an examination center in Massachusetts. Scott McBride Smith gave a brief overview of the program at our state conference in October. Spectrum Music was on hand with materials available for the preparation of students for examinations, and many people took the opportunity to peruse the material.

The piano exams will be held on May 21, 2005, at The Church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormon) in Belmont – with easy access from Route 2!

Theory exams will be held on May 13 and May 14, at the studio of Alison Vannah and will continue to be held there until we have more than 15 students taking the exams at one session.

Registration for the spring exams (both theory and piano) begins on January 11, and runs through February 28. To register students for all exams, go to www.royalamericanconservatory.org. There you will obtain a teacher number and complete information when you register a student. Anyone with questions either about the exams or about the program in general may contact Alison Vannah at 781-641-0430.

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

The Greater Lowell Chapter of the MMTA

Although GLMTA is small it is full of capable, caring, hard working and talented musicians looking to expand their individual and group horizons. GLMTA currently has six members and is looking to expand this number exponentially by next year. Newly elected co-presidents Lucy DeSa and Houry Marie Schmeizl look to expand offerings and membership concurrently as they both feel that GLMTA has exceptional possibilities and potential for growth in the community.

This year GLMTA events include: the non-competitive exams held March 13th at MusicWorks in Tewksbury, Mass., faculty and member concert by pianist Steven Zocchi at the Stevens Estate on May 15th at 5:00 pm, and the first annual July Jamboree being held at the Parish Center for the Arts on July 10th featuring the talented students of the GLMTA chapter members as an ongoing effort to reach out to the community at large and expose students to different venues and concert events.

To join this chapter, contact Houry at GLMTA@mmta.net

The Southeastern Chapter

Our Chapter continues to plan for the upcoming workshop day with Eugenie Rocherolle. All information as it is available will be on the State Website.

The Chapter had a Nursing Home Recital in November, and plans a January 23 Winter Recital. Non-Competitive Evaluations will be held on March 5, 2005, at the Music Hall in Marion, MA.

The year will conclude with a Master Class in April, and our annual Spring Recital at the Music Hall in Marion.

Do you have a new e-mail address? Check the Members' Directory to see if yours is missing or incorrect, and we'll update our database. Send all your corrections to membership@mmta.net or to:

Stephen Deitz
524 Massachusetts Ave., #2
Boston, MA 02118

The newsletters have been online since August, always at your fingertips! Reading online, or printing out your own copy saves your organization printing costs and postage, which can be directed to our programs. *We hope to mail the next newsletters to just those that have no Internet access.*

**NOMINATION FOR MASSACHUSETTS MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
TEACHER-OF-THE-YEAR**

Name of Nominator _____

Day Phone _____ E-mail _____

Name of Nominee _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Day Phone _____

Please describe briefly the reasons the nominee should receive this award. In addition to fine teaching, comment on involvement in this and other organizations in the community, speaking honors, competition successes and any other relevant information.

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| Return by February 1 to: Teacher-Of-The-Year 157 Carleton Rd. Carlisle, MA 01741 |
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IMPORTANT NEWS AND REMINDERS

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES TO NEXT ISSUE OF NEWSLETTER: MAY 27, 2005

REMINDER! The deadline for the Bay State Contest is April 1, 2005. If you joined MMTA after November 1, but would like to participate in this spring's contest, please read the rules carefully. They are in your Membership Directory or posted online at www.mmta.net.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS NEWS

Shelley Reeves, NCTM has written an article appearing in this winter's Keyboard Companion magazine about using technology at the Bay State Contest.

In November, Helena Vesterman gave a recital of Chopin Nocturnes and Schumann's Carnival. Then, Niva Fried joined her to perform Brahms' Waltzes for Two Pianos, Op. 39.

Ludmila Bekker's adult student Richard Einhorn was a grand prizewinner at the International Outstanding Amateur Piano competition in Boston and played the Piano concerto in A-minor by Schumann with the Newton Symphony Orchestra on October 24.

Debbie Cyr, Registered Piano Technician just had an article, "Career Opportunities of a Piano Technician" published in the October 2004 Clavier magazine. It is one in a series of articles they were running on careers in music besides teaching and performing.

Kathy Maskell, NCTM ...

Fourteen students from MusicWorks participated in a keyboard ensemble performance at Old Cambridge Baptist Church, Harvard Square on December 19. Students, in teams of 7, played prelude and offertory selections as well as accompanying congregational singing of hymns for the morning worship service.

Ensemble Competition at the Sharon Music Academy

On April 16th, 2005 Sharon Music Academy will hold an Open Ensemble Competition for young musicians up to 18 years old. There will be plenty awards in various categories intended to reward talent, acknowledge effort and aspiration, and turn this event into a celebration of music. Information about this contest can be obtained from Sharon Music Academy website www.sharonmusicacademy.com/page6.html or by calling Sharon Music Academy at 781-784-9079.

Non-Competitive Evaluations

The noncompetitive student evaluations will be held throughout the state during March, April and May. The evaluation setting is positive and encouraging; and the requirements are few. To participate, students prepare any two pieces in contrasting style and play for an evaluating teacher. There are no levels or repertoire requirements; memorization is encouraged but not required. Working with students as time permits, the judge completes a written evaluation on certificate paper and presents it to the student in an award folder. Teachers can select a long or short evaluation depending on the time needed to complete a registrant's repertoire. Fees are \$12 for a 10-minute evaluation and \$15 for a 15-minute evaluation

For more information, contact Chair Maria Reesman at NCE@mmta.net

Or you may enclose a sheet of paper including the following information:

Teacher name, address, telephone number and MMTA number

List of student names, indicating whether they will need a long or short evaluation

Names of pieces

Enclose one check from the teacher payable to MMTA.

Application deadlines are 4 to 6 weeks before the evaluations, in late January to early March. If you need to request a specific performance time, please indicate your special request on the form and mail it as soon as possible.

Please refer to the Membership Handbook for evaluation criteria.

*** denotes sites which offer both the Noncompetitive Evaluations and AIM (Syllabus) Examinations**

Boston North Center: Date: Sunday, March 13
Postmark Deadline: February 15
Location: MusicWorks
Contact: Kathy Maskell, 885 Main St., Tewksbury, MA 01876
978-851-5070

North Shore: Date: Saturday; April 9
Postmark Deadline: March 9
Two Locations: Morgan Piano School; second TBA
For directions, contact: Lori Tremblay, 978-857-7619
OR
Diane Anderson, 781-592-6842

Metro-West: Date: March 12
Postmark Deadline: February 19
Location: Tenacre Country Day School
Contact: Anne Munstedt, NCTM, 73 Linden St., Needham, MA 02492
781-444-1128

Southeastern MA: Date: March 5
Postmark Deadline: February 5
Location: Marion Music Hall, Marion, MA
Contact: Michelle Gordon, MGordonPiano@ComCast.net

***South Shore:** Date: March 20
Postmark Deadline: February 1
Location: South Shore Conservatory
Send NCE applications to: Beth Hilliard, 112 Maple St., Scituate, MA 02066
781-545-2324
Send AIM applications to: Elizabeth Smith, 160 River St., Norwell, MA 02066
781-659-7806

NONCOMPETITIVE EVALUATIONS APPLICATION

Please make copies and complete one for each student.

Which exam center? _____

Student Name: _____

Choose One: Short Evaluation (\$12) _____ Long Evaluation (\$15) _____

Preferred Time: _____

Teacher's Name and Address _____

Teacher's Phone: _____ Teacher's E-mail _____

How teacher would like to help at the event _____

Amount Enclosed: _____