

## MMTA Board Meeting

February 6 2013

In attendance:

Vera Rubin  
Alison Barr  
Lydia Reed-Guertin  
Michelle Gordon  
Heather Riley  
Nilly Shilo  
Leslie Hitelman  
Dorothy Travis  
Janet Ainsworth

President Vera Rubin called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, and welcomed all guests.

### TEACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Vera announced that Nominations are due for "Teacher of the Year". Nilly Shilo nominated Vivian Tsang. Vivian Tsang nominated Alison Barr. Since those nominated were present at the meeting, it was decided to hold the vote through Email. Vera will send an email to the Board, and call for the Vote.

### MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING

Following discussion, Dorothy Travis **MOVED** and Vivian Tsang **SECONDED** approval of the minutes of the September 19, 2012, meeting of the Board. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Dorothy Travis **MOVED** to have the approved minutes placed on the MMTA Website. Vivian Tsang **SECONDED.** **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

### COMPENSATION

Dorothy Travis presented her research regarding compensation, and the importance of transparencies of all functions of the Board and Budgets.

She reminded the Board that Jan Spillane is retiring from the Board as Treasurer, but is interested in keeping our Books, and performing Accounting Services. She has quoted \$25/hour for bookkeeping, and \$75/hour for Accounting.

Dorothy recommended that we try creating a staff position for Dorothy as Treasurer, and have a Board person who communicates with her and learns how to keep the books.

There was discussion regarding paying the Coordinator of the Bay State Contest. Vivian reminded the Board that this is a lot of work for 3 months, and it is very hard to find someone who has the time to do it. Following discussion regarding administrative costs associated with the implementation of the program, it was decided that Vivian Tsang will write up a rationale and job description for a Staff Position.

There was much discussion regarding compensation of a Treasurer Position, regarding the long term, and the nature of the work of Treasurer as the organization changes and grows. Vera Rubin suggested that rather than paying the Treasurer by the hour, that it be a salary of \$500 per year. Following discussion regarding the legal necessity of having a Treasurer who creates reports to the State, the Board thought it was a good idea to create the position of Treasurer, as well as have a Board Member who would sign checks.

Dorothy Travis MOVED with Caveat that we create a Staff Treasurer Position. Alison Barr SECONDED. 4 YES, 1 NO, 2 ABSTENTION

#### ENRICHMENT GRANTS

Lydia reported her research regarding an Enrichment Stipend for Board members. She researched other states, as well as NEPTA, and found that Arizona has a Teacher enrichment grant with a lifetime cap of \$300, distributed among applicants. NEPTA has a Teacher enrichment fund in alternating years for 2 members of \$500 each for enrichment/growth/pedagogy. Eligible candidates have been members for 2 years, and had served on a committee or board, or volunteered for at least 2 events.

She suggested that we decide on a purpose and description of the Fund, and decide if travel funds are allowed. She suggested that eligible candidates be MMTA members who are serving or have served on a board of committee, and the number of applicants should be considered, as well as the question of whether or not they can apply for more than 1 grant.

Lydia suggested that a committee be formed to further discuss these issues, along with how it will be different from the Reed Family Grant, and how to generate income.

Following discussion, Lydia Reed-Guertin, Vivian Tsang and Nilly Shilo volunteered to be on the committee, and report back to the Board at the next meeting on June 5.

#### COMMISSIONED COMPOSER

Janet Ainsworth reminded the Board that the next Quad-State Conference will be on Saturday, October 5, in Gorham. She then read her letter to the Board regarding her suggestions for the Commissioned Composer (attached to these minutes). Following discussion regarding implementing her suggestions for the program, Alison Barr MOVED. And Dorothy Travis SECONDED that MMTA contributes every other year \$1250. For the commissioned composer, to be matched by national by a grant of \$750, for total compensation of \$2000.00. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Janet then asked the Board if they would consider a joint commission with Connecticut, and it was decided that they would not.

## DUES INCREASE

Following discussion, Dorothy Travis MOVED and Leslie Heitelman SECONDED that MMTA increase State Dues to \$35. per year beginning the next Fiscal Year. The dues for senior and students members will be increased to \$25.00 per year. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

## TRANSFERRING THE STRING SECTION OF BAY STATE CONTEST TO ANOTHER LOCATION

Vera recommended that the Strings section of the Bay State Contest be moved from Fitchburg. She suggested moving it to the Newton Cultural Center. She volunteered to do all the work involved in this process. Following discussion, the Board agreed that we do need a better venue, but disagreed that Vera take this all on herself. Alison suggested that in order to draw attention to the new Chamber Music Festival that we change the date to closer to that. She thought that it probably would not work for this spring. It was decided to discuss this change in venue for the Bay State Contest in 2014, at our next meeting.

This portion of the Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Michelle Gordon

## THE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Heather Riley asked is everyone had had a chance to read her email:

I've been stretched too far running both Norwood and Littleton centers (which really should be run by 2 separate persons anyway), and I desperately need a break. Besides this responsibility, I'm also running a full teaching studio at Indian Hill, plus classes, managing a big responsibility as Chair of the piano department there, running my own teaching studio in JP, and helping out with NEPTA recitals. The TAP program has been going through a lot of ... "growing pains", so to speak, administratively, which have unfortunately taken a toll on me personally and professionally. Also, it is now running at 3 times the size, logistically, as when I took it over from Shelley about two years ago. The growth is good for the program, but not so much for me personally! The next person who takes the TAP position needs to have time and great organizational skills, and is interested in continuing to make sure it is a positive, successful experience for our teachers and students. I still believe that it's a WONDERFUL curriculum and program for students, and whole-heartedly support it, and will continue to be involved in the program as a teacher.

At the same time, I have absolutely LOVED being on the MMTA board, getting to know and working with all of you wonderful people, and being a meaningful part of helping our organization!! And I really want to stay on with the board, and continue to help - just in another capacity. I hope I can do so.

Unfortunately, several people had had to leave the meeting by this point and Heather said that she had hoped to discuss this with and get feedback from Board members. She stated that, while she was willing to serve as TAP Coordinator through spring of 2013, she would need to step down after that. She said she is certainly willing to help in the transition to a new person, and

that could take place over the summer. She does have some volunteers who have helped in various ways, but none who is a clear choice to take over.

Vera said that she would let the membership know of the availability of the position and, hopefully, someone would come forward.

Lydia publicly thanked Heather for her fantastic work in this capacity and stated that everyone is always impressed with how well the days are run.

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Alison Barr, Secretary Pro Temps (Michelle Gordon had to leave the room)

### **ADDENDA TO MINUTES**

– The following important Board discussions were held after the meeting, by phone and email.

On Vera's request to discuss changing the venue for the Strings portion of the Bay State Contest: we discussed the difficulty of scheduling and running a separate venue for string contestants in the Bay State Contest and decided to discuss it for the 2014 Contest.

However, much email and phone correspondence ensued after the meeting -- between John, Vera and Vivian -- since the discussion felt rushed and inadequate. Vivian and John have offered changes which will enable the Contest to be split, such as getting the trophies to Vera, helping find judges, finding ways to schedule so that siblings in two different instruments and anyone wanting to compete in both can be accommodated. It was decided that it IS indeed possible to have Vera hold the Bay State Contest for strings on May 11 (same date as Piano in Fitchburg) at the Newton Cultural Center, starting this year (2013.) There will be a rental charge, but this will become a line item in the Bay State budget and perhaps can be offset by raising the registration fee for string players. Vera has procured the venue and Vivian and John will help with all the communication and logistical details. (submitted by Alison Barr)

Vera Rubin emailed the group regarding the vote to increase State dues to \$35. She called for a vote to also increase dues for students/seniors to \$25 per year. Following an email vote, it was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

She also emailed the group to vote to increase the travel assistance grant to Alison Barr to travel to the MTNA Conference. She asked the Board to match the Reed Family Grant of \$200, making Alison's total grant \$400. It was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Vera Rubin announced that she was given a YES on the Newton Cultural Center Rent of the facilities for the String Section of the Bay State Contest on May 11, 2013. It will be announced to membership.

## **ATTACHMENTS TO MINUTES**

### **EMAIL Received from Dorothy Travis 2/11/13**

Dear Board,

Jan is sending \$250 to our two Eastern Division winners. I wrote to them both and they are very excited to be representing MA and very appreciative of our financial support.

(Junior String Winner)

Ilana Zaks  
Teacher Anna Korunsky

(Senior Piano Winner)

Yong Murray  
Teacher Ya-Fie Chuang

Regards,  
Dorothy

### **Email Received from Janet Ainsworth**

MMTA Commissioning Composer Chairperson  
9/19/12

Dear Board,

Here is some information in regards to the Commissioned Composer status for this year, 2012. There will not be an MMTA Commissioned Composer for 2012 Year, however there will be a Commissioned Composer for the 2013 year. MMTA would have had to present the Commissioned Composer's premier at an annual State Conference/Convention, however we do not have one scheduled for this year.

MTNA Rules state: " When the composer has completed the composition and delivered it to the State MTA Commissioning Chair, and arrangements have been finalized for the premiere performance at the State MTA convention, the State MTA President must notify the MTNA Executive Director/CEO in writing that these conditions of the contract have been met. "

1. I am continuing the discussion and proposal carried over from our previous board meeting for the Board to approve and permit the Commissioned Composer Chairperson's option to Commission an MMTA Commissioned Composer annually whenever fiscally possible.

2. I would like the board to consider a higher stipend beyond the \$750 if/when necessary in order to retain and commission a strong candidate for MMTA. MTNA's maximum stipend match is currently \$750. \$1,500 is not a big stipend after the composer has paid for all of his/her own travel, performer fees and material costs when premiering the Commissioned work. The higher fee would need the Board's approval when asked. MTNA rules: " Upon receipt of the State MTA President's notification, a check is issued payable to the State MTA in the amount of \$750 or one-half the commission fee if the total amount of the fee is less than \$1,500.

3. If there is not a State conference, convention or quad state conference available for the required commissioned composer's premiere, I would like to propose "In lieu of a non- State convention, conference or Quad State year, that a Commissioned Composer Concert be the venue for MMTA's premiere of the commissioned work."

4 I have been approached by another State to consider a joint commissioned composer. This would also allow the composer to receive a higher stipend fee. If this is an option, do we want to consider ever sharing with another State or keep MMTA independent? The problem I have with this request is that the composer has already been selected by this State and that the only way they can secure him is to file jointly with another State to help raise his stipend fee. This would not be a Massachusetts's based composer. Please feel free to comment. Also, Maine's Quad State Conference is where this composer would be presented. I would prefer to showcase our own composer for the quad.

Respectfully Yours,  
Janet Ainsworth  
MMTA Commissioning Composer Chairperson