



Note from your President

There are so many things I have learned since joining PMTA in 2004. However, I have to admit that I have learned even more since being elected as your president in 2009. I thought it might be fun to make a little game out of some of the things I have experienced.

True or False

1. There are so many opportunities we can offer to our students through membership in PMTA that we can't offer as independent teachers.

ANSWER: True. Until 2004, the only performance opportunities I had been able to provide my students were an annual recital at a nearby retirement home. I have gradually offered ASP, PMTA piano recitals, Ensemble, Music at the Mall and Fall Festival to my piano students.

2. It is possible to become frustrated that we can't possibly incorporate all of the suggestions we receive at PMTA/ASMTA sponsored conferences, general meetings, and smaller sharing sessions.

ANSWER: True. However, this year I have managed to hold a couple gatherings for my adult students which they have thoroughly enjoyed. And I even managed to produce DVDs of my younger students' performances after receiving a movie camera for my birthday last year. I would never have considered these attempts without the input received from my association with PMTA.

3. We have enough volunteers to serve as chairpersons, committee members, administrative support and representatives to ASMTA.

ANSWER: False. It is easy to look at our busy lives and come to the conclusion that we don't have time to share our talents. Since becoming President, I have learned of the tireless efforts of so many of our teachers who serve PMTA in spite of the fact that they have very demanding personal lives. These people prove that there is a way to accomplish great things if we all join together.

4. The registration fee we pay to belong to PMTA plus the fees we pay for events covers the costs to support the organization.

ANSWER: False. The scholarships and awards we provide require additional fundraising efforts.

5. As we see supporting businesses fail due to the economy, perhaps our independent studios are in trouble when we can't find a venue to host an independent recital?

ANSWER: False. This year, we are seeing increased participation in the student events PMTA offers. And as a result, our events are making more money than the previous year.

So now, I must ask myself as I hope you are asking yourselves: "Are we doing all that we can to contribute to the success of PMTA?" I believe that many of us are. Others, perhaps not. As independent teachers, it is easy to get caught up in our own little worlds. Once we step outside those worlds it is amazing what we can gain from the opinions, gifts and information we receive from others.

Now, I would pose the following for serious consideration.

- If we are not personally involved in the work of an event, we cannot possibly know everything necessary to make it successful. Helpful suggestions are welcome. Personal involvement in the planning and execution of the event are crucial. Complaints from the outside without any knowledge of the work that is needed helps nothing and can even be destructive. The best way for us to be helpful is to join in the work and experience first hand what is needed.

- Are we and/or our students better off because we are active members of PMTA? That is something each of us must honestly answer for ourselves. As for me, I know this is the crucial question....



Barbara Tilson

PMTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009-2010

ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Barbara Tilson
 PRESIDENT-ELECT Jennifer Foxx
 V.P. OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES..... Ursula Newman
 V.P. OF TEACHER ACTIVITIES Pamila Joy Smith
 CORRESPONDING SECRETARY Annie Taylor
 RECORDING SECRETARY Camille Conforti
 TREASURER..... Georgia Sears

ADVISORY POSITION

PAST PRES./PARLIAMENTARY Irene Kuniski

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Student Events

FALL FESTIVAL.....Tatyana Eldridge
 MUSIC AT THE MALL..... Jennifer Eisel
 Becky Bender
 PIANO ENSEMBLE Susan Shiner
 Rita Quay
 CELEBRATION OF MUSIC Snezana Krstic
 PIANO RECITAL SERIES.....Linda Porter
 VOCAL STUDENTS.....Betty Campbell
 SCHOLARSHIP Liz Owens

Teacher Events

MEMBERSHIP-NEW MEMBERS Juan Hernandez
 PERFORMANCE PLUS.....Jo Ann Smelser
 SHARING PLUS..... Myong Kellar

ASMTA PROGRAMS

ARIZONA STUDY PROGRAM..... Carol Hill
 Bobbi Stoutenburgh
 CERTIFICATION Angelica Prado-Stern

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

ATTENDANCE Jennifer Foxx
 HISTORIAN Gail Chang
 HOSPITALITY/VOLUNTEERS.....Cheryl Studer
 LIBRARY/EQUIPMENT Dorothy Dungan
 COMMUNITY OUTREACH.....Gail Quackenbush

PMTA Phone Referral # 602-404-7068

REFERRAL SERVICE Jim Sage
 WEBSITE/TECHNOLOGY..... Peggy Rostron
 YEARBOOK..... Susan Traylor

Music at the Mall

This year’s Music at the Mall was a tremendous success!! On Saturday, December 11, 2010, at 9:00 a.m., Paradise Valley Mall sprang to life with music from 212 students of 17 PMTA teachers and ran through the day until 7:15 p.m. Metro Center Mall was blessed with the efforts of 140 students of 12 PMTA teachers.

PMTA is grateful to My First Piano for providing the pianos for this event. We are also grateful to Jennifer Eisel and Becky Bender, the co-chairs, who saw to all the details necessary to make this event so memorable to our participating students!

Fall Festival

The Fall Festival of 2010 was a big hit, with the numbers of participants close to the all time record! Glendale Community College was hosting both the event, as well as the Gold Medal Winners recital the weekend of November 13th-14th, 2010. We are very thankful for their hospitality, and personally - to Dr. Christina Eide for her tremendous help in organizing this event.

37 teachers registered a total number of 181 students. We had a highly knowledgeable panel of judges , including Walter Cosand, Mandarin G. Cheung-Yueh and Natalya Thran. A total number of 67 gold medals was issued, as well as 64 silver and 26 bronze medals; 18 students received a Certificate of Participation.

As a Chairperson of the Fall Festival, I'm very thankful to the Committee of the event: Anna Dworskij, Yelena Golberg, Rosmary Stelmach and Barbara Stoutenburgh, who put in a lot of time and effort to assure its success. This wouldn't be possible without our great team of volunteers: Carolyn Berggren, Gail Chang, Camille Conforti, Dorothy Dungan, Sophia Greenberg, Emily Helvey, Carolyn Inabinet, Norma Meredith, Gail Quackenbush, Genny Rafferty, Stella Saperstein, Sue Shiner and Barbara Tilson.

I'm sure that "Sonata, Sonatina and more..." will remain one of the memorable highlights of this school year.

Fall Festival Chairperson,
 Tatyana Eldridge

PMTA Scholarships

PMTA is most fortunate to have received a \$1200 donation to our scholarship fund from General Dynamics C4 Systems in the name of Brad Chang in honor of his retirement. Brad is the husband of PMTA historian, Gail Chang.

PMTA now has 501c3 status through MTNA. If any of your family members work for businesses that donate to non-profit associations, we would be thrilled to accept their donation!

Through the tireless work of our Scholarship Committee, an additional \$816.19 has been added to the Scholarship Fund. Hopefully, all of you are aware of the option available to donate to the PMTA Scholarship Fund through our website:

<http://phoenixmusicteachers.org>

Click on “Members”, then “Scholarship”, then click on the “Donate” button at the bottom of the page.

PMTA General Meetings

Our General Meetings are off to a great start so far this year. In September we benefited from the presentation of 2011's Ensemble program. In November, Juan de Dios Hernandez gave a terrific presentation on "Teaching Musical Style, Literature & Interpretation in the Age of Wikipedia, YouTube & Facebook."

Those of you not in attendance at our December meeting missed an amazing presentation of the tremendous talents of Ian Ginsburg and Sherry Lenich of Duo West.



We encourage all of you to join us for the remaining General Meetings that we have scheduled for your benefit.

January 13:
Developing Coloristic Playing in Young Students, presented by Mandarin Cheung-Yueh at Grand Canyon University

February 10: Chi in Music, presented by Fei Xu at Grand Canyon University

March 8:
Musical Instrument Museum Group Tour

April 14:
Practical Technology Tools in the Music Studio, presented by Jennifer Foxx at The Arizona Piano Company

May 12: End of Year Luncheon

For more information regarding these meetings, check our PMTA website at:

<http://phoenixmusicteachers.org/members.html>

Arizona Study Program

Time is flying by! We totally missed the September newsletter but, fortunately, most of you remembered the November 1 ASP enrollment date. Thank you! If you haven't sent your enrollment form and check yet, you have until February 15 to enroll with the \$5 late fee.

Each student enrolled in the program is required to purchase a 2008 Theory Workbook (\$10). These workbooks are copyrighted and may not be copied. Answer books (\$20) are available to help teachers and students check their work. (Please let us know when you find errors. Yes, unfortunately, there are some!) The Teacher's Guide (\$15), published last year and based on the 2008 workbooks, contains the ASP history and general information, all theory concepts and technique requirements for levels 1-12, the theory concept grid, and the theory workbook progress charts. The Repertoire Guide (\$10) lists suggested repertoire for the four main musical periods. Previous Test Questions and Answers (\$2 per year) may be used to prepare your students for the evaluations. These materials may be ordered from Jo Ann Smelser, Joy Baber, Gail Quackenbush or Carol Hill.

Student Program forms, found in the PMTA yearbook, must be sent to Bobbi Stoutenburgh before February 15 for all students enrolled in levels 5-12. Program forms are not required for level 1-4 but check the requirements in the student workbook or in the Teacher's Guide.

"Packet 3" containing all the evaluation materials will be mailed in early March. Evaluations will be at AZ Piano on April 29 and 30 and Scottsdale CC on April 30. All participating teachers are requested to help in some capacity. If you can't be at the evaluations, please let us know. There are always things to do!

If you have any questions, please ask either of us. There are no "dumb questions." We all had to learn sometime!

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Hill and Bobbi Stoutenburgh, Co-Chairs
ARIZONA STUDY PROGRAM