



Note from your President

We hear it on the news almost daily. Let's blame our leader (or anybody else) for all of our problems. It amazes me how quick we are to blame one person for the plight of so many others.

I can't help but wonder how we can be so brazen. We want the most money we can possibly make. Yet we want everything we can possibly get for free, or at the very least, for the smallest possible cost to us. (I'm sure I'm not the only piano teacher whose students bring in copies of music from a friend that they now want to learn as well and have no idea how to purchase the original...)

Where did we lose the satisfaction that comes with making a valuable personal contribution, fairly compensating those who contribute to our well being and feeling the pride of accomplishment that accompanies the work it took to attain the goal?

PMTA happens to be blest with many volunteers who realize the value of the contribution they are making to improve the organization.

Do you have a valuable contribution to make to PMTA that we are missing? If so, please contact us to let us know your special talent. Let us know suggestions or ideas you might have to improve our group as a whole or in part.

Finally, please let our valued volunteers know how much you appreciate all they are doing for you as teachers and for your students. It doesn't take much to realize that as a group we can accomplish so much more than we can as individual teachers.

Many thanks to all of you for the gifts you are to the Phoenix Music Teachers Association!



Barbara Tilson

PMTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009-2010

ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Barbara Tilson
PRESIDENT-ELECT	Jennifer Foxx
V.P. OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES.....	Gail Chang
V.P. OF TEACHER ACTIVITIES	Camille Conforti
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Annie Taylor
RECORDING SECRETARY	Jackie Fry
TREASURER.....	Georgia Sears

ADVISORY POSITION

PAST PRES./PARLIAMENTARY	Irene Kuniski
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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
.....	Yelena Golberg
PIANO RECITAL SERIES.....	Linda Porter
.....	David Muth
VOCAL STUDENTS.....	Betty Campbell
.....	Laura Hunter
SCHOLARSHIP	Liz Owens

Teacher Events

MEMBERSHIP-NEW MEMBERS	Genny Rafferty
PERFORMANCE PLUS.....	Jo Ann Smelser
SHARING PLUS.....	Pamela Joy Smith
.....	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.....	Barbara Tilson
LIBRARY/EQUIPMENT	Dorothy Dungan
COMMUNITY OUTREACH.....	Gail Quackenbush

PMTA Phone Referral # 602-404-7068

REFERRAL SERVICE.....	Peggy Rostron
WEBSITE/TECHNOLOGY	Genny Rafferty
YEARBOOK.....	Susan Traylor



**PMTA Scholarship Fund
Holiday Tree Raffle**

- **4 ½ foot Lighted Holiday Tree, valued over \$300.00**

- **Pre-decorated with lights, pearl strand garland, porcelain doll ornaments, tea cups and saucers.**

- **We will personally deliver the tree to your home or location of your choice (within the metro Phoenix area)**

- **Drawing will take place December 12, 2009 at Paradise Valley Mall at the conclusion of PMTA's Music at the Mall event. You do not have to be present to win.**

- **Raffle Tickets are: 1 for \$5 or 3 for \$10. To purchase, go to:**

<http://www.phoenixmusicteachers.org/scholarship.html>

PMTA Music Camp Scholarships

One of the benefits of PMTA occurs in the form of summer music camp scholarships provided for students of our member teachers. This past summer, PMTA awarded 3 such scholarships. The following are notes of thanks that we received from this past summer's recipients.

"Thank you very much for the \$250.00 Summer Music Camp Scholarship. I have applied the scholarship money towards tuition for the Lamont School of Music Summer Pre-College Academy at the University of Denver. I am really looking forward to participating in many different music activities. I feel this camp will give me an opportunity to experience the life of a piano performance major in college. I also hope to learn new techniques to improve my piano playing.

Robert Avril

"Thank you, once again, for granting me a scholarship towards attending Curry Summer Music Camp at Northern Arizona University. \$250.00 is a generous amount, and it will go a great way toward paying my fees to be able to attend. I greatly appreciate the scholarship. Thanks again!"

Justin Hack

"Thank you all so much for the scholarship you have provided me for this past summer's music camp at NAU. The money has served me very well, and each year I am more and more excited to return to camp. You have made this two week camp much more affordable for me and have really made it possible for me to attend. You have been so thoughtful especially through harsh economic times, and I appreciate that tremendously. Thank you all so much once again."

Michael Guida

PMTA General Meetings

Our teacher members are important to us and we try to provide the best possible support to you and your music teaching career. At our monthly General Meeting, we try to schedule presenters that can give us new ideas, inspire our creativity and even confirm those things we may be already doing well.

Our September meeting provided us with the support we need to get our students prepared for our February Ensemble rehearsals.

In October, Mandarin G. Cheung-Yueh, DMA, conducted a Master Class for the students of 4 of our piano teachers. We received the following thank you note from Dr. Cheung-Yueh:

"Please convey my gratitude and appreciation to all in attendance today for a warm reception. I enjoyed working with the students immensely and, of course, the lunch afterwards. It was a pleasure to see familiar faces and to make new acquaintances."

Our speaker for November was Bruce Hembd, who spoke to us on the subject of "Making the most of your web based advertising." For those of you who missed Bruce's excellent presentation, please go to:

<http://horndoggie.com>

Be sure and join us for our Holiday Gathering on December 10th, 9:30 a.m. at Steinway of Phoenix, 14418 N. Scottsdale Road. We will see Robert Avril's summer camp project. Robert was one of this past summer's PMTA Summer Camp Scholarship recipients. We will also be entertained by duets played by Peggy Rostron and Snezana Krstic. Bring along your "sweet tooth" as holiday goodies will be on the menu! We will also feature the fantastic fund raisers that our PMTA Scholarship Committee has available for us, including our sheet music sale.

PMTA Ensemble

The 58th PMTA Piano Ensemble registrations are in and we are set to have another wonderful year with 43 teachers placing over 400 students in this event. Rehearsals will begin in February and the concert will be held on Saturday, February 27 at a new location--Camelback High School. All rehearsal information has been sent to the teachers, but is also available on the website.

We hope that all teachers encourage their students and their families to use the website for ensemble information. Go to:

<http://phoenixmusicteachers.org/pianoensemble.html> and click on "**Performer Info**". It will take you to the rehearsal schedule, maps to the rehearsal and concert locations, as well as site maps to Arizona Conservatory of Arts and Academics and Camelback High School. Families of performers can also find the form to place an ad in the ensemble program. As a teacher, I know that placing an ad congratulating my students on a wonderful performance has meant a lot to them and I encourage all teachers to consider placing their own studio ad.

The Ensemble Committee wishes to thank you for supporting this program and we look forward to seeing you at the concert.

Susan Shiner
PMTA Piano Ensemble co-chairperson

PMTA Piano Recital

Enter your students soon for the PMTA Piano Recital to be held Dec. 12, 2009. Music selections may include Christmas/holiday music if desired, as well as standard piano literature. We will be at GCC, MU2, beginning promptly at 4:30 p.m. Plan to arrive a few minutes early; there are practice rooms available for warm-ups.

We look forward to another excellent recital with your participation! Mail or e-mail your registrations to: Linda Porter, 7655 W Bluefield Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85308-8223, lporter88@aol.com.

PMTA Celebration of Music

CORRECTION TO THE DATE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MUSIC RECITAL:

On Page 30 of the Yearbook, in the general information section for the Celebration, under the "DATE" it says:

Sunday, March 28th, 2010

But this is, actually, the date for the Winners Recital. The competition itself will be held a day before, on:

Saturday, March 27th

The information on the website is all correct. Please make a note of that.

We are taking this opportunity to remind you about this exciting event. With plenty of time still ahead of us, we can fully enjoy coaching our talented students and polishing their programs to perfection. As a result, they will perform for the friendly audience in the beautiful setting of Steinway Concert Hall, and be adjudicated by the greatest musicians of our region.

We will be looking forward to your registrations in early March of 2010.

Thank you!
Snezana Krstic and Yelena Golberg
Celebration of Music Recital co-chairs

PMTA Family News

- Peggy Cottle's son, U.S. Marine, Staff Sgt. Jesse Cottle, was injured recently while serving with his unit in Afghanistan. While back in the states, recovering from his injuries, a piano was presented to him on Tuesday, October 6th, at the Navy Medical Center San Diego. On November 7th, Jesse was awarded the Purple Heart. To learn more about Jesse, type his name into your internet browser.

- Genny Rafferty gave birth to Baby Jace Tuesday, Nov. 17th at 5:21 p.m., weighing 9lbs 5oz and measuring 21 inches in length.

PMTA Fall Festival 2009

The Chairperson for this year's Fall Festival, Tatyana Eldridge, worked tirelessly with her committee members and each played an important role. Dean Elder made recommendations regarding the judging for the festival; Ursula Newman hosted the Gold Medal recital; Dr. Christina Eide made arrangements for the use of Glendale Community College facilities; Irene Kuniski and Rosmary Stelmach helped organize and execute the event; Barbara Tilson secured the use of St. Thomas More Church; and Bobbi Stoutenburgh completed the winner's recital program hours past mid-night on November 8th.

Furthermore, volunteers such as Gail Chang, Norma Meredith, Yelena Golberg, Anna Dworskij, Dorothy Dungan, Carolyn Inabinet, Linda Porter, Angelica Prado-Sterm, Gail Quackenbush, and Stella Saperstein played an important role giving their undivided attention to details.

Combined with dedication and passion, the participants of Elementary I and II, Intermediate, and Advanced performed on November 7, 2009 for the following judges: Dr. Kiyono M. Bernier, Dr. Stewart Gordon and Mr. Sam Rotman.

Coming from my perspective, the competition ran very smoothly. There was enough time for the students to refocus, readjust, and to relax before their performance. I was given the opportunity to judge more than 50 Elementary I and II students. It was obvious that each student had a supportive parent and an effective teacher because more than 99% received Gold Medals this year, thus requiring their own designated recital time slot just for the Elementary I and II. They were all prepared and I enjoyed listening to their choices of Baroque/Contrapuntal and contrasting pieces.

The Gold Medal recital was a treat! I was given the opportunity to see the student's additional true colors on stage: personality, energy, talent, showmanship, and sportsmanship. What touched me more was that a participant who did not receive Gold Medal shyly approached me before the recital and thanked me for the great experience the day before. In reply, I said, "I hope you participate again next year".

To remain behind and listen to the winner's recital after the competition was satisfying. To meet the student's teacher and their parents reinforced this personal confirmation to me: a child's success is dictated by how well they are raised, taught and mentored by their community. In this case, I give a standing ovation to the PMTA Association, Fall Festival Committee, community supporters, teachers and parents. Bravo!

Respectfully yours,
Dr. Kiyono M. Bernier

Arizona Study Program

Where does the time go?! We're already into November and Christmas is just around the corner.

The Sharing Plus meeting in September reviewed the development and goals for ASP. It was good to see so many new faces. At that time, we discussed possible ways teachers could help during the year and several of you volunteered to help. Since Bobbi and I won't be doing this forever and nobody wants to assume the local chairmanship without some training, we've divided the responsibilities into smaller segments. This doesn't commit you to "a training program" but, if you help with these jobs, maybe you'll consider being the local chair in the future.

Below is a list of positions that need to be filled. Please let us know where you would like to help.

1. Enrollments - Carol

Help with future data base (ongoing)

2. Program Forms - Bobbi

Assist as needed and learn how to check forms (February)

3. Distribution Chair - keep financial records and make deposits; coordinate with team of distributors to sell ASP materials; give annual report to ASP Enrollment Chairman (year round; report due in June)

Hopefully, Joy Baber, Jo Ann Smelser and Gail Quackenbush will continue as distributors.

4. Level 12 Chair - collect and give information to local chair (January-April)

5. Adjudicators Chair - be main contact with adjudicators, email and hire, write thank you notes, order checks, arrange adjudicator's notebooks, arrange makeup date if needed (Jan-May)

6. Scheduling Chair (it's impossible to please everyone who requested a Saturday morning time!)

Help schedule evaluation times; update as needed (February-March)

7. Packet 2 Chair - update evaluation forms and information, prepare and distribute (March)

8. Packet 3 Chair - address envelopes, order tests and answers, update Packet 3 letter (March, April)

9/10. Evaluation Monitors Chair - assign and confirm volunteers for theory room, halls, info desk, and runners (done after packet 2 is sent)

11/12. Evaluation Set up Chair (one for AZ Piano and one for Scottsdale Community College) Arrange food ordering and delivery, make signs, and organize set up.

Each chairman can decide to do the whole job or work with a committee. Exact directions will be provided and you can always email or call Carol or Bobbi for clarification and help. As you can see, this is a major responsibility! We need your help!

A general reminder - all late enrollments and program forms are due by **February 15**. We look forward to another rewarding year.

Thank you for participating and making this the great program it is.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Hill and Bobbi Stoutenburgh, Co-Chairs

ASMTA 2009-2010 Directory Corrections

p. 18 The AZ Study Program local chair for CMTA is Karen Miller. (Listed correctly on p. 3)

p. 18 Lois Andersen's name was misspelled and the phone number is incorrect. (Since this will be on the website, please contact me if you need her number.)

p. 27 The last number in Fran Kaspar's phone number is "7" (not "5")

p. 47 Sherry Lenich's address is "Street" (not "Ave.)

If you find any other corrections, please let me know.

Carol Hill, ASMTA 4th VP

PMTA Website

Work on the updating of our PMTA website is progressing. We hope to have the work completed by the end of December. Our thanks to Peggy Rostron for her leadership in this project!

MTNA National Conference

We are fortunate to have this year's Music Teachers National Association Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico this coming March 20-24. Our members have been discussing the possibility of carpooling to attend the conference. In addition, the Arizona State Music Teachers Association has elected to make five grants of \$250 each available to members of ASMTA. Please watch for your next MusiGRAM for details on how to apply for one of these grants.

Why We Teach Music

(Thanks to Vic Geiger at Steinway for the following!)

MUSIC IS A SCIENCE. It is exact, specific, highly organized and must be 100% correct. It embodies many levels of physics from acoustics to architecture.

MUSIC IS MATHEMATICS. It is rhythmically based on the subdivision of time in space into fractions, which must be done instantaneously, and not worked out on paper, in a highly specific form with regard to exact placement and symmetry. It is disciplined and logical.

MUSIC IS LANGUAGE. It is composed of phrases, thoughts and ideas. Its goal is to communicate and to reach a part of us where words no longer suffice. Most of the terms are in a foreign language, mostly Italian, German or French. The line notation is certainly NOT English, but a highly developed and organized symbolic system.

MUSIC IS HISTORY. It is the only art form we can hear as people hundreds of years ago heard. Unlike paint, whose image is always there once created, music is perpetually "repainted" each time it is performed. The feelings and thoughts of countless generations are forever encased into sound.

MUSIC IS PHYSICAL EDUCATION. It required fantastic coordination of fingers, eyes, hands, lips, cheek and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach and chest muscles. There are as many calories burned by a symphony trumpet player in one performance as there are by a quarterback in a professional football game.

MUSIC IS ALL OF THESE THINGS AND MORE, BUT ABOVE ALL, MUSIC IS AN ART. It allows a human being to take science and technique and create EMOTION. This is the one thing that science cannot duplicate – human feelings and emotions.

THIS IS WHY WE TEACH MUSIC. Not because we expect to produce music majors. Not because we expect people to play all their lives. Not so you can relax. Not so you can trot around a field in a uniform.....

BUT SO YOU WILL BE MORE HUMAN. So you will recognize beauty. So you will be more sensitive, especially to all the thoughts and feelings put into sound throughout the ages. So you will have something to cling to. So you will feel the beauty of being alive. And so you will come to know the value of your own self.

(Author unkown)