



Note from your President

My first duty as President was to attend the Arizona State Music Teachers Association Board Meeting on June 3rd, followed by the ASMTA Conference. Our 3-day conference was full of many and varied opportunities to learn and observe the performances of some amazingly talented musicians. There are two events that stand out most in my memory. One of them was the fun we experienced with our silent auction of the Groves Dictionary of Music which earned \$150 for our Scholarship Fund. But the most memorable event for me was witnessing our own PMTA teacher, Rosmary Stelmach, receive the award for Teacher of the Year. The acceptance speech she gave was most touching; my eyes misted more than once. Rosmary embodies the very best qualities for which all of us strive as music teachers. When MTNA President-Elect, Ann Gipson, rose to present the Keynote Speech of the evening, she commented that Rosmary’s words made a perfect keynote speech and she was feeling a reluctance to give the speech she was committed to deliver. Please see sections of Rosmary’s speech included in this newsletter.

I look forward to working with all of you to promote the activities we host for our teachers’ and students’ growth in musical excellence. As I mentioned at our PMTA Year End Banquet, I am committed to a philosophy of a welcoming atmosphere at all of our PMTA events. When any of us have suggestions or ideas, I would expect we will share those with the Chairperson(s) responsible for the event. If we feel our voice is not heard, then please contact either of the Vice Presidents (dependent on Student or Teacher Event). These are dedicated people who are doing their very best to provide all of us with the most positive of musical experiences and they deserve our support.



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

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

ASMTA Teacher of the Year

Our own PMTA member Rosmary Stelmach is 2009's ASMTA's Teacher of the Year. The following are excerpts from the speech she gave at the Arizona State Music Teachers Conference in June:

Receiving this award is very special to me because it signifies the culmination of many years of teaching and service of which I have to admit has truly never seemed like work. I guess that is the way it is when you LOVE what you are doing. Lesson time with students always passes too quickly.

...I have enjoyed the Board meetings...sharing, planning, and a chance to visit with fellow teachers.

...I THANK YOU dear PMTA members; you have been most supportive. I thank you for all your kind words of friendship.

...I feel as if I am in a room full of friends. I look around the room, and see teachers, members who have contributed so much to ASMTA and the various local Assoc(iations). Most remarkable is that the success of the events and opportunities offered to students and teachers through these organizations has been accomplished with almost 100 per cent volunteers. Amazing! There have been and will continue to be...terrific diligent worker bees, and I am proud and happy to be part of this bee hive!!

...In November 1991, I attended the...State Conference, in Tucson. I had a wonderful time and I have attended every state conference since then. As I told my fellow teachers during our May luncheon, I must be a slo-o-o-w learner, because after all these years, I always come away from the Conference with new ideas, perhaps a different insight or new evaluation of my teaching, and certainly a greater appreciation for the dedicated teachers that we have.

...Serving on the PMTA Board of Directors for 13 years and 10 years serving at the State level in different positions, ... have all provided me with rewarding memories, professional growth, and moments of fun and laughter.

...I would like to say that we as teachers have a significant partnership with our students and sometimes we don't realize it until several years later. In 2004, I received a framed picture of my high school senior, who is now a music therapist in the Valley. Under her picture, is an engraved inscription: "Thank you for the doors you have opened for me"! ...I can express those same words in what I have gained in being a member of MTNA, ASMTA, and PMTA. It is a privilege! "THANK YOU for the doors you have opened for me."...

Rosmary also shared with us how much her family means to her and many of them were there to witness the presentation of her award. We members of PMTA are privileged to know Rosmary, as well as the many other terrific members of our organization!

Arizona Study Program

It seemed this summer was so much easier than last summer. Then I remembered why. We were spending almost every waking hour revising the theory workbooks. Thank goodness that project has been completed!

The newest addition to the ASP materials is the Teacher's Guide. This guide combines the former Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced guides except for the repertoire lists. 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 are included in this guide. All the information is based on the 2008 workbook revisions. It costs \$15. The repertoire guide remains a separate publication and is \$10.

Due to increased evaluation costs, the enrollment fee will be \$20 per student this year (\$25 for late enrollment.) The enrollment dates remain the same - November 1 for regular enrollment and February 15 for late enrollment. Theory workbooks are now \$10 and answer packets (elementary, intermediate and advanced) are \$20. Each student enrolled must purchase a theory workbook. The workbooks are copyrighted. ASP materials may be purchased from Jo Ann Smelser, Joy Baber, Gail Quackenbush or Carol Hill.

The Teacher's Resource Book and Study Guide/Syllabus are currently being updated and should be available soon.

The September 24th meeting of Sharing Plus will be about the Arizona Study Program. We encourage teachers to come if they have any questions or just want to know more about the program. We'll meet in Carol's studio - 1201 W. Rovey Ave. (One block north of Bethany Home on 12th Ave. Come to the door facing 12th Ave.)

ASP Evaluations will be at AZ Piano on April 30 and May 1 and Scottsdale CC on May 1.

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

PMTA Ensemble

The 58th PMTA PIANO ENSEMBLE will be held on Saturday, February 27, 2010. We are excited to be at a new location-Camelback High School. We also have two new rehearsal locations, Steinway of Phoenix on the eastside and the Arizona Conservatory for the Arts and Sciences on the westside.

Please join us at the reading session, Thursday, September 10 following the general meeting to hear about this year's ensemble and hear all the wonderful music selections.

Please mark the following dates on your calendar:

October 31 – Registration deadline

November 15 – pictures of students participating 5 years or more

All the forms are available in the yearbook and online at the PMTA website. We hope that you visit the website often for ensemble information and encourage your students and their families to go to the performer info section of the website for maps, invitations and rehearsal schedules which will be available by the end of November.

Please take the time to read all the forms carefully as there are always changes made from year to year.

We hope you will encourage your students to participate in this long standing tradition in the valley.

Sincerely,
Rita Quay
Susan Shiner
Co- Chairpersons

Fall Festival and Competition: The Historical Periods of Music

The Fall Festival and Competition will give students the opportunity to be adjudicated performing before a judge. Each student will receive a written critique and a gold, silver, bronze medal, or a participant's ribbon. A recital of the Gold Medal winners and awards ceremony will be held the day following the auditions. One of the goals of this Fall Festival is to give each student the opportunity to explore the music of the Baroque period. Each student will perform two pieces: one from the Baroque period and the other piece from the period of their choice.

The Fall Festival “Historical Periods of Music” will be held at Glendale Community College, Saturday, November 7, 2009.

The Gold Medal Recital will be held at St. Thomas More Church (6180 W. Utopia Rd, Glendale, AZ 85308), Sunday, November 8, 2009. Time will be announced.

Registration Deadline is October 16, 2009.

This year students will have two options to perform. Students may have their audition open to their parents and teacher depending on facility availability. Or, students may choose to have a private audition. Participants choose either option by checking the appropriate line on the Registration Form.

Divisions: Elementary I (grades K-3)
minimum length 12 measures level 2-3
Elementary II (grades 4-5) – minimum level 3
Intermediate (grades 6-8) – minimum level 4
Advanced (grades 9-12) – minimum level 5

Elementary I – Each student is to perform two pieces: one from the Baroque period or any Polyphonic piece, and the other piece from the period of their choice (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Post-romantic or Contemporary/Modern).

Elementary II, Intermediate, Advanced – Each student is to perform two pieces: one from the Baroque period and the other from the period of their choice.

General Information will be in the 2009-2010 PMTA Yearbook and on the website www.phoenixmusicteachers.org

If you have any questions, please contact Tanya Eldridge at tanyaeldridge@cox.net.

Sincerely,
Tatyana Eldridge
Chairman, Fall Festival 2009

Our Members are Our Gifts

We realize that our teacher members are gifts to this community in their own right. Each of you is good at being an independent music teacher; after all, you wouldn't have your students if that were not the case. So what has prompted you to join the Phoenix Music Teachers Association?

Your current president can say that in her case, she was prompted to join several years ago by Dr. Christina Eide, who was a member of the East Valley chapter at the time. Dr. Eide knows that learning and growing can take place in the midst of a group of people who share the same passions for music and are supportive of one another on that journey of growth.

As we continue to renew our membership in PMTA each year, we do so because we value the possibilities that are available to us as a result of the terrific people we meet in this organization.

Welcome to new & Returning PMTA Members

As of July 31, 2009, PMTA has 134 registered members! We would like to extend a special welcome to the following members who were not on last year's membership roster:

**Christine Bern, Peggy Cottle, Christina Eide,
Dr. Ye-Chun Kuo, Giomar Marsollier,
David Muth, Alan Pongetti,
Elizabeth Rhodes & Cheryl Studer**

David Muth is already involved in PMTA as co-chair of our Student Piano Recital Series.

Dr. Christina Eide, who teaches piano at Glendale Community College, is a gracious host to our Fall Festival Auditions and 3 of our Student Piano Recitals for the coming year.

We look forward to meeting the rest of you soon!!

PMTA Library

Did you know that PMTA has a library available for your use? Please check out the list of books, audio and visual recordings in the new yearbook and contact Dorothy Dungan to arrange your opportunity to borrow these items.

PMTA Community Outreach

Gail Quackenbush is our newest administrator of PMTA Community Outreach. If this is an area of interest to you, please contact Gail to see how she could use your help in letting our community know about the Phoenix Music Teachers Association.

PMTA Referral Service

Our PMTA Teacher Referral Service is a wonderful program that connects our teachers with the community. We now have over 70 teachers in the Referral Service, each with their own profile on the PMTA website. In addition to our website, we have a phone line that directs callers to the site and takes messages for callback. For more information on how this service can benefit you, please contact Peggy Rostron at 602-482-1438 or p.rostron@cox.net.

PMTA Website

Genny Rafferty continues to do a terrific job in expanding the services PMTA has to offer as well as keeping our website up to date with assistance from Peggy Rostron. Please take the time to check out how our website can assist you at:

<http://phoenixmusicteachers.org>

PMTA Yearbook

Our PMTA yearbook is a valuable resource to our teachers each year. We truly appreciate the cooperation, time and effort Susan Traylor has taken to assemble this year's yearbook for us!

These are just a few of the tremendous volunteers working for and with the Phoenix Music Teachers Association. When you get a chance, please let them know how much we appreciate all that they do for us!!

PMTA Scholarships

Are all of you aware how important it is for each of us to support our PMTA Scholarship Programs? Liz Owens is our newest Chairperson for the PMTA Scholarships & Grants. Liz has some great plans for all of us to support in the coming year. Please be sure to check out the revised Scholarship pages in your new yearbook. Are you unable to attend our monthly General Meetings where we accept donations to the Scholarship Fund? Then you might consider contacting Liz to see how you could send in your donation (suggested amount is the cost of one piano lesson, but many contribute more). Liz is looking for a few people from different neighborhoods of our valley to assist in some of our fund raising efforts. And please continue to support our Fall Festival, Music at the Mall, Ensemble and Celebration of Music activities that also contribute to our Scholarship Fund.

**You can contact Liz via e-mail at lizmo1@juno.com
or by phone at 602:404-0533.
She'd love to hear from you.**