



President's Message August, 2010

Greetings to all members! I hope your summer is unfolding as you had hoped. By the time you receive this Musikfest 2010 will either be around the corner or it will have come and gone--hard to believe on this early July date.

We look back on a year of successes in the fulfillment of the following events 2009-2010: Musikfest, Dorothy Sutton Festival, AAA, general membership programs, master classes, Playathon, Chesebro competition, field trips, camp scholarships, and recitals. We look ahead to a busy year of activities. Your intrepid chairpersons and trusty assistants (of which there should be more) have planned the events for 2010-2011, and only a few events have been omitted or modified because of lack of attendance this past year, or a lack of personnel to arrange/conduct the event.

This past year's memorable occasions for me must include the fine workshops and master classes presented to our chapter members. I urge all members to make every effort to attend these presentations. Learning is a lifelong journey; workshops are a most enjoyable manner of moving forward along that journey.

And as we all move forward into the new school year, I remind everyone to check our website lvpmta.org for updated event dates and forms. Also see the state website pamusicteachers.org for information.

Our first Meet and Greet general membership meeting will be held Sept. 15 at 9:30 in Hearst Hall. I look forward to seeing you there!

Carolyn Anderson, LVC/PMTA President

PMTA Conference Report

The PMTA Conference, June 11-13, at Bedford Springs, PA, was attended by LVC chapter members Glorianna Sewell and me. The historic surroundings created an ambience to harmonize with musical thoughts and forms. If that sounds a bit too esoteric, Suzanne Guy brings us back to earth with her quips and quotes: "Whenever you practice, make sure that your mind accompanies your body. In other words, they must be in the same room!"

- The following items of business arose from the board meeting:
1. Total membership in PA—633, of which students number 29. Membership is down from 676 the previous year.
 2. Change in the schedule of Competitions at Penn State—DSPF on Saturday Nov. 20 and MTNA competition on Sunday Nov 21.
 3. Theory requirement—remains at 85% for pass.
 4. Ensemble competitions—each participant's teacher must have PMTA membership. (I will be soliciting input from LVC members regarding this requirement.)
 5. Grants to local chapters remain available. The 2011-2012 application forms should be available soon on the PMTA web site. (We have received this grant before but may apply again another time.)
 6. Future competition/conference sites—2010-Penn State, 2011-Temple, 2012-IUP or WCU.
 7. A search is underway for the positions of state Conference Chair and Treasurer.
 8. Jan. 22, 2011, has been designated by MTNA as a celebration of Collaborative Music; MTNA requests that each chapter plan a celebratory event that day.

Jackie Herbein took over the Conference Chair position suddenly in February and did a terrific job putting everything together. Here were some of the highlights for me:

Brian Ganz as the conference artist performed Saturday evening. His program included Beethoven Sonata Op. 109 and fifteen Chopin pieces! At the end he took questions from the audience. On Sunday he conducted a master class with 4 students.

Christine Moulton's session on free breathing focused on freeing musicians from patterns of tension which involve holding the breath while playing. During Joao Casarotti's lecture-recital on the music of Ernst Mahle, listeners were introduced to lovely short piano

arrangements of Brazilian children's songs. These can be downloaded free of charge at <http://www.casarotti.me/casarotti/Downloads.html>.

Nanette-Kaplan-Soloman (Slippery Rock) presented a lecture-recital exploring freedom vs structure in two of Chopin's fantasies. In another lecture-recital, the virtuosic piano transcriptions of Moskowski were analyzed and performed by Gilya Hodos (Merion).

Clinicians Joann Kirchner (Temple) and Danise Galloway (New Mexico) performed elementary through intermediate level duet repertoire from the 18th-21st centuries. Susan Nowicki (Curtis) discussed the physical principles and mechanics involved in successful the playing of octaves with minimum effort.

James & Kathryn Douthit from Rochester examined current understanding of the neuropsychology of learning, suggesting pedagogical adjustments that could be of greater assistance in communicating our information to students with differing learning styles.

David Cutler (Duquesne) outlined his newly-published book *The Savvy Music Teacher: Building a Career, Earning a Living, & Making a Difference*. I have not yet read through the entire book, but it seems to be a valuable resource for aspiring musicians. Information can be found at www.SavvyMusician.com.

Maria del Pico Taylor (Temple) presented an introduction of the Taubman approach to preventing injury. Lee Kikuchi (Pittsburgh) demonstrated "Theory-Centered Teaching".

A favorite session was Suzanne Guy's "How to Practice as Little as Possible and Get Instant Results". Suzanne was also the keynote speaker at the luncheon. Those who have heard her speak know she uses humor with great effectiveness to motivate students and teachers alike. One of her pithy quotes: "If at first you don't succeed, you have a lot of company". Some advice on interpretation may be contained in a rhyming couplet such as

"How do you know if your tempo's too slow?
You know it's too slow if it ain't got that flow."

I returned home with an appreciation for the effort that went into the planning of this conference, and sorry that more of our chapter members were not able to attend. Young teacher attendees from other chapters, as well as collegiate attendees, found the workshops particularly valuable.

Carolyn Anderson, President

Musikfest Notes

A full and varied program will be performed by students of chapter members at the Tropical Platz on Monday, August 9 from 12:00-1:30 pm.

Come out and support our young performers!

Carolyn Anderson, Musikfest coordinator

An Appeal from the President

We thank Irmgard Pursell who will take over responsibility for Summer Camp Scholarships, and Mary Ann Saylor who has agreed to be Publicity Coordinator. Since Mary Ann lives outside of the immediate Lehigh Valley area, we also need a member who resides in the valley to work with her. Please contact the president if you are willing to become part of the Publicity Committee.

Many of our board members are chairs of more than one committee. We have a need for more members on some committees. PLEASE consider offering to join an existing committee. Job descriptions are available for anyone who becomes chair of a committee.

Achievement Awards Audition Committee 2010

The 2010 Achievement Awards Auditions will be held on November 13 followed by the Honors Recitals the next day. Both events will take place at Moravian College as usual. Piano, voice, and instrument students are welcome to apply. Applications are due October 16 and will be found on the website in the fall.

In addition, the Judges' Guidelines and the Judges' Rating Sheets have been modified extensively. Please read them carefully and inform your students and their parents of the changes. For example, the categories have been changed to Superior, Excellent, Satisfactory, and Needs Improvement. Superior ratings for 2010 will count toward award plaques. Judges will be giving points as well as written comments.

Please wait until September to view the updated Judges' Guidelines and Judges' Rating Sheets on the website.

Teachers are requested to warn parents who are inviting friends or relatives with walkers or wheelchairs to arrive early, since the doors from the elevator side of the upstairs halls will be locked once the recitals begin. This is to prevent distractions to the performers and to the audiences.