



August 2008

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Warm summer greetings! I hope you're enjoying your summer teaching schedules, vacations and the joy of relaxing outside on a pleasant summer evening.

I have taken some time off from teaching this summer to work on home improvement projects. Al and I are preparing our home of 28 years to sell as we look to downsize. Since summers are slow for me and the outside weather is conducive to cleaning, repairing and painting, this seemed like a good time to get started.

Home improvement is tiring! After a day of work, I have spackle in my hair, I'm covered in paint and my feet ache. Add to that a hand that seems temporarily shaped as if it's grasping a paintbrush and I'm in no condition to sit down at the piano and make beautiful music. Thus, my piano skills have become very rusty.

After vacation in September, it will be essential to get back to basics. That means Hanon, Czerny, scales and arpeggios will become my daily companions for a few weeks before I can competently demonstrate passages from challenging repertoire.

A positive is that I'll be on par with many of my students who have spent time away from piano while on vacation or at camp and we can brush up our skills simultaneously. Also, I will be more understanding of the fact that although the mind might direct, the fingers won't necessarily respond accurately.

Goals are essential for progress or even maintaining status quo. I need the goal of gaining proficiency to demonstrate possible interpretations or learning a piece to play in a public setting. Students also need the goal of performing publicly either in recitals, non-competitive auditions or competitions.

From the local to the national levels, MTNA offers numerous possibilities for student performance and education.

I am very excited about the coming season! Sue Kuntz, with input from our membership, has arranged a great year of programs and master classes, including a lecture by Diane Wittry, conductor of the Allentown Symphony; master class by Catherine Rollin, renowned composer and teacher; and a full day of composition taught by Larry Lipkis, Composer in Residence at Moravian College, among others.

Our full Calendar of Events can be accessed at the website, lvpmta.org and a copy will be sent to you in August. Put the dates into your 2008-2009 schedule and come on out, and join us as often as possible.

Mark your calendars now for our first meeting at Moravian College on September 17, 9:30 AM for a Meet and Greet and overview of the year's activities.

Also, you won't want to miss the Open House hosted by Jean Fox on September 27, 1:00-3:00 PM. More details about this are listed in this issue. During our meetings and events, we seldom have time to just talk on a casual basis. Jean's Open House will offer us the chance for relaxed conversation.

Until then, wish me well in getting "back to basics"!

Musically yours,

Randi Paul
President, LVC-PMTA

LVC-PMTA OPEN HOUSE
Sat., Sept. 27, 1:00-3:00 PM
Jean Fox's Home

Please join us for an Open House at the home of Jean Fox, 4102 Kilmer Ave., Allentown, PA 18104. This will be a great time to chat about previous summer activities and upcoming chapter events. New members can meet some "old timers" and ask questions about our teacher and student programs. And of course, any event at Jean's home includes delicious food and drink offerings. Please contact Jean (jmfox1@rcn.com, 610-395-5744) by Sept. 22 to RSVP and/or get directions.

LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER AWARDED \$350 PMTA GRANT FOR "A DAY OF COMPOSITION" WORKSHOP

We are delighted and honored that a grant from PMTA in the amount of \$350 has been approved for our project entitled "A Day of Composition" to be held on Saturday, February 7, 2009 at Moravian.

Susan Kuntz, Programs Chairperson, and Randi Paul, President, collaborated on the extensive application process for the grant. To our knowledge this is the first PMTA grant received by the Lehigh Valley Chapter.

Dr. Larry Lipkis, Composer in Residence at Moravian College, will be the guest clinician for this workshop.

Here are two related messages from Jean Fox concerning mentors:

Call for Mentors of New Members

Do you remember when you were new to the club? Did many of the activities seem confusing and become a blur? Did you wish you knew someone who could help sort it out? I've often heard this from new members - and I think we even have many members who have been in the club awhile and feel this way. If you would like to nurture one of those members, please let me know.

Jean Fox
jmfox1@rcn.com
610-395-5744

New Members: Are You Looking for a Mentor

Would you like someone to act as your mentor? A mentor within the chapter could explain our many activities as they come, answer your questions, or in other ways assist you as a music teacher and member of the Lehigh Valley Chapter of PMTA. If this sounds good to you, please e-mail or call me and I will arrange it.

Jean Fox
jmfox1@rcn.com
610-395-5744

LETTER FROM A STUDENT...

July 17, 2008

To: Lehigh Chapter of the Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association (LVC-PMTA)

I would like to thank the LVC-PMTA for making it possible for me to attend the West Chester University music camp. I am also grateful to the Jury of the West Chester University for selecting me to be the pianist for the closing recital of the music camp.

West Chester University music camp was an amazing experience for me. At the music camp, I was essentially given a taste of how college life would be as a music major. It gave me an opportunity to better prepare myself for college. The best experience by far at the West Chester University music camp, was watching the Philadelphia Orchestra and guest soloist, Yo Yo Ma, perform at the Mann Center. This music camp has helped me to create memories, friends, and music all in one week. I would definitely recommend this music camp to any aspiring musician.

Sincerely,

Adam Stoltz
Student of Herbert E. Heffner

From the Heffner Piano Studio

Nicholas D'Angelo will be attending Lebanon Valley College, where he will be majoring in Music Industry and Piano Performance. Nicholas has been studying with Herbert Heffner for eleven years and during that time has participated in all of the LVC-PMTA events, including the Dorothy Sutton Performance Festival where he was awarded a medal.

Diane Montuori is encouraging members to give her photos and articles for the scrapbook.

Opera Trip

PMTA has secured tickets to a Met Dress Rehearsal for Friday, December 05, 2008. We will see *Thais*, by Massenet.

There are new rules to be followed by all participating teachers this year that have been mandated by the Met.

They are:

Each teacher must submit to Janice Derstine a 1-2 page report detailing how students were prepared to attend the opera, and any interesting student comments or anecdotes.

After the opera, we must submit an exit survey about the opera.

Any teacher who will be sending students must contact Janice Derstine about the report (what should be included, etc.) and there is usually a recording that is sent by the Met and which can be used by teachers. Janice will make copies for anyone interested.

We feel that the Met is an invaluable experience for our students and therefore should cooperate with these new regulations.

The Community Music School of the Lehigh Valley gave scholarships to the following students of Irmgard Smits:

Christopher Habiak was given the Pursuit of Excellent Scholarship, Angela Hsieh received the Joseph Maletz Scholarship and Sophia Lee Srinivasan was awarded the Jerome Markowitz Scholarship.

LV-PMTA LOCAL PRELIMINARY AUDITIONS FOR THE
Dorothy Sutton Performance Festival – Saturday, October 6, 2008
Beginning at 9:30 am, Moravian College, Bethlehem

PLEASE READ!!!

The Local DSPF will be held on Saturday October, 4, 2008 at Moravian College, and the State Festival will be held on Sunday, November 9, 2008 at Mansfield University. Please check our state website: **pamusicteachers.org** or our local website: **lvpmta.org** for all rules, repertoire requirements, information and forms.

-We will continue to have one judge for each student and continue the changes from last year (2007):

-Students must live in PA in order to participate in the state event (they can still audition at the local level but cannot proceed to state)

-There will no longer be solo adjudications at the state level. Showcase Recitals only! (Ensemble adjudications will still take place.) Therefore, IN ORDER FOR A STUDENT TO ADVANCE TO STATE SHOWCASE RECITAL THEY MUST RECEIVE: 90% or above in theory. No exceptions or retakes. And an overall SUPERIOR rating (meaning the judge gave **4 Superior scores** in each of the 4 evaluation boxes). The judge will check a box indicating the child can advance to recital and to name the selected piece. **NOTE:** A child receiving 3 Superior and 1 Excellent would not be eligible.

-Pieces to be played must be **no longer than 8 minutes**. Judges will be advised to choose the shorter piece for the Showcase Recital. Also, include measure numbers.

VERY IMPORTANT CHANGE – There will be ONLINE enrollment (no traditional mail) for those students qualifying for the State Showcase Recitals. **This means each TEACHER** (or teacher's representative) must have and retain the students personal information, sibling and any ensemble performance information, if applicable, title of piece, performance time, and performance grade **and enter it through the website. The teachers will send in the state fee checks to the State chair, Yvonne Alling**

Note to teachers who have not participated before: Each student must take a theory test before or after their audition. See either website for what is covered on various levels of the test. Teachers must choose the level according to the student's ability. Students playing late in the day are to take the test before their audition. All participating teachers **must** work on the day of the auditions or send a substitute – for both local and state festivals. Please see following page for more information. Any questions, please contact me – 610-820-3786 or dzstudio@ptd.net.

DARLENE J. ZIEGLER – LVPMTA DSPF Chair

DOROTHY SUTTON PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

**Local Preliminary Festival – Saturday, October 4, 2008, Moravian College,
Bethlehem, Pa.**

Deadline: Monday, September 15, 2008.

1. Reproduce local entry form found on the local or state website (one per student) and fill in ALL information. (You **must** use the current forms found on the website!)
2. Reproduce the rating sheet from the website (one rating sheet for each student) and fill in only the top portion (down through two-piece “Repertoire” list). Put the student’s first name (only) on these sheets. Place your teacher code in the upper right blank where it says “Local or State ID” (See codes below).
3. Local entry fee - \$11 per student. Include all of your participating student local fees in one check from your studio. Please make out the check to LVC-PMTA.
4. Mail all Local Forms and Local Checks to Elizabeth Zemanek, 202 W. Wayne Ave., Easton, PA 18042 (Phone: 610-559-3905; ezemanek@rcn.com) **Deadline: September 15, 2008.**
5. **STATE ENTRIES:** There will be ONLINE enrollment (no traditional mail). The teacher must have the student’s personal information, sibling and any ensemble performance information (if applicable), title of piece, performance time, and performance grade and enter it through the website themselves. (Theory test score).
6. State entry fee - \$12 per student. Include all participating students from your studio in one check.
7. Mail Checks and Email online applications to Yvonne Alling, yalling@comcast.net. (Look on State Website for address). Make out checks to PMTA. **Deadline for State checks and applications, October 13, 2008. (IN HAND).**

You will be notified of your students’ scheduling information about a week prior to the auditions via email. (Either by me or scheduler).

Teacher Codes for DSPF: (If your name does not appear here, call Darlene Z. to be assigned a code letter (610-820-3786)

A ... Paul	O ... Weyrich
B ... Stevenson	P ... Ziegler
C ... Zemanek	Q ... Anderson
D ... Williams	R ... Montuori
E ... Heffner	S ... Thompson
F ... Kuntz	T ... Dedekind
G ... Ligowski	U ... Birney
H ... Redenbaugh	V ... Askernia
I ... Schrempel	W ... Jones
J ... Sewell	X ... Poloni
K ... Smits	Y ... Haber
L ... Su	Z ... Murray
M ... Ernst	AA ..Serrao
N ... Sydlik	BB .. Derstine

Pictured below are our members who received a 25-Year Membership Recognition plaque at the April Breakfast Meeting: (L to R) – Jenny Collins, Randi Paul, Gloriana Sewell, Janice Derstine and Diane Montuori.

