



February 2008

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Letter from the President

Happy New Year to one and all!

I'm writing this letter after having attended a tremendously informative and inspiring master class this morning with Eugene Albulescu from Lehigh Univ. Eugene coached students from the Ziegler and Stevenson Studios and offered superb insights on the interpretation of Bach, Beethoven and Brahms pieces, approaching each with an overarching view of technique and interpretation which could be applied to all music and all levels of performance. Master classes facilitated by such a consummate pianist as Mr. Albulescu serve to instill a burst of energy and creativity into our daily teaching.

Our chapter has a full schedule of wonderful events coming up in the next few months. On February 20, following our business meeting, Cherie Murray will facilitate a teacher symposium with the topic, "Right from the Start – Strategies for Teaching Technique to Young Pianists." Please bring your ideas, experience and demonstration materials to share with others.

Our Annual Playathon fundraiser will take place on March 1–2 again at the lovely Palmer Park Mall. Jack Stevenson has all the information you need on the website or you can call him for hard copies. This event provides a great opportunity for students of all ages and abilities, piano, vocal and instrumental to perform in a relaxed setting. It's also a great way to showcase our organization to the community. Our fundraising goal is \$7,000.

On March 8, we are privileged to host Malcolm Bilson for a Master Class. Since this will take place on a Saturday, please take the initiative to invite your students and parents and other teachers who might be considering joining.

Also in March, on the 19th, we welcome Jacqueline Herbein from Pittsburgh who will present a lecture demonstration entitled "Body Wisdom for Effortless Octaves." As an outgrowth of her intensive study and her desire to enhance pianists' and teachers' knowledge in efficient body use at the keyboard, Ms. Herbein has synthesized essential components of piano technique and the Alexander Technique.

After all that activity, we'll be ready for some relaxed conversation (and culinary pleasure!) at our April 16 breakfast meeting, organized by Diane Montouri.

You can read in detail about all these exciting and enriching activities at our website, lvpmta.org.

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LOOKING AHEAD...

We've had good participation in our meetings thus far this year, but more are always welcome. In planning our programs and master classes for 2008-2009, the Board would appreciate ideas and suggestions from you, our members at large. What type of programs would you enjoy attending and from which you think you and your students could benefit? What topics or presenters would jump LVC-PMTA events to the very top of your priority list?

Please call or e-mail me with program or master class topics you would like us to explore. Names of presenters you have heard or have heard spoken well of would also be appreciated.

As always, my e-mail box and phone are always open to receive any of your comments or questions.

Musically yours,

Randi Paul, President

FRANK CHESEBRO SCHOLARSHIP

The LVC/ PMTA awards scholarships annually to high school seniors who are planning to pursue music as a career and who have studied a minimum of six months with a current member of LVC/PMTA. Recipients must have applied to and have been accepted by an institution of higher learning that is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music. Judges will base their decisions upon all-around musicianship, performance technique and information provided by the applicant. The deadline for applications is April 15, 2008. Auditions are scheduled for Saturday afternoon, May 17. Details are on the LVC/PMTA website. Email questions to Barbara Thompson at bttpiano@aol.com.

Email any questions to **Barbara Thompson at bttpiano@aol.com**.

SUMMER MUSIC CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

Open to students of all ages who plan to attend a music camp

April 28 - Application Deadline

Scholarship details and applications can be found on the web site.

FROM THE DERSTINE STUDIO

Mezzo-soprano, Bryn Holdsworth is a finalist in the Classical Singer's High School Competition, held at Temple University on January 26th. Bryn, a sophomore at Phillipsburg High School, has been a pupil of Janice Derstine for three years. Bryn also won 1st place in the 9th-10th grade division of National Association Teachers of Singing local competition last February. She will now compete with other finalists in New York City on May 25th.

LETTER OF THANKS FROM A MUSIC CAMP SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Dear Teachers of LVC/PMTA,

I would like to thank you for the scholarship money that allowed me to go to Penn State's music camp.

I had a wonderful experience at the camp, and learned a lot of things about piano including playing techniques and working through the pieces I was already practicing.

I felt privileged to take part in the master classes and get critique from the professors on my latest piece, "Toccatà", by Aram Khatchaturian. We also had four hours of practice time each day. This gave me plenty of time to prepare for the final recital on the last day of camp and for Musikfest.

The counselors were also very helpful. Since they were alumni or current students, they could answer all the questions I had about what it was like to be a student at Penn State.

Penn State's music camp was one of the best musical experiences I have ever had, and I would like to say thank you for making this possible.

Sincerely,

Nicholas D'Angelo

NEW MEMBER

Renee Bordner
1182 DeWalt Drive
Easton, PA 18040
(610) 438-3793
renee_bordner@yahoo.com

Lunch Reservations for Malcolm Bilson March 8 Lecture/Master Class
Deadline for Reservations – February 25

Moravian Dining Services has offered to serve lunch for us on March 8 from 12-1 PM in the Clewell Dining Hall (Hurd Campus). At a cost of \$11.85 per person, the lunch will consist of soup of the day, Rappz sandwiches, chips, cookies and brownies, iced tea and iced water. Since we only have one hour for lunch, this is a great option. It will save a lot of time and also allow us to socialize, which is always a good time.

To reserve lunch, mail a check by February 25th, payable to LVC-PMTA for \$11.85 per person to:

Darlene Ziegler
3028 Albright Ave.,
Allentown, PA 18104

If you have questions about the lunch, contact Randi Paul:

rpaul@ptd.net (610) 360-0149

FEBRUARY 20 - GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING AND TEACHERS' FORUM

"Right from the Start—Strategies for Teaching Technique to Young Pianists"

On February 20, our regular monthly meeting will include a brief general business meeting at 9:30 which will be followed by a "teachers' forum" from 10:30 – 11:30 during which we will discuss some of the fundamentals of teaching beginning piano technique and some of the methods and materials our members have used to facilitate this process. We should have a lively and interesting discussion! In order to prepare for the forum, please be thinking about the following questions and how you would answer them:

1. What do you do with a young beginner at the very first lesson?
2. What is the first activity you do with a beginner that is directly related to technique (i.e., the physical approach to the piano)?
3. How do you help a student develop a good hand position?
4. Do you teach pieces by rote? Are they a part of your strategy for developing a beginner's technique?
5. Do you use imagery, games, or other devices to make technique fun and relevant for young students?
6. How do you teach legato? Other touches?
7. When do you introduce scales? Chords? How and when do you expand to multiple octaves and chord inversions?
8. What are your favorite materials to use with beginners with respect to technique?
(Please feel to bring examples to display at the meeting.)

I will act as the facilitator for this session, but it's up to all of you to do most of the talking! Sometimes we learn the most valuable teaching methods from each other. Come and be prepared to share your ideas and to learn new ones!

Cherie Murray

AAA PLAQUE AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students receiving S+ on piano for 5 years or S+ on voice for 3 years.

Teacher	Student
Darlene Ziegler	Victoria Chan Alethea Khoo Laura Straccia Ashley Chen
Jack Stevenson	Michael Li Krizia Nelson Erik Correll
Lori Huth	Melanie Huth
Susan Kuntz	Sudha Mjokkapati Jenna Peng
Annie Petit	Lucy Lin Victor Hakim
Denise A. Williams	Jade Stoffey Seth Yoder
Keren Ligowski	Lauren Wilson
Gloriana Sewell	James Witner
Martha S	Jamie Ye
Janice D	Alyce Daubenspeck

