



President's Message, January - February 2011

Happy New Year to all! So far, this month is bringing us a regular "storm of the week." We could name each storm, or better yet, compose a collaborative composition to correspond with each storm. 2011 is, after all, MTNA's Year of Collaborative Music and chapters in every state celebrated the *International Day of Collaborative Music* on January 22. Our own celebration, the "Lehigh Valley Salutes Collaborative Music" recital, was held Saturday in Peter Hall. The audience was treated to a wonderful chamber program of piano, violin, flute, voice—even an original composition. Thanks to Gloriana, Darlene and their students (and friends, and one parent) for putting a smile on all our faces.

Jack Stevenson has been working overtime to bring us changes you have seen on the website, and to take (drag? push?) us into the 21st century regarding the use of PayPal for the Play-a-thon. Randi Paul is helping us all by providing step-by-step instructions. In many cases, our studio families will already be familiar with the process. We look forward to increased participation, after the pain of new learning has subsided!

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you hear from Skip Wilkins that he is completing a long tenure as Newsletter Editor. For many years Skip has faithfully and capably served in this position. His deadline reminders have been invaluable for the executive and the committee chairs. His editing has rescued many of us who fail to adequately proofread our announcements. Thank you, Skip, for your valuable contributions. We wish you all the best.

We welcome Michael Toth to the board as our next Newsletter Editor and we thank Michael, a relatively new member of LVC, for immediately accepting this responsibility.

In spite of storms, our upcoming winter and spring events promise to be interesting and exciting. The announcements you see in this newsletter and in the calendar indicate that our members are active and dedicated. Still, we'd love to see more new members. Perhaps our New Year's resolution could include an objective to bring in one new member in 2011. The fulfillment of just ten such resolutions would have a major impact on the chapter. Have a musically productive and healthy year, everyone!

Carolyn Anderson

2011 PLAY-A-THON

The 2011 Hannah Young Play-a-thon will take place on Saturday, February 26 from 10 am to 8 pm, and Sunday, February 27 from 12 pm to 4 pm at the Palmer Park Mall in Easton. Information on this annual fundraiser is currently available on the LV-PMTA website along with the necessary forms. The deadline for submission of the Studio Registration form is February 14. These forms should be submitted electronically to Jack Stevenson as per the instructions, unless you do not have access to a computer (in which case you should contact Cherie Murray in order to have hard copies of the forms sent to you.) Please note that students will once again use the Pledge Sheets in collecting their donations, and also that, like last year, all donations will be collected at the Mall before each student performs. New this year is an opportunity to make donations by credit card before the event via PayPal; instructions for using PayPal have been e-mailed to members. This presents an opportunity for students to solicit donations from friends or relatives who do not live in our immediate area. Please note also that students must participate in at least two Play-a-thon in order to be eligible for the Frank Chesebro scholarship. Questions should be directed to Co-Chairs Randi Paul (610-360-0149) or Cherie Murray (610-967-1067).

Summer Camp Scholarships

The deadline for summer camp scholarship applications is Friday, April 22, 2011. Please see the website for details and application forms.

Irmgard Pursell, Camp Scholarship chair

Frank Chesebro Scholarship

Any teachers having students who are seniors planning on becoming music majors in college, please note the following: the Frank Chesebro Scholarship auditions will be held on Sunday, May 15; the postmark deadline for applications is Monday, April 18. The website has all the details but please alert your eligible students so they can save the date and prepare the program. An additional requirement: STUDENTS WILL NEED TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN PLAYATHON FOR 2 YEARS. Like last year, the auditions are open, and will be conducted like a regular recital, but with judges present. There will also be brief interviews with each student following the program. If you're planning to enter students, please let me know by the end of February so that I am sure to secure the appropriate judges.

Martha Schrempel

Editor's Note

This is my final Newsletter as Editor. I have served in the post now for twelve years and it has been my most special pleasure to work with so many fine and dedicated teachers, and among them, six Chapter presidents in this post. I know firsthand the quality of the work that goes on in this organization. And this experience extends to my role as a parent, as my two children have studied with – and prospered under – the tutelage of LVC-PMTA members. And both of my children are now in various stages of their own professional careers as performers and educators. Furthermore, many of my private jazz piano students have often studied concurrently with another member of our organization. I marvel at what our members do for our students.

I have had some changes in my life and I also have a few new opportunities on the horizon. Beginning in June, I will be living in Prague, Czech Republic, where I have performed on tour many times. I am very fortunate to be able to take a one-year sabbatical from my position at Lafayette College. My sabbatical proposal calls for me to do exactly what I have been doing in the Czech Republic during the last four years of regular two-week visits, namely, composing, performing, recording and touring. I will be returning to many venues throughout the country, adding new ones, and traveling widely (concertizing when possible) throughout Europe.

While this sabbatical does not call for me to do any regular, on-going teaching, I will be giving clinics at the Konzervator Jaroslava Jezka in Prague and at the Janacek Akademie of Musical Arts in Brno. I will also maintain a small independent studio in Prague as well, as requests are increasing from various students I have met during my previous trips.

Many members of my family and many friends are planning excursions to Prague during my year of residency. It will be my pleasure to act as tour guide. So if you have a hankering for travel to Central Europe, stay in touch with me. For that matter, stay in touch regardless! I plan to do the same.

While in Prague, I plan to write new music for what will be my eleventh CD release as a leader. For this project, I will form various ensembles with Czech and Slovak musicians. In early January, I recorded my tenth project, this one featuring an ensemble of New York musicians, and including my son Daniel. Eight and nine (from early 2010) are to be released in April and August 2011, with the recent number ten following in early 2012. I have a lot to do in the coming months before I depart for Prague, labors of love, to be sure!

I cannot say exactly what the next chapter of my life will bring when I return, but I will look forward to checking back in with everyone. I wish everyone the greatest success, personally and professionally.

Skip Wilkins

skipwilkinsjazz@gmail.com