



January 2009

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear LVC–PMTA Colleagues,

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had some time during the holidays to take a break from teaching responsibilities and enjoy time with your family and friends.

Our chapter had a busy and productive fall with the Dorothy Sutton and Achievement Award Auditions, two Wednesday meetings, one with a presentation by Diane Witty, Allentown Symphony Director, a full day workshop and master class with teacher, composer and clinician Catherine Rollin, three student recitals, including the AAA Honors Recital and a superb trip to the Metropolitan Opera to hear one of the most amazing vocal performances ever in the Renée Fleming portrayal of “Thaïs. All those events represented countless volunteer hours by many of our members. Thanks to those who pitched in to make the events successful. Reports of several of those events can be found in this newsletter installment.

For those who took on large tasks AND small ones, I want to express kudos and gratitude for jobs very well done.

As we turn the page to the year 2009, I would like our focus to be “What can our chapter do for you?” This topic was suggested at our December Executive Board meeting and unanimously agreed upon.

At our meeting on Wed., Jan. 14, we would like to explore ideas of how we can better meet the needs of our members.

Do you desire more opportunities for social interaction or networking? Would you appreciate professional advice from experienced studio teachers? Would you like a mentor to guide you in entering students into our auditions or participation in the Playathon, Musikfest or opera trip? Would you appreciate repertoire ideas for all student levels or advice on teaching technique? Are there programs or presenters you would anticipate and attend?

I am hoping for a live discussion of these topics on Jan. 14. Please come and offer your ideas.

We will have a *Meet and Greet* from 9:30–10:00 AM with refreshments on Jan. 14, followed by a General Membership Meeting and discussion, “What can our chapter do for you?”

See you then.

Musically yours,

Randi Paul

LVC-PMTA Weekly Updates Via Email

Those of you who have email have probably noticed that for the past couple of months, you have received a weekly update of our chapter activities. I started a weekly email including all current announcements to avoid sending out multiple emails per week, each with its own individual announcement. This was a way to compile all the events and announcements about those events in one email per week. I have heard that this system is working well, so I will continue it. If committee chairpersons would like me to include detailed information about an event in this weekly update, please get the information to me a couple of weeks in advance and I will schedule it to be sent out as part of the weekly email update.

Randi Paul, President

LVC-PMTA Bylaws Amendment Process

Recently, PMTA offered an amendment to the state Bylaws regarding collegiate membership and its privileges. The proposed amendment, which passed, reads:

(Under ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP)

(PMTA)"Collegiate Membership shall be open to all full-time (as defined by the student's educational institution) college students currently involved in regular music study. Collegiate student members shall be entitled to participate in all PMTA sponsored activities and programs of the Association upon payment of the registration fee, if any, and shall have the right to vote, hold office, and receive the official Association publications."

We need to amend our local Bylaws to reflect the same wording as that of the state. On Dec. 3, 2008, a quorum of the LVC-PMTA Board of Directors passed the following amended wording to our local chapter Bylaws:

(LVC-PMTA Proposed) "Collegiate Membership shall be open to all full-time (as defined by the student's educational institution) college students currently involved in regular music study. Collegiate student members shall be entitled to participate in all LVC-PMTA and PMTA sponsored activities and programs of the Association upon payment of the registration fee, if any, and shall have the right to vote, hold office, and receive the official Association publications."

Sometime after Jan. 3 (30 days after Board approval as required by the process), the general membership will be asked to vote to approve amending this wording regarding collegiate membership and a two-thirds majority of the entire membership is needed for passage.

When you are asked to vote to approve the amendment, please respond promptly.
Thanks.

Randi Paul, President

For Chairpersons for Events Held at Moravian College

If you are a chair or a co-chair of one of our chapter events which occurs at Moravian College and arrange for services at Moravian (Dining Services, etc.) which will incur a charge, please advise our Treasurer, Jack Stevenson, of the amount to be paid and also the date and reason for the amount. Moravian will send the bill directly to Jack, but it is helpful for him to know that it is coming and the amount that will be due. Thanks.

CATHERINE ROLLIN WORKSHOP REPORT
OCTOBER 18, 2008

On Sat., Oct. 18 we were treated to a full day workshop, "Technique and Artistry," with Catherine Rollin, much sought after performer, teacher, composer and clinician. Using her *Pathways to Artistry* series as a guideline, she demonstrated the basics of effortless and effective technique and their application to masterworks and teaching pieces. The afternoon was filled with student performances in the Problem Solving Session and the Master Class. Catherine coached each student, again applying technique basics toward the achievement of musical expression.

We were joined by several teachers from other associations and also by some independent teachers referred by Young's Music. One student told me afterward that the problem passage was now much easier to play employing Catherine's tips. I would love to hear feedback on the workshop from teachers and students. Since Catherine is presenting this program at the MTNA National Conference next spring, she would also appreciate comments.

Catherine shared that she was quite impressed with the quality and preparedness of the student performances. Thanks and congratulations to the following teachers whose students performed at the event: Julie Askernia, Susan Kuntz, Randi Paul, Martha Schrepel, Irmgard Smits, John Stevenson and Denise A. Williams.

It was a delight for me to have the opportunity to spend time getting to know Catherine on Friday as I picked her up from the Philadelphia Airport and took her to dinner. She has boundless energy and is wholly devoted to her art.

Pat from *Young's Music* had a comprehensive display of Catherine's books and sheet music. At the end of the afternoon, cake was served and Catherine graciously signed music students had purchased up until she had to depart.

Here are some photographs taken of Ms. Rollin's presentation.

(I cannot send these to you at this time, as your e-mail provider is rejecting the large file I have sent.)

Achievement Award Auditions

The Achievement Award Auditions were a huge success with 236 students and 26 teachers participating. Rosemary Murdy-Haber was a diligent and zealous co-chair, who made working on the festival so much more enjoyable. Martha Schrempel also put in many extra hours working out details to help the event run smoothly. I was very impressed with all 26 teachers who were cheerfully willing to help in some way to make this event possible. We were able to hold three honors recitals this year to recognize those students who achieved the highest rating. Congratulations goes to all of the teachers who prepared their students, and to the students who were willing to work hard and to perform to the best of their abilities.

Sincerely, Dana Harlos, AAA Chairperson

OPEN HOUSE – SEPT. 27
Jean Fox's Home

Many of our members enjoyed an afternoon of socializing, sharing ideas and good food. Thanks to Jean for hosting us!

Pictured: Bottom row, L to R – Jean Fox, Barbara Martyska, Darlene Sydlik, Martha Schrempel

Top row, L to R – Irmgard Pursell, Randi Paul, David Campbell

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Opera Trip

Re-cap by Janice Derstine

Just wanted to report that the trip to hear Renee Fleming and Thomas Hampson in THAIS was wonderfully successful. The students raved about the opera and the marvelous singing they heard. We had a full bus as well. The minute we were seated at the opera one of our students was quizzed about the opera by one of the monitors. The student answered everything correctly, which was fantastic. It made our group look well trained. Thanks to the opera website, recordings supplied by Randi Paul and a comprehensive test made up by Jack Stevenson, our students WERE well prepared. A big *thank you* to all of the teachers participating. Now that we've lived through one year of this new regimen I feel we won't have to be so timid about it next year.

One of the students said she felt honored to be able to go to the Met and hear such phenomenal singing and a first-rate orchestra. All of the students said they would go again on future trips. PMTA is a very important part of these students' lives and we have opened many new doors for them. Hopefully these same students will continue to support the arts in their adult lives.

Here's a letter from an appreciative camp scholarship winner:

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Phone Number Change – Randi Paul

Effective Nov. 1, the phone number for Randi Paul is 610-360-0149. If you have an older phone number for Randi in your address book, please update it to the new one.

New Member

David Eugene Campbell
1410 Springhouse Rd.
Allentown, PA 18104
610-533-9864
dec@decmail.com
Website: SpringhouseMusicStudio.com

Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra

Everyone should have received a brochure from *Sinfonia* describing the "Be Our Guest" program. Through this program, Sinfonia offers complimentary tickets to students and a special ticket rate of \$15.00 for accompanying family members and guests. If you would like to order tickets using the "Be Our Guest" program, call Catherine DeBoeser, Exec. Director, at the Sinfonia office : (610) 434-7811. Catherine would also appreciate hearing comments from teachers, students and family members about the program. Call Catherine or email her at pasinfonia@verizon.net. Visit www.PASinfonia.org for more information, including programming.

Annual Breakfast Meeting

The annual breakfast meeting will be held at Morgan's Restaurant on Wednesday, April 15, 2009. More info will come later. Diane Montuori

News From Marilyn Pinschmidt

Wishing all of you a **Happy Holiday and New Year from NC.**

I am happy to say that I now have a number of students and even had a small recital in my home the week before Christmas.

I am still doing programs—joint programs for Chapel Hill MTA and Durham MTA. And I have launched a rudimentary website through an arts center class.
<http://pianolessonsincarrboro.com>

My best to all of you! I would enjoy hearing from you!

Marilyn Pinschmidt
202 Spring Valley Rd.
Carrboro, NC 27510
mppiano@yahoo.com

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. **NEW THIS YEAR:** Students need to have participated at least one year in the Hannah Young Play-a-thon; next year, the requirement will go to two years of participation. The deadline for applications is April 17, 2009. Auditions are scheduled for Saturday afternoon, May 16 in Peter Hall, Moravian College. **NEW THIS YEAR:** The auditions will be open to the public. The students will meet with the judges prior to the auditions, where they will participate in a group interview. The auditions then will proceed as a recital open to the public. The judges will make their decisions and announce the winners shortly thereafter. Details are on the LVC/PMTA website.

Teachers: if you plan to have a student enter, please contact me as soon as you can so we can ensure the proper expertise on our panel of judges. Email questions to Martha Schrepel at marthaks@ptd.net.