



# Washington Music Teachers Association

[www.wmta-dc.org](http://www.wmta-dc.org)

Newsletter – January 2012

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear WMTA members,

The year 2012 started with good news.

I am glad to inform you that in answer to the overwhelming concerns of MTNA's members and local presidents, the MTNA Board of Directors rescinded its earlier decision to eliminate non-piano categories from its annual competition. This important national event is now fully restored to its former extent. Undoubtedly, further discussions will be held and questions will be asked about these developments during the upcoming MTNA National conference scheduled to take place in New York in March.

During the Fall of 2011, the WMTA Calendar was marked by several outstanding events which brought to light many talented young students and confirmed once again the high professional level of our teachers. I witnessed some spectacular young talents at the MTNA Performance Competition held in November. Let me thank once more the managers at Jordan Kitt's Music in Rockville for their prompt help with accommodating this competition. The Potter (Hood) Strings Competition took place recently at Catholic University, with excellent results. Since September, several Judged Recitals, Student Musicales and workshops have been held with their usual success. All of this was possible thanks to the devoted and effective work of WMTA's Chairs, who offered and spent a lot of their time, heart and organizational skills for all of us.

WMTA publications (paper and electronic) have a new improved format due to the remarkable work of WMTA editors. I encourage all our members to follow the important development of electronic application forms which will be available soon for select WMTA events.

Since last Spring, several new members have joined WMTA, and several music and piano teachers from Maryland and Virginia have contacted me inquiring about joining our organization. Generous donations have been made to benefit the financing of our events under the skillful management of WMTA's new Treasurer and Financial Committee.

Several important competitions and festivals are scheduled for the next few months and await your participation. These include (but are not limited to) the Novik Piano Concerto Competition, Bartok Piano Competition, Anthony Chanaka Classical Festival and Adult Recital (please refer to our directory or website for dates and requirements). I am so looking forward to joining you and your students during these exciting events!

Marina B. Ovtcharenko

## WMTA welcomes new members:

### **Cole Burger**

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Silver Spring MD 20910  
(512) 495-9896 coleburger@yahoo.com

### **Andrew Harley**

1835 Phelps Place NW  
Washington DC 20008  
(202) 270-3286 andrew@andrewharley.com

### **Jeanette Kim**

1591 Spring Gate Dr #3313  
McLean VA 22102  
(443) 838-4672

### **Stephanie Stich**

2100 Foxhall Rd NW  
Washington DC 20007  
(203) 559-9234 pianogirlgw@hotmail.com

### **Joyce Wright**

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McLean VA 22101  
(703) 889-7755 wright\_joyce@hotmail.com

Long-time WMTA member Louise Kupelian died on Tuesday, October 18 after suffering a stroke. Trained in classical studies, Louise was an excellent pianist. In the 1970s Louise began Jazz lessons and continued experimenting with this idiom the rest of her performing career. She also held classes in her home on the art of improvisation. Louise was fascinated by Jazz and its intricacies. She composed "Theme and Variations on Happy Birthday", which was published by Warner Brothers and was very popular with teachers. Variations included the styles of Chopin and Jazz pianists George Shearing and Bill Evans. For many years Louise was an active teacher in the Chevy Chase area, maintaining a studio based on the teachings of Robert Pace, her mentor and friend. Louise was professionally certified by MTNA.

## **MTNA PERFORMANCE COMPETITIONS**

The 2011 MTNA Performance Competitions were held on Saturday, November 5, 2011 at the Jordan Kitts Recital Hall in Rockville. There were 8 competitors — 3 Juniors and 5 Seniors — and one Senior Piano Duet team. The winners of the Junior and Senior competitions and the Senior Piano Duet Team will represent WMTA at the Eastern Division Competition, to be held on January 6-7, 2012 at the School of Music of West Chester University, West Chester, PA.

### **RESULTS:**

**Junior Piano Solo:** Winner - Keiju Takehara (Sverjensky)  
Alternate - Jennifer Li (Mang)  
Honorable Mention - Alison Li (Mang)

**Senior Piano Solo:** Winner - Kimberly Hou (M. Lee)  
Alternate - John Janezich (McFarlane)

The judges for this year's competitions were Bradford Gowen, Erik Hillman and Soyoon Yim.

-- *Grace McFarlane & Marcel Maican, Co-Chairs*

## Coming up:

### **DCPS PUBLIC SCHOOL PIANO COMPETITION**

- Open to students enrolled in a DC Public School.
- Classical and Gospel/Jazz categories.
- Rounds: Feb. 11 and March 10. Deadline: Feb. 6.
- For info, contact Janet Peachey at janet.peachey@dc.gov

### **WMTA ELECTRONIC APPLICATION FORMS**

- Available this spring for several WMTA events, starting with Judged Recitals.
- We encourage you to submit your applications online!

WMTA is pleased to announce the results of the last **POTTER STRINGS COMPETITION:**

**Junior Division:**

1st prize: Shankar Barasubramanian (violin; Olga Khroulevitch)

2nd prize: Katie Shen (cello; John Kaboff)

**Senior division.**

First prize (tie): Fedor Ouspensky (violin; Oleg Rylatko), Russell Iceberg (violin; Phyllis Freeman)

2nd prize: Samantha Cody (violin; Chudnovsky)

The judges were Igor Yuzefovich, Howard Vandersluis and Maria Crosby.

**Results of the last two WMTA JUDGED RECITALS:**

**Judged Recital - October 23, 2011**

**Selected for Honors:** Clara Guo and Alan Wei, duet (Mang), Bryan Ho (M. Lee), Evelyn Mo (Mastroianni)

**Honorable Mention:** John Janezich (McFarlane), Ethan Hsiao (Nazarenko), Adam Stambouli (Peh)

**Judges were** Barbara Cackler and Natalia Efremova.

**Judged Recital - December 4, 2011**

**Selected for Honors:** Christopher Papenfuss (Hosaka), Philip Wang (Arseniev), Andrew Zhang (Kellert), Grace Wang (M. Lee)

**Honorable Mention:** Kevin Su (M. Lee)

**Judges were** Grace McFarlane and Carol Wolfe-Ralph.

**Upcoming WMTA events:**

**Adult Recital**

extended deadline January 20

**Novik Concerto Competition**

deadline February 10

**Chanaka Classical Festival**

deadline February 18

**SEVENTH ANNUAL MID-ATLANTIC WORKSHOP  
ON THE TAUBMAN PIANO TECHNIQUE  
Robert Durso, Facilitator**

Golandsky Institute Co-Founder and Senior Director

March 30 – April 1, 2012

Frederick Community College, Frederick, Maryland

Friday, March 30, 7:30 p.m. The Belmonte Trio in Concert

Pianist Robert Durso, Cellist Glenn Fischbach, Violinist Jennifer K. Lee

Saturday, March 31, 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.: Lecture, Technique Clinic and Master Class

Saturday, March 31 and Sunday, April 1: Lessons and Observations

\$50.00 Registration Fee, Complimentary Lunch on Saturday

Free admission to concert

For more information:

patriciajfranz@yahoo.com (301-663-6197); jwickelgren@frederick.edu (301-668-0355)

www.frederick.edu/pianoworkshop/

The Taubman Approach liberates pianists from physical restrictions. Based on principles of alignment and coordinate movement, it gives musicians the tools to overcome technical limitations and play effortlessly. It helps prevent and cure fatigue, pain and injury. Virtuosity, phrasing, tone production, dynamics and other valued skills emerge, uniting artist, instrument and music.

## **FMMC Competition for High School Pianists**

The competition is open to piano students who are currently enrolled in grades 9 through 12, living within a 50-mile radius of Washington, DC. *First-place winners from previous years are ineligible.*

**Location:** National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC

**Date:** Saturday, April 14, 2012

**Postmark application deadline:** March 24, 2012

### **Prizes:**

- At the discretion of the judges, the following prizes will be awarded:  
First Prize \$700, Second Prize \$500, Third Prize \$300.
- Winners will be presented at a student concert later in the season.
- All winners will receive a one-year membership in the Student Division of the Friday Morning Music Club.

### **Repertoire:**

Students must be prepared to play works from each of the following four categories:

1. A prelude **and** fugue from either volume of the Well-Tempered Clavier by J. S. Bach, or two other comparable pieces from the Baroque Period.
2. The first movement of a sonata by Beethoven (excluding Op. 49), Mozart (excluding K 545), Haydn (excluding early Divertimenti), or Schubert.
3. A substantial work from the Romantic Period.
4. An impressionist work **or** a work from the 20th or 21st century.

**Contact:** Lois Jones LoisSmithJones@gmail.com (301) 654-6275

**Complete details and application forms at [www.fmmc.org](http://www.fmmc.org)**

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