



Oklahoma Music Teacher

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KIMBERLY WATSON, EDITOR

From Your President...



Greetings OMTA Members!

I hope your fall is off to a good start following a summer break (or at least a change of pace)! It seems like the summers get shorter and shorter and 'free time' is such a valued commodity! Finding time to compose has been difficult since taking on this new job, but the summer certainly allowed me more time to catch up with my writing (or re-writing) projects.

No matter how much we have piled on our plate, we should never underestimate the importance that renewal and creativity can play in our everyday lives. A majority of teachers find themselves with an over-filled plate because of job positions, family commitments, health concerns, etc. In order to have something to offer our students, we must learn to balance our priorities for our own physical and mental health. Otherwise, we seldom have anything left over to offer our students or our art. We must set an example of stepping out of our boxes to try new things - pushing ourselves to learn and create. Otherwise, how can we expect that of our students?

This July, I attended the OCDA (Oklahoma Choral Directors Association) state convention in Norman. (What an indulgence to attend a state conference and be 100% on the receiving end with no responsibilities!) As a new member to this organization, I decided to participate in the Vocal Jazz Ensemble which rehearsed throughout the conference for a concert on the 2nd day. When it came time to assign soloists to scat sing, I found myself feeling apprehensive and protective of my ego. Was I really 'qualified'? I had never scat sung in front of anyone (outside of my cats at home). A voice inside my head said: "How can I expect my students to try new things if I am unwilling to step out of my own comfort zone?"

At some point, we all need to rediscover the excitement of learning something new and take advantage of opportunities that will 'grow us to the next level' or help us discover under-developed gifts. For some, that may mean stepping up to the plate when asked to chair an audition or serve on a committee. For others, it may apply to performing or conquering our fears of technology. For all of us, it can mean working at a non-intuitive skill or developing something that doesn't come naturally to us. (Need I mention at this point, that writing has always been that area for me!) One might be surprised at the ramifications of rekindling our own creativity or working at a non-intuitive skill. What better way to empathize with our students than to join them in the journey of learning something new?

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We all have multiple gifts to offer, but few of those come pre-packaged in one big box. We are called to discover hidden or overlooked gifts that, through refinement, take on priceless value. We should not fool ourselves into thinking that we will never make mistakes, no matter how careful we are. A wise friend once told me, "Anything worth doing well, is worth doing badly". Think of the analogies we could make to teaching or performing! No matter how careful one can be, at some point, you must 'go for it' and risk making mistakes.

At the start of a new school year, I hope your participation in OMTA brings you in contact with people that will inspire you, challenge you and support you - in all your efforts!

Mary Sallee,
OMTA President

Election of Members-at-Large

Election of at least one Member-at-Large is scheduled for both districts at the fall conferences this November. There are two Members-at-Large positions per district and each carries a 2-year term with a limit of 2 consecutive terms. It is being proposed that the election of each member-at-large should take place annually at each district conference, so the terms on the board can be staggered rather than filling both positions with two *new* representatives every two years.

If you are interested in being considered for this elected position, contact the Co-Presidents for your district ASAP. Consideration for office requires that you be fully certified and be in good financial standing.



From your VP of Auditions

After a time of rest during the summer, it's time to think about auditions again for this year. All the audition dates are printed in the

Directory.

Just a word of reminder concerning the Achievement Auditions - now is the time to think about the Repertoire Award for the Spring. The requirements are also printed in the Directory.

This is an excellent way to encourage your students to learn the music of the masters. The Senior Auditions have returned to two sites in each district. Please check the directory carefully to find where your students will play. The finals will still be in Norman on the Saturday of State Achievement Auditions.

There are still a few theory tests from last year available for purchase. The price is \$14.00. If you're interested, please let me know.

- Nancy Shelton, VP Auditions

Have something that you would like to advertise?

Help OMTA with the publication of this newsletter by buying an ad in the OMT.

Ad Rates begin at \$15 (1"x 1 column) to \$150 for a full page.

See the Policy and Procedures Manual or contact Kim Watson for more information.



President-Elect

Mark your calendars and make plans to join us June 3-4, 2005, for next year's state conference. It will be held in the Garvey Center on the campus of Oklahoma Christian University in Edmond. I have been working closely with Dr. Kathy Thompson of the OC music faculty, who is currently president of COMTA. Many of you attended the 1997 OMTA state conference at Oklahoma Christian University. Since that time part of the Garvey Center has been rebuilt due to a fire. I think you will agree that it is a lovely setting for our conference. Many of the sessions will be held in the beautiful new Recital Hall in the Garvey Center.

Our convention artist/clinician will be Jennifer Hayghe of the Louisiana State University piano faculty. She has received her bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees

in piano performance from The Juilliard School, where she was the last student of the legendary artist/teacher Adele Marcus. Ms. Hayghe won every award possible for a Juilliard student to receive, including the William Petschek Debut Award, resulting in her New York City recital debut at Alice Tully Hall. In 2004 Ms. Hayghe was awarded an Artist Fellowship from the Louisiana Division of the Arts and was invited to join their Touring Artists Roster.

We have invited Sheila Paige, Executive Director of the Piano Wellness Seminar and Piano Wellness Workshops, to be our pedagogy specialist for the conference. Ms. Paige brings over 25 years of experience in the work of Dorothy Taubman and an extensive background in Alexander Technique. She has gained international recognition as a presenter of lectures and master classes and we feel that these will complement those presented by Barbara Conable this year. Ms. Paige's reputation as a teacher attracts pianists nationally and she commutes to Pittsburgh, Houston, Knoxville, Memphis, Charlotte, and Dallas on a regular basis. She also teaches at Immaculata College in the Philadelphia area. In addition, she has given lectures and workshops for many outstanding universities across the country.

The next issue will contain information about the designated conference motel, meals, the new Commissioned Composer work, and a new College Faculty Forum session which will interest both college faculty and the independent teacher.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert McFadden

President Elect and Conference Chair

News From The Membership

Sandra Meyer, Vice President for Local Associations and Collegiate Chapters and Associate Professor of Music at Oklahoma Baptist University spent ten days in Ireland this past August teaching piano and accompanying musical theater at the Williams Syndrome Association of Ireland's Music and Activity Camp in Lisnaskea, Northern Ireland. She was recently informed that she has been accepted to present a poster session on her work with Williams Syndrome individuals at the M T N A National Conference in Seattle in April 2005. This past year her CD "Religious Classics for Soprano" with Gloria Lenhoff, Williams Syndrome Savant Singer, was released by Music Minus One and is available for purchase from musicminusone.com.

**PUT YOUR LOCAL ASSOCIATION NEWS IN
THE NEXT OMT!**

Send any activities and/or photos to:

**Kimberly Watson
OBU Box 61257
500 W. University
Shawnee, Oklahoma 74804**

Or submit information electronically to:

kwplano@sbcglobal.net

Next OMT Deadline is December 15, 2004

Congratulations!



NEW MEMBERS

Marilynn Brown	Oklahoma City	Piano
Kathleen Carpenter	Collinsville	Piano
Susan Duell	Duncan	Piano
Margaret Finley	Norman	Voice

RENEWALS

Claudia Carroll	Oklahoma City	Piano
Beverly Ann Fitch	Broken Arrow	Piano
Rita Foster	Park Hill	Piano
Doris Herald	Jenks	Piano
Marilyn K. Johnson	Edmond	Piano, Voice, Theory

Want to get your OMT's 'Hot Off the Press'?

We are asking all OMTA members that would be willing to receive their OMT's by email to contact our Editor Kim Watson by December 1 so she can email them HOT off the press! **Our goal is to sign up 100 members** (25% of our membership) to receive this newsletter electronically. Many organizations have been doing this for years because it saves paper, time and money, and is much more time efficient in getting information to members. Kim's email is: kwplane@sbcglobal.net. If you are still not convinced, read below....

FYI - All OMT's are now being posted on the website under History of OMTA. Anyone that can access the OMTA website need only click the **ACROBAT READER** free download placed above the list of OMT dated publications. It's easy! Back copies will always be right at your fingertips so you can print any hard copies of the pages you need.

Dates for 2004-05

October/November - Junior Auditions for 3rd-8th grade students selected to perform at the District Conferences

OMTA East District Conference - (OBU-Shawnee) - November 6, 2004

OMTA West District Conference - Southern Nazarene University, Bethany - November 20, 2004

OMTA/MTNA Auditions -Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee November 19-20, 2004

December 15- Next OMTA deadline

South Central Division MTNA Competitions - Little Rock, ARK - January 15, 2004

OMTA Board Meeting - - Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee - January 22, 2005

February 19 - East District (north counties) Sr. Auditions in Tulsa

February 26 - East District (south counties) Sr. Auditions in McAlester

March 5-West District (south counties) Sr. Auditions at USAO in Chickasha

March 5 - West District Sr. Auditions (north counties) at UCO in Edmond

MTNA National Conference - Seattle, Washington - April 2-6, 2005

State Achievement Auditions - University of Oklahoma, Norman - May 20-21, 2005

Oklahoma State Conference -Oklahoma Christian University, Edmond - June 2-4, 2005

Did you know that 22.5% of OMTA's members are nationally certified? That ranks us 7th in the nation!
Are you interested in becoming Nationally Certified?

What is required?

It is basically a two-step process.

Step 1: *Validation of Competency* in:

- Academics (university transcript or proficiency exam)
- Performance (Applied music study or validation of performance level)
- Teaching (Letters of reference and two years experience are required)

Step 2: *Certification Examination* (Practical teaching written exam)

Exams will be offered at Oklahoma Baptist University on November 19, Room #140, from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. and during our state conference on June 3 at Oklahoma Christian University.

Check out more information by visiting the MTNA website at www.mtna.org or call

MTNA at 1-888-512-5278 to request a *Certification Information Packet* which contains an application form and all other MTNA forms and materials needed for certification.

An important note to all regarding a MTNA nationally certification update:

The MTNA Board of Directors has unanimously approved a proposal to increase both the initial and renewal Certification Fees as of January 1, 2005. The fees are listed below.

Application Fee for the first area of performance	\$200.00
For each additional performance	\$150.00
Renewal of Certification Fee for each area in which you are applying for certification renewal	\$ 75.00

Nationally Certified OMTA members whose certification renewal is coming up this next year in 2005 will need to take note of this increase.

For candidates wishing to apply for College Faculty Certification, a third option was also approved in completing Step 2 of the certification process beginning January 1, 2005. This option would allow full-time or part-time college faculty to become certified using credentials already in place within college/university settings. Once it becomes available, the three options for completing Step 2 will be:

Option 1	The Certification Examination
Option 2	The Certification Portfolio
Option 3	Administrative Verification

Something new is available for potential OMTA members. An attractive membership brochure describing ten reasons why joining MTNA/OMTA should be "at the top of the list" is being printed for distribution to local music stores, libraries, etc. If your local association is interested in some for your area, please contact Mary Sallee or Sandy Pierce.

Special thanks to Dr. Robert McFadden for his kindness and help in orienting me to this position as Vice President of Membership/Certification. I am finding this to be a challenging but enjoyable job.

-Sandra Pierce



VP for Local Associations and Collegiate Chapters

From the Vice President for Local Associations and Collegiate Chapters

This month I want to mention some things that almost all of us can use to reward our students in various ways.

For Pre-College Students:

I recently received an email from the MTNA National Office, which I think is worthy of reprinting here. These programs are available to everyone, whether you are in a local association or the only teacher in a 50-mile radius.

"Can you believe it's already September? It seems like just yesterday the days were long and sunny and now school has started again. The students are back in the studio and ready to practice...or are they? Are you looking for some new ideas to motivate your students to practice and reach their long-term goals? Did you know that MTNA offers three affordable ways to motivate your "everyday" students? The Music for Everyone programs are designed to excite and motivate all your students.

"The first of these is the Music Study Award. This is an excellent way to encourage your students by acknowledging their commitment to music lessons. Through MTNA, you can order certificates celebrating the years of music making your students have completed. Whether it is their first or their twelfth year, they deserve to have their commitment recognized.

"The next program is the Studio Festival Program. This is designed to give students the opportunity to perform and receive a supportive critique from an experienced adjudicator whom you choose. Students receive performance certificates and also have the new option of ordering medals commemorating their experience. This program is ideal because you, the teacher, tailor the festival to meet the needs of your studio. MTNA provides detailed guidance to help you through all the steps from event preparation to publicity. This will surely be a memorable event for any studio.

"The final MTNA sponsored program is the Music Achievement Award Program. The purpose of this program is to encourage all the students in a teacher's studio to continue their music study. With this program, the teacher works with each student to set measurable and achievable goals. Upon completion of these goals the student will not only be intrinsically rewarded, but will also have a tangible pin as a symbol of their accomplishments.

"These programs are perfect for students studying any instrument including voice. Get this year off to a great start and motivate your "everyday" students to achieve their goals through music study. For more information about the Music For Everyone programs, visit the MTNA website at www.mtna.org and click on "Programs and Projects" and select which program interests you from the drop down menu, or contact MTNA at mtnanet@mtna.org or by calling (888) 512-5278."

For College Students:

After our inaugural event for collegiate students at the OMTA West District Conference last year, we are planning to try another one this year. The purpose of the event is to encourage students in their professional lives, to show the benefits of membership in OMTA and MTNA, and to provide a place for the collegiate students to network with each other and with other teachers. Each District Conference will offer a session especially for collegiate students. If you teach college students, please encourage them to attend either the East District Conference at Oklahoma Baptist University on November 6 or the West District Conference at Southern Nazarene University on November 20. In planning, please note that the OMTA-MTNA Collegiate Competitions are also on November 20 at Oklahoma Baptist University. Details will be forthcoming in the district convention calls.

Sandra Meyer
Vice President for Local Associations and Collegiate Chapters



MTNA Foundation News

Teachers - did you know the MTNA Studio Fellowship offers \$3000 - a significant "chunk of change" - to an individual who wants to start an independent music studio, or hopes to enhance a newly established studio. This should be of particular interest to recent - or upcoming - college graduates as well as to the younger members of your associations. You'll find the application on page 97 of the September/October American Music Teacher.

MTNA has sent a poster describing this fellowship to all NASM Schools of Music; it would be great if those of you who live near colleges and know of student chapters would give a call or send an email - encouraging promotion of this award among pedagogy and performance teachers. And, if you have young members who would benefit from an infusion of funds, please encourage them to apply. Just think - if we have a groundswell of applications, perhaps the Foundation might eventually find funding for even more fellowships! Here's a quote from Klondike Steadman, recipient of the 2003 Fellowship:

"The importance of the Studio Fellowship award to our success cannot be overstated. At the time that we opened this school, I had just graduated from the University of Texas with my DMA with nearly \$50,000 in student loans and no savings or property assets. Convincing a bank to loan us an additional \$60,000 to start a music school seemed next to impossible. However, the requirement of putting together a business plan for the Studio Fellowship gave us a leg up on the application process and the award itself was a major factor in convincing the Small Business Administration that we were a legitimate gamble for them. The award was also very meaningful in convincing new students that our organization was an excellent place to learn music." Klondike's Orpheus Academy offers lessons on numerous instruments, group theory classes, adult learning opportunities, and much more. You can visit the website: www.orpheusacademy.com I hope everyone has a wonderful Fall! Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Foundation Chair and for the wonderful support you have given.
Kathy Kochheiser
State Foundation Chair

NEW MEMBERS

Farren Mayfield	Tulsa	Piano
Shirley Clayton	Clinton	Piano
Ginger Waldrip	OKC	Piano
Donavon Calvery	Guthrie	Piano/Theory
Ashlee Elmore	Bartlesville	Voice/Theory
Patricia Boody-Black	Tuttle	Piano

RENEWED CERTIFICATION

Lesa Steele	Bartlesville	Piano
Jolene Bolin	Edmond	Piano
Cheryl Byrd	OKC	Piano
Jennifer Jennings	Edmond	Piano
Amanda Kniskern	Broken Arrow	Piano
Joy Shrader	Broken Arrow	Piano
Jo Lewis	Shawnee	Piano
Susan Loomis	Tulsa	Violin/Viola
Peggy Fetsch	Bartlesville	Piano
Jennifer Patterson	Lawton	Piano
Wanda Griffith	Tulsa	Piano

COLLEGE FACULTY CERTIFICATE

Paula Hutton	Edmond	Piano/Theory
Betty Jane Wintle	Durant	Voice
Jeongwon Ham	Norman	Piano

PROVISIONAL TO FULLY CERTIFIED

Lindsay O'Donnell	Talequah	Piano
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STATE CERTIFIED TO NATIONALLY CERTIFIED

Rondal Wallace	OKC	Piano
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OKLAHOMA MUSIC TEACHER

**WE'RE ON THE
WEB:**

WWW.OKMTA.ORG

News From The Membership

Michael McVay is an accredited member of both OMTA and MTNA. He has recently released his first brand new CD of standards titled Michael McVay and Friends.

Michael is currently on the staff at the University of Texas in Dallas, and is also a freelance musician in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. He is classically trained, and has diversified into easy listening and jazz as well.

While growing up in Tulsa, Michael studied with Janell Whitby and the late Lucille Gourley.

Michael's CD is available at:

e-mail: mjmcvay66@msn.com
Internet: www.amazon.com
Other: Border's, 81st and Yale,
Tulsa, OK

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