

**PMTA General Meeting Minutes**  
**June 10, 2016**  
**Seven Springs Resort, Champion, PA**  
**5:30 pm**

**Meeting was called to order** by President Deborah Rodgers.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve by Jonathan Flowers moves Chris Guzman seconds. Minutes approved as stated.

**President's Report:**

- PA membership is growing, with final count being 612 members. Much of that growth is attributed to our college membership. Special thanks to college faculty to mentor college groups. MTNA competition had larger than usual turnout, and so did revived Keystone Chamber Music competition. Special thanks to Gloriana Sewell.
- 2 anniversaries – Reading MTA celebrated 90<sup>th</sup> —Philadelphia MTA celebrated 125th birthday.
- PMTA was well represented at MTNA conference in San Antonio, with several members participating. Nanette Solomon, past president, was installed as Eastern Division Director elect.
- Please look at PMTA website for child abuse policy.
- Reminder of FDC regulations: no discussion of pricing unless it is in reference to historical pricing.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Nov 5-6 is 2016 competition weekend at West Chester Univ. Thanks to Patricia Powell.
- Next year's conference will be at Lebanon Valley, Annville, PA. June 9-11. Nancy Galbraith has accepted commission to be 2017 composer. She will write a piano piece that will be performed at conference.

Thanks to conference organizers Elaine Friedlander and Mary Lynne Bennett.

Looks forward to serving as president for one more year. . Music has many purposes and one of its loftiest is connecting people.

**Donna Beech: membership incentive:** PMTA offers one free, state membership for new members if members register for the conference during their first year of membership. Recognized Jonathan Flowers for rebate. PMTA is the 13th highest membership in the country. Recommend that we invite others to join organization to share in music making and teaching.

**Teacher of Year and Distinguished Service awards: Deborah Rodgers:** This year we had many nominations for these awards. All of the nominees were very well qualified and deserved to receive the award. 2016

**Distinguished Service Award goes to joint recipients Steven and Teri Smith.** Teri could not be here because of health issues.

- **Deb Busche initiated and wrote part of nomination letter:** I have had the pleasure of knowing Steven and Terri during my undergraduate years at Penn State, and later as a PMTA member of the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter. At Penn State Dr. Smith was a model for diligence, always practicing, performing and carrying a large student load. As a Piano Literature teacher he was demanding and thorough, and his class was an asset to my studies in graduate school. When he assumed the presidency of PMTA he brought a new level of energy to the group, and we all benefited from his communication and organizational skills. And not to be outdone in terms of organizational skills, Teri Smith has done an amazing job in revamping the Dorothy Sutton Festival. Her work has made the Dorothy Sutton Festival easier for all of our members to navigate. Her continuous efforts to keep the Dorothy Sutton Festival going strong are an asset to PMTA. On the sad day that Teri decides to step down, her successor will have an easier job because of her changes to the festival process.

Thank you for your consideration for their nomination for PMTA's Distinguished Service Award. Deb Busche

- **Deborah Rodgers added portion of letter:** Teri has had a longstanding tenure as chairperson of PMTA's annual Dorothy Sutton Festival. At the time that she took its reigns, the DSPF was in a state of flux. It was unwieldy and difficult to manage. The challenge was enormous and not surprisingly the PMTA leadership was experiencing difficulty locating a member willing to head and reorganize this event. In comes Teri Smith, undaunted and seeming to relish in the hurdles that were presented. She assumed control and reconstructed and streamlined the process. Her influence has been long lasting. While her achievements in revamping the Dorothy Sutton are noteworthy, the truly exceptional deed lies in Teri's willingness to volunteer her expertise when asked. Teri has manifested this quality over and over and PMTA is the

beneficiary. Even in the throes of fighting her battle with leukemia, Teri has stood strong with her willingness to support and chair the Dorothy Sutton Festival. Teri and Steven made a wonderful team during Steven's presidency; supporting one another and working together in tandem. Steven was a skillful leader who directed this organization with agility. Teri was ever-present in the background, a reliable resource, always available to discuss options and to offer encouragement. She is his strongest advocate. They are a tremendous unit.

- **Chris Guzman added a section:** Steven is what an ideal collegiate colleague should be: very active not only in his own work, but also extremely dedicated to the work of the students at the university. If there was a piano event anywhere on campus, he was sure to be there. Through his work creating the doctoral program at Penn State, Steven has transformed the piano department into a place that is sought after by conservatory students around the world. His dedication to the art and to teaching is not only admirable, but addictive.
- **Last contributor to letter Jacob Womack was unable to be here: so Deb Busche read his section:** I had the privilege of studying piano with Dr. Steven Smith 2007-2009 while working on a M.M. in piano performance and pedagogy. One can marvel at Steven's artistry, but his service and leadership in central PA and throughout the entire state should not be overlooked. His wife, Teri, also has a special place in my heart. She attended every recital and concert that not only Steven played, but those of his students as well. She supported Steven in every way, professionally and as a spouse. I marveled at Steven and Teri's organizational and leadership skills. While attending PSU, I witnessed the hard work they put into the Dorothy Sutton Festival and when PSU hosted the MTNA Eastern Regional Competitions. Steven and Teri spent countless hours arranging the use of PSU facilities, ensuring pianos were competition ready, volunteering their time at the events to help parents/students/teachers navigate their way around campus, etc. Neither complained of the hard work, never missed deadlines, and still gave 110% energy to their teaching. I not only strive to model my teaching and playing after Steven, but as President of WVMTA, I now strive to model my dedication to volunteering and service after Steven. I truly hope that PMTA will consider Steven and Teri for this honor!

**Teacher of the Year Award: Goes to Jeffrey Harris:** Two letters of nomination were written.

**Mary Lynne Bennett read the first one.** I am writing this letter to nominate Jeffrey Harris for the 2016 Teacher of the Year award for PMTA. Jeffrey has been a long time member of the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter of PMTA and the Pittsburgh Piano Teachers Association. He serves on the board of the Steinway Society of Pittsburgh. He teaches students of all ages at the Carnegie Mellon University preparatory program and in his home studio. His students have won PPTA competitions and been active in honors recitals for PPTA and Steinway Society. In addition to being active in multiple local teacher's organizations, Jeffrey is constantly providing opportunities for continuing education and development of artistry of his colleagues. He helps find guest artists for the Steinway Society recital series in Pittsburgh and encourages his colleagues and their students to attend. He also invites artists to perform in his home and invites colleagues to attend and engage the artists in discussion. He continues to seek out ways to foster his own growth as a teacher and artist by attending national conferences and international seminars each year. Mr. Harris's commitment to high standards in our profession shines through in everything he does and he serves as an inspiration and role model for his colleagues, making him highly worthy of this honor.

**Another letter read by Jackie Herbein:** I am writing this letter to nominate Jeffrey Harris for the 2016 PMTA Teacher of the Year award. I have had many occasions to interact with Jeff in a number of different professional venues and I have often heard (and judged) his students in competitions and recitals. It is obvious from hearing Jeff's students that he sets high musical standards for them and they in turn have been successful in a number of highly competitive venues in the Pittsburgh area. While having successful students is a mark of fine teaching, in my mind, it is not the only thing that distinguishes Jeff for this award. Jeff Harris goes out of his way to collaborate with and support colleagues on an ongoing basis and he creates a sense of musical community wherever he goes. He does not simply maintain membership in the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter of PMTA, the Pittsburgh Piano Teachers Association and the Steinway Society of Western Pennsylvania, among others. Rather, he actively involves himself in the myriad tasks necessary for these organizations to maintain viability. He is enthusiastic in his commitment to keep a solo piano recital series alive in Pittsburgh, to share his knowledge and experience with colleagues, and to inspire his students with his own love of music and learning. Jeffrey Harris is a consummate professional, dedicated to the highest standards of our profession. He is worthy of major consideration for this award.

**Foundation Fellow: Ed Kuhn:** reminded everyone to buy raffle tickets. Raffle funds the composer commissioning program, student performance and competition awards, teacher enrichment programs, and MTNA foundation fellow program, honoring deserving individuals who support the mission of the MTNA foundation.

- **PMTA 2016 foundation fellow: Jacqueline Herbein**
- PMTA is thrilled to name one of our most dedicated members as our
- 2017 Foundation Fellow:
- Whereas, this person has served as an innovative PMTA President for her Local Association and the State, and continues to serve on their boards in various capacities.
- Whereas, this person is a creative and talented presenter at the local, state, national, and international level.
- Whereas, this person has served as the PMTA competitions chair for many years and currently serves as the chair for the Junior MTNA National competitions.
- Whereas, this person always inspires students and colleagues with her
- creative and ingenious approach to piano pedagogy.
- Whereas, this person's commitment and constant accessibility gives stability to PMTA.
- Whereas, this person is the "go to" person, who cares deeply about the well being of this organization and offers innovative solutions to problems.
- Whereas, this person, as treasurer, is the constant; not unlike the uninterrupted pulse underlining the frequently changing rhythm, or the steadiness of an ostinato pattern with ever changing harmonies above. Her steadfastness helps to provide unity to PMTA!
- It is my great pleasure to name Jacqueline Herbein as PMTA's 2017 Foundation Fellow!

Please donate to fund and designate Jacqueline Herbein for gala at MTNA national in 2017.

Mary Lynne Bennett will now introduce keynote speaker: Noa Kageyama

Deborah Rodgers called for motion to adjourn.

Jeff Harris moved to adjourn, Cecily Franklin seconded. Meeting adjourned.