

**PMTA Local Association Forum,
Friday June 8, 2018
Indiana University of Pennsylvania,
Gorrell Hall**

Present - Terri Smith (CPMTA), Elaine Friedlander (MLMTA), Henry Wong Doe (IMTA), Miriam Shingle (MLMTA), Joy Thiessand (MLMTA), Susan Koenig (MLMTA), Mary Lynne Bennett (PMTA), John Kulik (Westmorland), Kim Jamison (Greater Pittsburgh Chapter), Dee Ann Symington (Greater Pittsburgh) Nathan Hess (Erie), Steven Smith (CPMTA)

Elaine Friedlander was moderator in place of chairman Gilya Hodos.

LA Matching Grant- Please consider applying for a matching grant. The application has been streamlined so that it is much easier than it has been in the past. The form is located on the website under the forms and reference tab located at the bottom of the screen. The PMTA Matching Grants form is the first link under the awards section. The grant deadline is July 1. We urge each chapter to apply. It was reiterated that grant money is restricted to workshops, lectures, master classes and recitals.

Main Line Music Teachers Association - (MLMTA)- Joy Thiessen described the activities that were presented throughout the 2017-18 year. MLMTA has decided to hold a round table discussion yearly to discuss topics of interest to membership. She explained that Prime Time is a get together for music teachers to play for each other. This year several of the Prime Time meetings were centered on holiday music. (Halloween, Christmas, spring teacher's recital) MLMTA also had the annual Connie Murray Piano Festival - 312 participants, two student recital (fall & spring) and Super Saturday which is a day of for the KITS theory test, master classes with WCU faculty, and availability of recital hall to individual teachers for a fee that is used as a fund raiser for scholarships to WCU. Joy explained that she started a podcast called Pearls of Piano Wisdom where she goes to individual teachers studios and interviews them. The podcasts are located on her website pearlsofpianowisdom.com . They can be downloaded and listened to at leisure. MLMTA is in the process of setting up a new website and online registration for festivals. The registration system is designed by Alejandro Cremaschi.

Philadelphia Music Teachers Association - Joann Kirchner

Each year begins with a forum and luncheon. This year the guest speaker was Angela Duckworth. New members are invited to attend. Brian Gantz gave a masterclass in November. Program on body mapping (Kathryn Woodward was presenter) and on Schumann's late piano works (Amy Yang). The Philadelphia and Willow Grove chapters combined together to have a Salon Musicale in May. There is also a Spring Festival and the DSPF. Additionally, they hold the

Andor Kiszely Honors recital. Every other year this recital will be held at Carnegie Hall. 2019 will be the 3rd time at Carnegie Hall. They are looking for a webmaster.

Erie Music Teachers Association – Nathan Hess

There is a small membership, about a handful. This is due to the fact that there is a competing music organization in Erie called the Erie Music Teachers Association. They held the DSPF auditions in the fall. Last spring there was a master class given by Sha Wang. She teaches at Geneva College. Steven Smith mentioned that Nathan single handedly revived this organization. His goal is to continue to try and keep things going.

Westmoreland – John Kulik

There are about 16 teachers in this chapter. They encourage members to attend the state conferences for their enrichment. John started the chapter in 1991 with another teacher who has moved on. They always hope to get new members. There are 3 events in the fall – DSPF, Sonatina Competition, and Holiday Concert.

Sonatina Competition has a list of 12 Sonatinas that are graded from easy to advanced. Each teacher signs up a student for one of the Sonatinas. Winners receive a cash prize, a ribbon and perform in a winner's recital. There are 1st, 2nd and HM placements. It has developed into a nice event.

Holiday Concert is performed at a Barnes & Nobel. Each student performs a solo and a duet on a digital keyboard. They play primarily holiday music for the café patrons and people that walk by. Barnes & Nobel offers a Holiday Book Fair at the same time and the chapter receives 5% of whatever purchases are made.

They have Westmoreland Symphony concert in February where students receive reduced price tickets to attend. This usually has a good turnout.

Composition Contest. The winners perform in an end of year recital along with other performances.

Graduating Senior Award is offered if they participate in 6 events including presenting a piece in recital during their senior year. They receive a \$100.00 stipend and a certificate.

Indiana – Henry Wong Doe

This chapter has a small membership.

They hold 3 events per year;

- (1) DSPF,
- (2) Monster concert which often has participation from other chapters,
- (3) Event changes each year. This year they had an improvisation workshop given by an IUP faculty member.

Ticket sales (\$5.00) for the monster concert brings in a small amount of money. The moving cost of 22 pianos is expensive. Choosing music is also difficult. Frequently Henry makes the arrangements that are used. Lunch is also expensive.

Reading – Millie Eben sent a report

RMTA remains a small but committed group of dedicated teachers. Our membership has experienced a variety of health and life crisis in the past few years which, of course, affects individual activity levels. We continue to focus on student activities which includes:

- September Local DSPF Adjudications and Showcase Recital
- February Student Recital at a senior facility
- March adult student Salon Musicale
- March Spring Festival Adjudications and Honors Recitals.

Our member-focused events include:

- July Summer Pedagogy Pow-wow: Local private teachers (members and non-members) meet in an informal environment to discuss all things related to private teaching. Moderated by Jenny Frecon-Smith, RMTA president at the time.
- September meeting: Guest speaker Lois Svard spoke on “Mirrors in the Brain”
- May meeting: Guest speakers from a local mental health agency discussed how to identify young people in crisis and guide them and their families towards the appropriate resources.

RMTA also continues to struggle finding locations to hold our performance events at reasonable costs. Few churches own more than one grand piano of quality. Albright College has been hosting our spring festival’ but that might change this year with the change in administration. We’re still waiting for their decision.

Central PA – Terri Smith

They have monthly meetings where members perform for each other. This year’s emphasis was Faure. They have 3 student recitals per year; 3 per day. They hold DSPF and The Triolo Music Competition. There is a teacher’s recital. Marylène Dosse spoke on teaching the music of Faure.

Greater Pittsburgh – Dee Ann Symington

DSPF held every fall. There were 120 participants. It is run by a husband and wife team. Husband takes over the theory. There are 4 recitals each year. There are a lot of violinists in the recital. They have the Streater & Smith Competition which has a very high level of performance. They also have the PCOYA Concerto Competition. The orchestra includes the chapter's name in publicity but the chapter is not expected to help with running the event. Membership is growing. They are affiliated with the Duquesne Student Chapter which is comprised of mostly non pianists. There is also a competing group called the Pittsburgh Piano Teachers Association (PPTA) which consists of pianists only. For this reason the PMTA Greater Pittsburgh chapter also encourages instrumental membership. They have meetings most months. Two of the meetings are combined with the PPTA group so that they can share the cost of the speaker.

Marina Lupinacci spoke about her growth and development from performer to teacher. Jeff Harris had a meeting at his house to focus on technique. In January they held a coffee house chat where topics are open. They had a Burgmuller Bash where a member composed a piano duo part for Burgmuller's Op. 100. These were performed and were enjoyed by all because they were good. Each meeting opens with a performance by a teacher; this is called the Performer of the Month. May is always a pot luck final meeting.

Elaine read the following message sent by Gilya Hodos:

Despite numerous requests from the La chair to LA presidents requesting their summary reports to be presented at the forum. Only 5 reports were received. In an effort to improve communication and awareness among our LA, please send Gilya your annual calendar of events in a Word doc format, not PDF, as well as any news worthy items that occur during the year. We would like to be able to highlight the LA activities throughout the state and each of our newsletters.

It is helpful to have the calendar by late August so that the fall programing can be advertised.

It was mentioned that each LA has a link to their website. Nonetheless, it is still requested for each LA to send a listing in a Word doc so that it will be easier to place on the Local Association page and members will not have to click on each link. We have a page with a listing as well as with links.

Concerns and Questions -

Philadelphia would like to discuss membership and creative ways to draw more members. They are trying to get younger members.

- Greater Pittsburgh shared that they have a pizza get together with the Duquesne students in the fall. Approximately 6 teachers go to Duquesne and talk to the kids; not just the student chapter but to all of the students. Next year they will hold one of their presentations on rubato at Duquesne so that the students can attend.
- It was brought up that the MTNA competitions sometimes help to bring in new members to faltering chapters.

Henry said that he would love to start a PMTA student chapter but that it is hard because there is a competing PCMEA chapter. It was mentioned that the PMTA would be helpful for students interested in performing and teaching. It is ok for a group to only have 5 members in the group.

Mary Lynne discussed the MTNA E-Festival. This event specifically services students who are preparing for an audition, or performance, or for members located in rural areas. It is also useful for a student who cannot travel to the local festival due to conflicts. The E-Festival can be entered at any time. They can submit up to 15 or 20 minutes of video for a fee. They will receive a professional judge's comments. There will not be a rating system; just comments. Mary Lynne asked that the LA presidents take this information back to their local association.

Donna Beech discussed a map of PA that she has been working on. She said that over ½ of the counties in PA do not have a local association close by. There is also a lot of overlap in the Southeast area and Pittsburgh area. This map will be placed on the PMTA website. It will be helpful for new members to locate the chapter that is closest to their house.

Participants were reminded that all competitions are required to be open to everyone to participate per FTC requirements. However, chapters can tack on an extra fee to non-members to cover costs. Festivals are different than competitions because they can be held for members only.

The possibility of a studio level membership was brought up. A music school wanted to place students from all its non- PMTA teachers, in a local festival but only pay for a school membership. There was discussion of if a studio membership would be possible. Consensus was not favorable. It was mentioned that if a music school wanted all of their members to send students, then the school could subsidize the cost of membership for each teacher.