



# Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association

*PMTA is an incorporated non-profit educational organization committed to the pursuit of excellence in music teaching. PMTA is an affiliate of Music Teachers National Association.*

**From the President's Desk....**

**February 2016**

Greetings Fellow PMTA Members,

I wish you a Happy New Year! May 2016 bring you the very best year in which you and your students will find new insights, methods and philosophies to inspire. PMTA is here to support you in your musical endeavors.

As I compose this newsletter, the winter wind is howling and the snow is falling. While gazing upon this frosty setting it pleases me to turn my attention to the PMTA June conference which will be held at the beautiful, serene Seven Springs Resort. This is a conference you won't want to miss! We have fascinating presentations and amazing performances lined up for you. The theme is Music and the Brain; a topic broad enough and meaningful to all of our members.

The conference will begin on Friday morning at 9:00 AM. Then on Saturday at the conference conclusion, PMTA will treat you to a complimentary member's reception. Sunday you will have an opportunity to relax in the picturesque surroundings of Seven Springs Resort and to take advantage of a special excursion organized by PMTA to visit Fallingwater, the National Historic architectural masterpiece built over a waterfall and designed by America's most famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright. This trip will be offered to you at a discounted price!

What a great way to wrap-up your teaching year!

Best regards and hope to see you all there,

Deborah Rodgers  
PMTA President

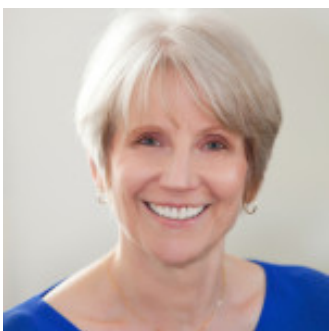
**PMTA 2016 Conference | June 10.11.12 Seven Spring Resort  
"Music and the Brain"  
Conference Co-Chairs**



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: **Noa Kageyama** is the author of the Bullet Proof Musician which is a performance psychology blog that has over 100,000 monthly readers. You can look it over at [bulletproofmusician.com](http://bulletproofmusician.com). In addition to presenting the Keynote address he will also give one workshop session on The Psychology of Performing Optimally Under Pressure.

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FEATURED CLINICIAN: **William Westney** was the 2012 recipient of the Frances Clark Keyboard Pedagogy Award given to him by MTNA. He is well known for his best-selling book *The Perfect Wrong Note – Learning to Trust Your Musical Self* (Amadeus Press 2003), and also through his innovative “Un-Master Class”<sup>®</sup> performance workshop. This unique class has been held hundreds of times at conservatories and universities across the US, Europe and Asia, and was the subject of an illustrated feature article in *The New York Times*. You can learn more about William and his new projects at [williamwestney.com](http://williamwestney.com).



FEATURED CLINICIAN: **Lois Svard** is one of our very own PMTA members. She has presented at national and international music conferences throughout the world. She writes *The Musician’s Brain*, a blog that has introduced readers in more than 100 countries to some of the latest research in neuroscience and music. Take a moment to check it out at [themusiciansbrain.com](http://themusiciansbrain.com).

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GUEST ARTIST: **Spencer Myer** was lauded for “superb playing” and “poised, alert musicianship” by The Boston Globe and labeled “definitely a man to watch” by London’s The Independent. American pianist Spencer Meyer is one of the most respected and sought-after artists on today’s concert stages. Find out more about Spencer at [spencermeyer.com](http://spencermeyer.com).



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## **SEVEN SPRINGS RESORT**



777 Waterwheel Drive, Seven Springs PA 15622  
800-452-2223 | [7springs.com](http://7springs.com)

Members will make their own hotel reservations by contacting Seven Springs Resort by phone or online. Stay tuned for details!

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FALLINGWATER is the name of a house built over a waterfall in Southwest, PA. It is a house that doesn't appear to stand on solid ground but instead stretches out over a 30' waterfall. It captured everyone's attention when it was on the cover of Time magazine in 1938. It instantly became famous and today it is a National Historic Landmark.



This field trip is scheduled for Sunday. You'll be able to register for the group tour when you register for the conference via the PMTA website. You can learn more about Fallingwater [HERE](#).

Online Conference Registration will open soon!  
Watch your email for the announcement!

### **Attention New Members**

Don't forget that PMTA will provide any new member who comes to the conference during the first year of membership a one-time rebate on their membership dues!

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### **PMTA Teacher of the Year and PMTA Distinguished Service Awards**

It's time to consider PMTA Awards to be announced at the June 2016 PMTA Conference at Seven Springs Resort. The PMTA Teacher of the Year and PMTA Distinguished Service Awards are open, and no nominations were received in 2015. The last recipients were



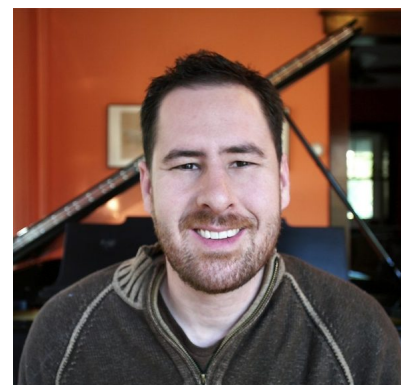
Edward Kuhn, Teacher of the Year in 2014, and Francine Christy, for 2014 Distinguished Service Award. Please give consideration to these awards! The process is easy and simple: first, just give us a name, by email or other communication to Steven Smith, Immediate Past President...the bylaws prescribe this role for the IPP. You may then be

asked to supply a more detailed letter of nomination, due by April 1. If necessary to choose between competing nominations, the Executive Committee will make the final decision.

## KEEP READING FOR MORE PMTA NEWS...

### **Adam Silverman - PMTA 2015 Commissioned Composer - wins an Honorable Mention in the MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year Competition.**

We are delighted to announce that Adam Silverman, PMTA's 2015 Commissioned Composer, has been selected to receive an Honorable Mention in the 2015 MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year Award for his outstanding work "Over a windcloaked nightsoaked starpoked sea." Those of us who were at last year's conference at Penn State were fortunate to hear the premiere performance with David Stambler, alto saxophone, and Christopher Guzman (PMTA member), piano. Their stunning performance can be heard by clicking on the title above. And if you are interested, the score can be purchased on the chamber and solo music page on Adam's website. He has also arranged the work for clarinet and piano. Congratulations to Adam from all of us at PMTA.



[CLICK HERE](#) to listen to a clip.  
[CLICK HERE](#) to purchase the score.

### **PMTA Website Editor Needed**

PMTA is looking for a new website manager. Time commitment is an average of 50 hours over 9 months. Most intensive January to May. Training and ongoing support will be provided. If you are interested or would like more information in this paid position (\$20/hour) please contact Deborah Rodgers at [debarodgers@hotmail.com](mailto:debarodgers@hotmail.com).

### **Local Associations Celebrate Milestones Events**



PMTA celebrates along with two of our valued local associations. Congratulations to **Reading Music Teacher Association** who is 90 this year and to the **Philadelphia Music Teachers Association** who is celebrating their 125th anniversary.

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## Competitions Weekend Summary

The PMTA/MTNA Competitions and Dorothy Sutton Performance Festival were successfully completed at Elizabethtown College on November 7-8. This year's competitions had the largest enrollment on record which necessitated that the adjudication end later in the day than normal. An unfortunate consequence was that the annual winner's recital had to be suspended. Congratulations to all of our State Winners and best wishes at the Eastern Division Competition at Rowan University. [CLICK HERE](#) to check out this year's state winners.

There were 281 performers in the 2015 DSPF Showcase recitals. A pleasant surprise was an increase in ensembles with 29 ensembles this year compared to 4 last year. Stay tuned for revised theory tests which are planned for next year's festival. The 2016 Competitions Weekend will be at West Chester University on November 4-5, 2016.

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[www.pamusicteachers.org](http://www.pamusicteachers.org)

*An Affiliate of Music Teachers National Association*

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***Thanks to the PMTA Sponsors for their continued support.***

[Visit the PMTA sponsor page.](#)

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