



Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association

An incorporated non-profit educational organization
committed to the pursuit of excellence in music teaching

April 2015

From the President's Desk ~ Steven Smith

Dear PMTA colleagues,

Spring is woefully late around here, with only a crocus here and a snowdrop there to show for it. Yet it will come, and then finally June will be here with its intense color and the intense musical experience of our Conference. Don't leave yourself out!

Teri and I have recently returned from the Las Vegas MTNA conference, and it was wonderful to see a number of you out there. There were many highlights; the Ann Schein recital was a particular point of excellence, with her unforgettable performance of Schumann's *Davidsbündler Dances*, Beethoven's *Lebewohl* Sonata, and the Chopin B Minor Sonata. The celebrated Lang Lang gave a good master class... abbreviated because, being a true celebrity now, he showed up 45 minutes late. Flutist Sir James Galway and his fine collaborating pianist Michael McHale gave the opening featured concert, with Lady Jeanne Galway joining them in one work and an encore; and the Canadian Brass contributed the other headline concert. I had the very pleasant task of two days of judging the National Finals of the Junior Piano competition and the Senior Piano Duet event. Our colleague Dr Christopher Guzman of the Penn state faculty also judged, in his case all three days of Senior piano solo, Young Artist piano, and Chamber Music Competition (Young Artist level only). Pennsylvania and the Eastern Division had a first-prize winner in the Young Artist Strings: violinist Emily Karosas, student of James Lyon of PSU.

These Competitions show a spectacular level of talent in our young musicians: and not just in technique, but even in the deeper artistic attributes too. We can all be proud of them, even though the vast majority of our students may never reach that exalted level. Though the media would never want you to believe this, there's a great deal of passion and excellence among young classical musicians these days...as much as ever.

In other recent activity, I attended and helped out at the Eastern Division competitions in January, at Washington's Catholic University. In Junior piano, our Pennsylvania representative was the Division Alternate (second place):

Baron Cao, student of Dea Baba of State College. And in February, Teri and I flew to London where I presented a workshop on pedaling at the London International Piano Symposium. Also (see below) we hosted the Keystone Chamber Music Competition at PSU.

NOMINATIONS are due as soon as possible for PMTA's 2015 Teacher of the Year and for the Distinguished Service Award, both of which will be presented at the Conference in June. Please pass along your nominations to me or to Gilya Hodos, Immediate Past President; ghodos@yahoo.com.

IN MEMORIAM ~ Harvey Wedeen: PMTA lost one of our most distinguished colleagues March 13 with the death of Professor Harvey Wedeen, who was 87 but only recently retired from the piano faculty of Temple University. He was the teacher of many current MTNA and PMTA members. The family supplied this obituary:

Harvey D. Wedeen, adored teacher and chair of the keyboard department at Temple University for more than four decades, died on March 13th in his home in center city Philadelphia, surrounded by loved ones. Mr. Wedeen received his B.A. from Columbia University (1950) and an M.A. from Juilliard School of Music (1961) where he trained with Adele Marcus, having previously studied piano with Robert and Gaby Casadesus (1946-49) and Isabella Vengerova (1944-46). As a pianist, he accompanied his wife and virtuoso violinist, Helen Kwalwasser. An exceptionally dedicated teacher, Mr. Wedeen was appreciated by his students for wisdom and guidance that extended beyond the concert hall, and for gently inspiring passion and excellence. As pedagogue and patron, he attracted students from around the world. He received the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching and the Temple University Great Teacher Award. In 2011, he was recognized by the Musical Fund Society of Philadelphia for distinguished service to the art of music. He is survived by his wife of fifty-five years, Helen Kwalwasser; his two daughters, Lisa and Laura; and three grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to the Wedeen family at 1420 Locust Street, Academy House Apt. 25-A, Philadelphia PA 19102.

Keystone Chamber Music Competition: The inaugural or more precisely, re-inaugural Keystone Chamber Competition was held at Penn State March 7. The chairperson of the competition is Gloriana Sewell. Five piano trios competed, three in the junior age category, and two in the senior category. The judge was violinist James Lyon. In the junior category, the Trio Allegro! was the winner, with Rebecca Derham, piano; Nicholas Hsieh, violin; and Elizabeth Marlin, cello. The coach was Carol Armstrong Lovelace. In the senior category, the Amati Trio won, with pianist Ellen Boll, violinist Lora Boll, and cellist Rachel Boll. The coach of this group was Amanda Gunderson. Repertoire in the competition included trio movements by Mozart, Haydn, Debussy, Mendelssohn, Frank Bridge, and Carl Reinecke. Other groups and their coaches included Trio Harmonique /coach Gloriana Sewell; Chamber Champs/ coach Linda Kistler; and the Bartholdy Trio/ coach Andrew Rammon.

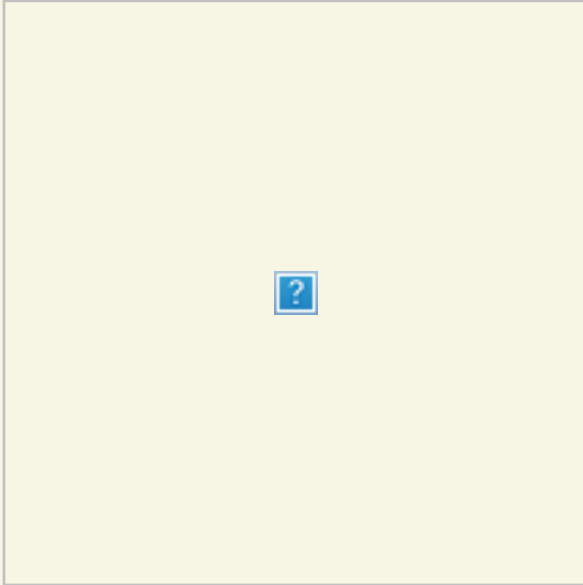
PMTA Conference 2015

June 12.13.14 ~ Penn State University

For complete conference information, [CLICK HERE!](#)

ACT NOW.....TODAY! Early registration for the PMTA Conference ends midnight Tuesday, March 31. Today it's \$125...tomorrow, more! June 12-14, at Penn State, University Park/State College. Here's the link: [CLICK HERE](#) to register NOW!

Again, the guest artist is pianist Sofya Gulyak, winner of several top world performance prizes; and the featured clinician and keynote speaker is Fred Karpoff, noted for the award-winning 3-D Piano series.



GUEST ARTIST
Sofya Gulyak



GUEST CLINICIAN
Fred Karpoff

Call for 2016 Award Nominations

Teacher of the Year Award & Distinguished Service Award

An important highlight of the PMTA conference is the awarding of our Teacher of the Year and Distinguished Service awards. As we prepare for the upcoming June conference, please consider the following:

- *Do you know a PMTA member who is a true star in the studio? Someone who is extraordinarily inspirational to his/her students? (Teacher of the Year)*
- *Do you know a PMTA member who has gone the extra mile, put service before self, and exemplified the meaning of the term "volunteer"? (Distinguished Service Award)*

Please send a letter of nomination for one or both of these awards to Immediate Past President Gilya Hodos (ghodos@yahoo.com) no later than April 1.

**2015 DSPF and MTNA State
Preliminary Competitions**

**LAST CALL for nominations for
PMTA's 2016 Commissioned
Composer!**

November 7/8
@ Elizabethtown College

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Preference will be given to composers who are either a resident of or employed professionally in Pennsylvania. Please submit name, bio and web address to Lois Svard at svard@bucknell.edu by April 15, 2015.

MTNA and Arts Advocacy

Lois Svard, NCTM

PMTA Board Member for Arts Advocacy and Awareness

Professor of Music *Emerita*, Bucknell University

I am writing this from the 2015 MTNA Conference in Las Vegas, and as I write, we are observing the 28th Annual Arts Advocacy Day (March 23-24). More than 550 arts supporters from 48 states are meeting in Washington, DC to bring attention to the arts and to let members of Congress know how important the arts are to our communities and how much arts education means to the future.

Two days ago, I attended the MTNA Arts Advocacy and Awareness Forum (as did Teri Smith). No matter what state the various participants in the forum represented, everyone was concerned with the same issues – among them, grants to support arts initiatives, leadership issues, and how to encourage younger colleagues to see the importance of MTNA and the state and local affiliates.

We discussed writing grants to support arts initiatives, and some wanted MTNA to take a more proactive role in giving guidance about grant writing. On the other hand, we were told very few people actually apply for the many grants that MTNA offers, including, for example, seed money to assist with the creation of grant application materials that can lead to more funding from other organizations, grants for teachers for private study, grants for collegiate members to attend a national event, and matching grants to provide funds for state or local affiliates for programs and projects. Please check out the MTNA grants page - <http://www.mtnafoundation.org/mtna-grants>.

We also discussed Leadership issues: how can we at the national, state, and local level encourage or support members to become more involved?

One excellent suggestion by Grace McFarlane from Washington, D.C., who also facilitated the meeting, was called “Shop Talk.” Her local chapter gathers younger colleagues together for informal sessions to play for each other or to read through repertoire that they use in teaching. It’s a great way to bring people together, serves as a springboard for sharing pedagogical ideas, and introduces younger colleagues to the value of MTNA.

One participant reported that the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), formerly MENC and the parent organization for public school music teachers, is starting a new wing of the organization that will be open to independent music teachers. I haven't been able to confirm this, but NAfME is very active in music advocacy, and it's worth knowing what they are doing. Their website <http://www.nafme.org> almost always contains information about an advocacy event or project. Currently, they are promoting a Collegiate Advocacy Summit to be held in June in Washington, D.C.

And wearing my other hat as chair of the Commissioned Composer Committee, I attended the MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year concert on Sunday at the conference. The Composer of the Year was Christos Tsitsaros, professor of piano pedagogy at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His intermediate level *Three Preludes for Piano Solo*, which Tsitsaros performed, was commissioned by Wisconsin MTA and is available from Hal Leonard, as are Tsitsaros's other pedagogical compositions.

PMTA can be extremely proud of our own 2014 Commissioned Composer, Allen Krantz, whose *Marilyn Cycle* was performed at the 2014 conference at Gettysburg. It would have been wonderful to hear the creativity, craftsmanship, and musicality of Krantz's cycle at the national conference.

The online [PMTA Member Directory](#) is provided as a convenience for you. But it's your responsibility to let us know if your information has changed. Send your edits to the membership chair at info@pamusicteachers.org.

www.pamusicteachers.org

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