



# Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association

December 2016

## From the President's Desk...

Dear Colleagues,

December already! Concerts, recitals, music exams, Christmas party gigs are all around the corner. December is a very busy month for music teachers and musicians. Hopefully despite all of this hustle and bustle, you will find time to enjoy the experience that these unique musical interactions with your clientele brings.

PMTA also has a lot going on! On November 5 & 6 PMTA hosted over 300 Pennsylvania students at West Chester University for the **Dorothy Sutton Showcase recitals**; plus 67 competitors for the **MTNA state competitions**. It was a tremendous success! A proverbial tip of the hat to the many performers, teachers and parents involved with the plentiful recitals and with the concerto festival. Kudos to PMTA state first place winners Stephanie Petinaux (Jr. Piano), Amithi Tadigadapa (Jr. Strings), Timothy Kim (Jr. Woodwind), Alan Tolbert (Senior Brass), Baron Cao (Senior Piano), Sang-o Park (Senior String), Caroline Quinn (Senior Voice), Benjamin Foster (Senior Woodwind), Hsin-Jou Lee (Young Artist Piano), Michael Divino (Young Artist String), Jessica Schury (Young Artist Woodwind), Jennalyn Stuart (Jr. Composition), and Jason Brauer (Sr. Composition). For a complete listing of all winners and the names of their teachers [CLICK HERE](#). A special "Thank you" to DSPF chair Terri Smith and helper Millie Eben and also to Competition Coordinators Amanda Gunderson and Jacqueline Herbein for the many hours of ardent preparation to make these events a success!

I hope that you are planning to attend the **2017 MTNA National Conference** in Baltimore, MD. This year the annual event is geographically so close that hopefully everyone will be able to experience it; even if just for one day. There really is something for everyone – top

## IN THIS ISSUE...

*(scroll down to view article if the link isn't working)*

[\*\*What is MTNA Foundation\*\*](#)

[\*\*Join us at the MTNA Gala!\*\*](#)

[\*\*PMTA Keystone Chamber Competition\*\*](#)

[\*\*PMTA Keystone Composition Competition\*\*](#)

[\*\*Arts, Advocacy & Politics\*\*](#)

[\*\*Congrats to NDV Local Association\*\*](#)

[\*\*Teacher of the Year Nominations\*\*](#)

[\*\*Commissioned Composer Nominations\*\*](#)

[\*\*PMTA Conference 2017\*\*](#)

[\*\*Join us on Facebook!\*\*](#)

[\*\*Thanks to our Sponsors!\*\*](#)

notch performances, fabulous master classes, numerous vendors offering all that a music teacher desires and myriad presentations covering every aspect of music. Be sure to register before Dec. 5 to take advantage of the steepest discount. Then join us at the Gala on Monday evening to share in the celebration as our Foundation Fellow, Jacqueline Herbein is honored for her many contributions to PMTA. If you would like to help fund Jackie's nomination, please visit the [MTNA Foundation](#) donation form page; be sure to include the name "Jacqueline Herbein" in the box marked fellow. Jackie's fund must be totally funded (\$1,000) by mid-January.

Speaking of conferences, it's not too early to mark your calendar for the next **PMTA conference at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA on June 9 – 11**. The theme is "Pennsylvania Presents". All of the presentations and presenters will have origins to the Keystone State. For those who would like to offer a presentation please [CLICK HERE](#) for further instructions on how to submit a proposal. The deadline for submissions is January 15, 2017.

Lastly, I want to emphasize all of the benefits that MTNA/PMTA membership brings. There is professional development, camaraderie and networking among colleagues possibly leading to new job opportunities. Additionally, there are the workshops informing our members of the new developments in our industry and of course there is also the added professionalism that being a part of this notable organization brings.

I hope you all enjoy your upcoming winter "break" with some well-earned relaxation.

Happy Holidays!

Deborah Rodgers, NCTM  
President, PMTA

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## What is the MTNA Foundation Fund?

During this season of giving, here is a reminder of the benevolent work being done by our very own MTNA Foundation. See what your tax-deductible contributions to MTNA support!

- MTNA recognizes students for their pursuit of excellence in performance and composition through competitions awards.
- MTNA supports the creation of new music through its Composer Commissioning program. PMTA's own Adam Silverman receiving honorable mention in 2015.
- MTNA recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions in the art of music and in music teaching through the MTNA Achievement Award, the Distinguished Service Award, and the State Foundation Fellow.
- MTNA provides grants to local associations, state affiliates, collegiate chapters, and individual teachers. Our own Northern Delaware Valley MTA was recently awarded a state affiliate grant.



Your investments in MTNA through your contributions to the [MTNA Foundation Fund](#),

supports MTNA's mission to advance the value of music study and music making to society and supports the professionalism of music teachers, thus helping furthering the work for a more musical tomorrow.

*You are cordially invited to attend the*

# MTNA Annual Foundation Gala! Let's Celebrate!

*Join fellow PMTA members for a delicious sit down dinner and ceremony to induct*

## Jacqueline Herbein as MTNA Fellow!

*Monday evening, March 20, 2017 at the MTNA National Conference*

*Cost ~ \$110.00*

*Register online at the MTNA registration page.*

*Reservations required by January 25, 2017 to reserve a space  
at the PMTA table!*

## **PMTA Keystone Chamber Music Competition**

PMTA is holding its annual Chamber Music Competition on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at Esber Recital Hall of the School of Music, Penn State, University Park, PA. PMTA reinstated this competition a few years ago, and the students and teachers who have participated have had a wonderful experience. The students have a great time playing together, and they always grow musically.

- The two age categories are: Junior (11-15) and Senior (16-19).
- PMTA Teachers may enter more than one ensemble in each category, Junior and/or Senior.
- The Application Deadline Postmark Date: January 25, 2017
- The ensemble must consist of at least three (3) performers and may have not more than six (6) performers.

Contact Information

PMTA Keystone Chamber Competition Coordinator

Gloriana Sewell, PO Box 199, Milford Square PA 18935

215-536-8142; [Gloriana.s@comcast.net](mailto:Gloriana.s@comcast.net)



For more information...

[PMTA Keystone Chamber Music Competition Guidelines and Application Form](#)

[PMTA Keystone Chamber Music Competition Winners](#)

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## **PMTA Keystone Composition Contest**

It's not too soon to have your students begin working on their compositions for the 2017 Keystone Composition Competition. You can find the details for registering your students and submitting compositions on our website. The deadline for this year's competition is March 31, 2017. All information will be forwarded to the judges on April 1, so try to have everything completed and sent to Chair Warren Magid on time at [CompositionCompetitionsChair@pamusicteachers.org](mailto:CompositionCompetitionsChair@pamusicteachers.org).

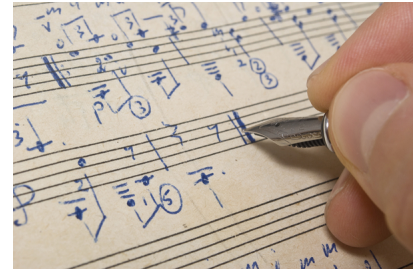
All ages and levels of students may enter:

- Elementary – Age 5-10
- Junior – Age 11-14
- Senior – Age 15-18
- Young Artist – Age 19-25

Cash awards and additional prizes are awarded each year, and students (and teachers!) benefit from comments provided by the judges who review all the compositions.

If you are new to this event and would like more information, contact:

Warren Magid Competition Chair, at [reachme1@comcast.net](mailto:reachme1@comcast.net)



For more information...

[PMTA Keystone Composition Competition Guidelines and Application Form](#)

[PMTA Keystone Composition Competition Winners](#)

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## The Arts, Politics, and Advocacy

During the recent endless political campaign, I was reminded yet again how little attention the arts receive in public discourse. And yet, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the arts and culture sector represent a \$704 billion industry in the U.S., which accounts for 4.2 percent of our GDP and generates a \$24 billion trade surplus to the United States (U.S Bureau of Economic Analysis). One would think that amount of economic heft would warrant a comment or two.

But in spite of the significant economic impact of the arts (as well as the cultural, social, creative, educational, or intellectual impact), they were never mentioned in any of the presidential debates or campaign appearances, nor did the arts figure in any of the Pennsylvania state races. The 2016 Democratic Party Platform contained a strong statement about the importance of the arts and arts education and a commitment to funding the NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) and the NEH (National Endowment for the Humanities), as well as funding “for programs providing art and music education in primary and secondary schools.” The Republican Party Platform did not mention the arts.

This campaign is over, but it's not too early to begin thinking about how we can advocate for the arts during the next election cycle or with local, state and national political leaders at any time. A few days before the election, Americans for the Arts published information, which I passed on to you in an e-blast, concerning the positions on the arts of the two presidential candidates, as well as a 2016 Congressional Arts Report Card. The Report Card makes for very interesting reading, even though the elections are now over.

For example, the fact that the Democratic Party Platform strongly supported the arts and the Republican

Party Platform didn't mention the arts does not mean that all Democrats in Congress uniformly support the arts or that Republicans do not.

We can find out how our Pennsylvania Senators and Representatives voted on any number of arts-related issues in the 2016 Congressional Arts Report Card. The Action Fund PAC of Americans for the Arts singled out 17 Senators and 18 members of the House of Representatives for exhibiting exemplary pro-arts leadership during 2015-2016. But not a single person from the Pennsylvania delegation was on either list. (Senator Al Franken, D-MN, was the only member of congress to receive a 100% perfect arts score on the indicators listed by the Action Fund.)

One of the most interesting sections of the Report Card contains suggestions for arts-related questions to ask candidates for office. For example, given the economic information in the first paragraph above, one might ask a candidate, "What policies would you pursue to support the dynamic growth of this economic sector?"

Another question to pose to candidates for local, state, or national office might concern STEM to STEAM.

The acronym STEM has become commonplace in discussions about educational policy to promote and improve competitiveness in science, technology, engineering, and math. What is not so well-known is that the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in Dec. 2015 (more commonly known as Every Student Succeeds Act - ESSA) includes dedicated funding for arts education, inclusion of the arts in the "Well-Rounded Education" definition, and integration of the arts into STEM programs – STEM to STEAM.

That legislation passed with broad bipartisan support. Yet, how often is it being supported at our local and state levels? And how many people even know that STEM has become STEAM – with the all-important arts included? You can find information, examples, and tools related to incorporating the arts into STEM at Resources for STEAM. The Resources page provides many inspiring articles and videos about STEM to STEAM. The Edutopia website on which the Resources appear is a core component of the mission of the George Lucas Educational Foundation.

Co-conference chairs Elaine Friedlander and Mary Lynne Bennett are providing us with a unique opportunity at our 2017 PMTA conference. Pennsylvania State Senator Andy Dinniman (D-19th District) has been invited to be our Keynote Speaker. Perhaps this would be a good opportunity for us to speak with a state senator about the most effective ways, in his experience, for us to advocate for the arts with our elected officials, whether individually or as a group. What kind of advocacy is the most persuasive, and how can we become more effective advocates for the arts? I'll hope to see you June 9 – 11 at the 2017 PMTA Conference at Lebanon Valley College.

***THIS JUST IN!:*** This past March, Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) introduced new legislation to strengthen the creative economy referred to in the first paragraph of this article. This week, Congress is just beginning a "lame-duck" legislative session and it is a good time to reach the offices of Senators Casey and Toomey and urge each to add his name as a cosponsor to the CREATE Act, the Comprehensive Resources for Entrepreneurs in the Arts to Transform the Economy (CREATE) Act. To learn more about the bill and its provisions, check out the CREATE Act website for more information. Take two minutes now to urge your Senator to cosponsor this legislation.

Lois Svard, NCTM  
PMTA Board Member for Arts Awareness and Advocacy  
Professor of Music Emerita

## Commissioned Composer Nominations

Nominations are now open for PMTA's 2018 Commissioned Composer. Preference will be given to composers who are either a resident of or employed professionally in Pennsylvania. Please submit name, bio and web address of nominated composer to Lois Svard at [svard@bucknell.edu](mailto:svard@bucknell.edu) by March 1, 2017.



## Teachers!

Are you connected on Facebook? It's a great place to post your news and to learn about the many exciting things happening across the state!

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## The Northern Delaware Valley Chapter of the Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association

celebrated its 30th Anniversary at its opening meeting of the year on September 14, 2016. Attendance was top-notch with 35 guests including many past presidents,



current co- presidents, Marge Felton and Olga Smirnova, and retired piano teachers who were members at the inception of our organization. The celebration was also bedecked with wonderful luncheon foods, decorations, a memorabilia table and a celebratory anniversary cake. Founder and first president Janet Lynn Woods spearheaded the planning committee for the celebration and also offered remembrances of the formation of the chapter. She recognized members and retired attendees who spent many hours in hospitality and in planning events for teachers and students throughout the years. The program concluded with the best dessert of all --- a delightful and wonderful "Dances" piano recital by member Alex Ramirez.

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

It's time to consider the 2017 Teacher of the Year and PMTA Distinguished Service awards. These awards, to be given at our June Conference at Lebanon Valley College, are to honor those with a long track record of high accomplishments either in the teaching field, or in the field of service specifically to PMTA.



The awards committee, according to PMTA bylaws, is chaired by the Immediate Past President, Steven Smith.

Please consider nominating either one of your colleagues or yourself, beginning soon with

an e-mail to Steven ([shs1@psu.edu](mailto:shs1@psu.edu)) suggesting a name. You'll be requested later to fill in the nomination with a full letter of support by April 1, 2017 in time for the committee to make comparative evaluations.

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Save the Date!  
2017  
PMTA Conference  
June 9-11, 2017  
Lebanon Valley College  
Annville PA



**MUSICAL OFFERINGS  
WITH ROOTS IN OUR KEYSTONE STATE**

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#### **2016-2017 PMTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Deborah Rodgers - President  
Mary Lynne Bennett - Vice-President  
Jocelyn Swigger - Secretary  
Jacqueline Herbein - Treasurer  
Steven Smith - Immediate Past President

#### **CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS**

Mary Lynne Bennett & Elaine Friedlander

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

[Visit the PMTA sponsor page.](#)



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Penn State University  
Seton Hill University  
Steinway Gallery of Pittsburgh  
West Chester University

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and an affiliate of Music Teachers National Association*

