



# 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....**

**June 2017**

***Dear PMTA Colleagues,***

As my term as President of PMTA is coming to an end, let me take a moment to reflect on the organization's standing and thank the many people who volunteer their time and efforts to PMTA pursuits.

PMTA is in a good place; maintaining a steady membership and solid financial stability. We've toiled through the FTC regulations and Pennsylvania's legislative changes pertaining to child abuse and we survived. Our events are going strong with 2016 having the highest turn-out in recent years for the DSPF showcase recitals. Members rallied behind our new Foundation Fellow Jackie Herbein, and donated contributions to completely fund our new foundation. This year Pennsylvania teachers have produced three national level winners in the MTNA competitions.

In my travels through our keystone state I've seen our remarkable teachers and noticed how they work together to plan activities that help students grow in their musical skills, resulting in better musicians. I continue to be amazed at the energy, creativity and professionalism of our PMTA members.

Let me also thank our PMTA membership for the support that you have given me during my term as president. It is surreal how two years could feel so long and so short. My stay has been a great time of challenges and achievements. While I have enjoyed my term, it's exciting to pass the torch onto the capable hands of Mary Lynne Bennett who is one of the best leaders I have worked with. PMTA will be in qualified hands.

## **Upcoming Events**

**[DSPF Showcase Recitals/PMTA Concerto Festival](#)**

Nov 4, 2017

Indiana University of PA

**[MTNA State Preliminary Competitions](#)**

Nov 5, 2017

Indiana University of PA

**[2018 PMTA Keystone Chamber Music Competition](#)**

Elizabethtown College

Chair: Gloriana Sewell

**[2018 PMTA Keystone Composition Competition](#)**

Entry Deadline: Mar 31, 2018

Chair: Warren Magid

***"Music is a moral law.  
It gives soul to the  
universe, wings to the  
mind, flight to the  
imagination, and  
charm and gaiety to  
life and to everything."***

In closing, let me say that it takes many hard working people to create a strong, vibrant organization. Fortunately we have this in our PMTA board. Each board member gives an incredible amount of time and energy to make our organization run so well. It has been my pleasure to serve our PMTA membership alongside them.

--Plato



**Best,**

**Deborah Rodgers, NCTM**  
**PMTA President**

## PMTA Notes & News

Congratulations to the following MTNA National Competition winners from Pennsylvania!

**Alan Tolbert** and his teacher **David Bilger** – 2<sup>nd</sup> place Sr. Performance Brass  
**Jason Brauer** and his teacher **Debra Perkins** – 2<sup>nd</sup> place Senior Composition  
**Baron Cao** and his teacher **Dea Baba** – 3<sup>rd</sup> place Senior Piano

Congratulations to **Northern Delaware MTA**, the recipients of an MTNA local affiliate grant for an upcoming program featuring Dennis Kobray as Beethoven “in action”.

Congratulations to **Capital Area MTA** who received one of the MTNA local affiliate grants. They are sponsoring three workshops with Marvin Blickenstaff.

Congratulations are in order for PMTA member **Dr. Sue Haug**, who retired last spring as the Director of the Penn State School of Music after serving since 2005. She is also the current President of the National Association of Schools of Music, NASM.

Take a peek at our new PMTA Commissioned Composer Archive where you can listen to many of the compositions that PMTA has commissioned over the past few years. Check it out here: <http://www.pamusicteachers.org/for-members/commissioned-composer-archive>.

**Dorothy Sutton Piano Festival &  
Keystone Concerto Festival**  
November 4, 2017  
**Indiana University of Pennsylvania**  
**Indiana, PA**



## **Dorothy Sutton Performance Festival**

Please check with your LOCAL chairs for the dates of your LOCAL preliminary auditions.

For complete details and registration information, [visit this link on the PMTA website](#). Questions? Contact chair Theresa Smith at 814-238-5964 or email [DSPF@pamusicteachers.org](mailto:DSPF@pamusicteachers.org).

## **Keystone Concerto Festival**

The festival is open to any piano or instrumental student. No age limit, includes college students.

For complete details and registration information, [visit this link on the PMTA website](#). Questions? Contact chair Nanette Kaplan-Solomon at [nanette.solomon@sru.edu](mailto:nanette.solomon@sru.edu).

**The online registration window is October 1, 2017 through 3:00 PM EST on Monday, October 16, 2017.**



## **Interview with Teacher of the Year 2017**

### **Amanda Gunderson**

**Share a humorous anecdote from your teaching life.**

One of my first beginners (an only child) came to a lesson with a completed composition assignment entitled "Two Twin Boys in a Minivan." Sure enough, her mother pulled up in a new minivan at the end of the lesson and announced that there would be two new additions to the family soon.

**What experiences or musicians have particularly influenced your style of teaching?**

Tim Shafer taught me to teach by asking good questions and Jessica Johnson taught me to let go of my own agenda and follow the direction of the students' learning. Both mentors insisted on serving the student first, then the music; after that everything else falls into an appropriate place.

**What unusual or unexpected item or items might we find in your teaching studio?**

I have a bust of Beethoven in my office that frequently gets accessorized with odd items: a clown nose, a party hat, Christmas garland, etc.

**If you could have one superpower what would it be?**

I would love to be able to fly so I could travel the world easier.

**Give your idea of perfect happiness.**

Perfect happiness: a practice studio in the woods. If you've ever been to Adamant Music School, it comes pretty close.

**Share a quote?**

"It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice." - Mr. Wilson, my elementary phys ed teacher.

## **Interview with 2017 Distinguished Service Recipient**

**Elaine Friedlander**



**What motivates you to serve this organization?**

Piano teaching is a lonely business. We talk to children most of the time. They are wonderful children but it is not the same as real adult conversation. Being able to talk with my colleagues, share ideas, vent, and create opportunities for our students is very important to me. It will not happen unless we all pitch in.

**What has been the most rewarding aspect of volunteering for PMTA?**

Expanding my friend and colleague network to the whole commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I have met such wonderful people along the way.

**If you could have one superpower what would it be?**

To magically reach out to all private teachers in PA and get them involved; to join, take on a job, put their students in activities and enjoy the benefits of being in an organization.

**Give your idea of perfect happiness.**

Being with my granddaughter. Other than that, it's that moment when you know a student "gets it" and the music happens.

**What vision do you have for PMTA in the future?**

I feel that we have a nice balance in PMTA right now. We manage to fulfill the MTNA obligations while providing quality activities for teachers as well as our students. I would

like to see this continue. I would also like to see an expansion of our organization to include more private and college level teachers with a continuation of the fine working relationship we have now.

## **Pennsylvania Presents!**

Wow! Pennsylvania sure knows how to hold a conference. I walked away from this year's event with a feeling of pride at the abundant talent available in our Keystone state. This excitement was shared by many as several commented on the variety and the high caliber of the presentations. Kudos to Elaine Friedlander and Mary Lynne Bennett, our conference chairpersons.



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

Here are a few highlights from our 2017 conference held at Lebanon Valley College on June 9 – 11.



Let's record! Equipping your teaching studio for recording - Barry Hill

Special Delight in Mozart - Lydia Artymiw





Piano Monster-Concert Reading Session with Henry Wong Doe

First IMTF poster session at the PMTA conference



Performers in the collegiate recital



Recital with Lydia Artymiw





Thanks to these conference organizers Eric Fung - LVC piano faculty, conference co-chairs - Elaine Friedlander and Mary Lynne Bennett (not pictured) and Deborah Rodgers, PMTA president.

### **PMTA FACEBOOK GROUP**



Be sure to join the [Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association Facebook group](#) to stay up-to-date with state association announcements. Local association members are also encouraged to post updates, events and chapter news!

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

*An Affiliate of Music Teachers National Association*

**PRESIDENT - MARY LYNNE BENNETT  
VICE-PRESIDENT - ED KUHN**



PENNSYLVANIA  
MUSIC TEACHERS  
ASSOCIATION

SECRETARY - WENDY BACHMAN  
TREASURER - JACQUELINE HERBEIN  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT - DEBORAH RODGERS

---

**CONFERENCE CHAIR**  
HENRY WONG DOE

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

[Visit the PMTA sponsor page.](#)

Elizabethtown College  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
Jacobs Music  
Kutztown University  
Lebanon Valley College

Penn State University  
Seton Hill University  
Steinway Gallery of Pittsburgh  
West Chester University  
Zeo Rental Retail

**Robly**