



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....

September 2016

Dear Colleagues,

Summer is ending, our students are returning to school, and new schedules are under construction. Fall always feels new, ripe with the promise and anticipation of the upcoming year. MTNA offers many opportunities through the local, state, and national levels to make this your best teaching year yet. I hope that all of you will take advantage of the many possibilities throughout the year.

Our most recent opportunity was the June 2016 conference at Seven Springs Resort. It was an amazing chance to spend a few days relaxing and honing our skills with other seasoned professionals; a perfect place to refresh and renew. Many thanks to Mary Lynne Bennett and Elaine Friedlander, our 2016 conference co-chairs, for a magnificently organized event.

If you missed the 2016 conference, I hope you will consider attending our 2017 conference at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA. All of the presentations and presenters will have origins to the Keystone State. Our conference slogan is "Pennsylvania Presents!" Pennsylvanians have much talent and knowledge to offer. How exciting life can be when we are constantly growing, learning, and using new tools that aid us in our music profession.

This past June at our 2016 conference, PMTA surprised our treasurer, Jacqueline Herbein, with an

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announcement that a foundation fund will be initiated in her honor. Having served as a past president and continuing to serve on the board in various capacities, Jackie has been one of MTNA's most dedicated members. This award will be presented to her in March at the [2017 MTNA Conference Gala](#) in Baltimore, MD. A table will be reserved for Pennsylvania PMTA members to join together at the Gala dinner. We hope that all of you will come and unite to support Jackie!



***"If only the world could
feel the power of
harmony."***

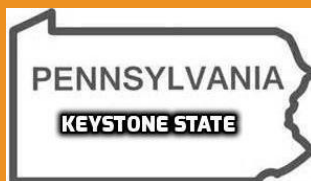
---Wolfgang Amadeus
Mozart

Another way to show your appreciation for Jackie's contribution is by making a tax-deductible donation to the foundation fund and including the name "Jacqueline Herbein" in the foundation fund field. The MTNA foundation fund provides numerous grants to support student performances and competitions. It also provides teacher, chapter, and program enrichment grants; our own Northern Delaware Valley chapter was a recipient of one of those grants for this year!

PMTA is going strong with over 600 members and a dedicated board. We are made up of several hundreds of teachers interacting with thousands of students, parents, and schools. We consist of newly established college members to recently retired senior members. Let's continue to support and help each other so that PMTA will continue to grow and our students will continue to thrive.

Have a great year of teaching!

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



Save the Date

2017 Conference - June 9-11

Lebanon Valley College, Annville, PA

"Pennsylvania Presents!"

Musical Offerings with Roots in Our Keystone State

**DOROTHY SUTTON PIANO FESTIVAL &
KEYSTONE CONCERTO FESTIVAL
NOVEMBER 5, 2016
WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY**



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](#) at the PMTA website.
- If you have questions? Contact chair Theresa Smith at 814-238-5964 or email DSPPF@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](#) at the PMTA website.
- If you have questions? Contact chair Nanette Kaplan-Solomon at email nanette.solomon@sru.edu.

Online Registration opens October 1st and closes midnight October 14th. This fall you'll see a new and greatly improved Student Festival online registration system. While the front end (what you see) will function basically the same as the old system, the "behind the scenes" processes will be streamlined for much easier management.

Members intending to register students for the fall DSPF solo, Ensemble Festivals and the PMTA Concerto Festival **WILL BE REQUIRED to submit an active email address and pay via credit card or PayPal through the secure PayPal site.**

INTERVIEW WITH TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2016

Jeffrey Harris:

1. Share a humorous anecdote from your teaching life.

There were so many, that students have said funny things. One that I recall was when I asked a student if she knew her chord positions, she very excitedly responded, "Yes. Root position, first invasion, and second invasion." The student was 9 years old.

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

Harry Franklin, my pre-college teacher in Pittsburgh. Probably the greatest influence in my teaching comes from those with whom I have studied as an adult – Karen Shaw from Indiana University, Maria Clodes Jaguaribe from Boston University and Sheila Paige, with whom I have worked privately. Also, Hanna Li, from Carnegie Mellon University, who said to me when I first started teaching in the Preparatory School there, that if my students are going to perform, they should sound



as good as me, or better, because they are practicing (and I may not be). This was HUGE influence in my teaching. I took that ball and ran with it.

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

I have a huge stand-alone sign carved of wood, which an adult student gave me that says **R E L A X**.

4. Share a quote?

"Music is enough for a lifetime, but a lifetime is not enough for music."— Rachmaninoff.

One more—*"It is not so much practicing technique, but rather the technique of practicing."*—Franz Liszt.



INTERVIEW WITH 2016 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE RECIPIENTS

Steven & Terri Smith:

1. What motivates you to serve this organization?

Thirty-five years ago I joined PMTA to be a better and more active liaison between the independent teachers and Penn State. Of course I hoped to get more and better students for us at PSU! But I also found friendly colleagues and found that I could help, and be helped, in a myriad of ways.

Eventually, if we have any desire for professional advancement for ourselves and our students, we have to help produce it ourselves. It will not happen by wishful thinking. **(Steven)**

My main interest in PMTA has always been geared toward what we can do for the students. As a voice and piano teacher, I find few events that both types can be involved with, so I appreciated having the Dorothy Sutton available. I tend to be a doer and enjoy organizing things, so it was natural that I would eventually take over the event locally and State wide. **(Terri)**

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

Board dinners with wine provided by Jackie! **(Steven)**

I enjoy going to different campuses and resorts across the state. I can compare what each campus offers and give advice to students searching for a college music home. I also enjoy hearing the wide variety of music the 200-300 students perform each year, giving me repertoire ideas for my own students. **(Terri)**

3. Share a humorous or unusual situation that occurred while volunteering for PMTA?

I prefer to be discreet... **(Steven)**

4. What vision do you have for the future?

I hope for more highly motivated professionals of all the age groups, as well as more musicians of other disciplines, not only pianists, all willing to give something of themselves as well as enjoy the benefits, which are obvious. If we want good, well-motivated students, we need well-run student activities for them, and we need the motivation and challenge of excellent professional activities for ourselves. None of that happens by magic. **(Steven)**

PMTA Teacher of the Year & PMTA Distinguished Service Awards 2017



PMTA is accepting **nominations** for our awards to be conferred at the June 2017 Conference at Lebanon Valley: **PMTA Distinguished Teacher of the Year and PMTA Distinguished Service Award**. Each award is competitive and nominations should be submitted to Steven Smith, Immediate Past President (shs1@psu.edu), who will work with a committee. Members can begin the process just by submitting a name by March 1, 2017; a letter with full details must be provided by April 1. [Click here](#) to review or download guidelines for nominations.

Certification Projects - Not Just a Means to an End!

In June 2012 I relocated from Harrisburg to Lancaster and was faced with the prospect of opening a new studio. In 1986 when I started teaching in Harrisburg, through the auspices of my teacher, Julia Benfer and the generosity of a teacher who was closing her studio, I stumbled into 25-30 students! Instant studio. I knew I was not going to be that lucky this time around.

I of course joined the [Lancaster Music Teachers Association](#) and reached out to some area teachers and then looked on MTNA website for some ideas and found myself reading a tutorial, *Certification 101 by Sue A Steck-Turner* (<https://www.mtna.org/resources/certification-articles/certification-101/>). I found project # 3, *Video Presentation of Teaching*, to be particularly interesting. While the project is focused on the teacher's teaching method, it occurred to me that recording lessons can also benefit students. Potential benefits would:

- provide a tool to track a student's progress
- provide the student with a tool to review what was covered in a weekly lesson
- provide a visual reference for their posture and hand position
- offer some variety to a student's weekly practice routine

In this tutorial Ms. Steck-Turner addresses some of the challenges of video recording if you are technologically challenged. I would propose letting students take turns recording each other on their cell phones as a jumping off point.

The author also suggests soliciting the help of a parent. I would also propose asking a high school student who is tech savvy. Think of how many of our students are involved in school musicals and plays. While I taught at Bishop McDevitt in Harrisburg I had a choir member

who was involved in the weekly productions of a student run morning video that covered the school's activities. He helped me do some video recordings of the choir as we prepared for concerts and competitions.

One other idea I would offer concerning this project. Ms. Steck-Turner suggests starting this project in the fall when students are beginning new repertoire. Summer would be a great time to gather your resources and experiment with some equipment and potentially learn a new skill.

The certification process does require some thought and planning. While this particular project is designed to present the teacher's skills, video taping students does not have to end with certification. It can become a valuable tool in your teaching repertoire.

Paul G. Fierro, MM, NCTM



PMTA MATCHING GRANTS 2016

PMTA is pleased to announce this year's local associations' grant recipients:

- **Main Line MTA** - \$300.00 for a master class with Nancy Weems
- **Northern Delaware Valley MTA** - \$225.00 for a workshop with Alexander Peskanov
- **Philadelphia MTA** - \$300.00 for a presentation by Marvin Blickenstaff
- **Erie MTA** - \$250.00 for a master class on the music of J.S. Bach with Father Sean Duggan

Application guidelines for 2017 are posted at the PMTA website. [Click here](#) for more information.

Foundation Fund

The **Music Teachers National Association Foundation Fellow Program** offers a meaningful method for honoring deserving individuals while supporting the efforts of the MTNA Foundation Fund through a donation to the Foundation Fund in an individual's name.

PMTA is thrilled to announce Jacqueline Herbein as our 2017 Foundation Fellow. Jackie has served as an innovative PMTA president and continues to serve on the board in various

capacities.

A \$1,000 contribution is required to name a Foundation Fellow. If you would like to make a contribution to help PMTA honor our named 2017 Foundation Fellow, Jacqueline Herbein, please read the following instructions. As you renew your annual membership, make a contribution by sending Jennifer Thomason an email at jthomason@mtna.org instructing her to apply your contribution to the fellow fund for Jacqueline Herbein.

Make a contribution directly at <https://www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/donation-form/> and be sure to include "Jacqueline Herbein" in the Fellow field. If sending a contribution via a check, it's important for Jacqueline's name to be in the memo line of the check or a note included with instructions.

Mail a contribution to PMTA Foundation Fund chair, Edward M. Kuhn, Jr. at 519 Locust Street, Greensburg, PA 15601. Include on the check memo section "Jacqueline Herbein" Fellow Fund. Make the check out to PMTA. This award will be presented to Jackie in March at the [2017 MTNA Conference Gala in Baltimore, MD](#). A table will be reserved for our Pennsylvania Music Teacher Association members in anticipation that all will come and join together at the Gala dinner to support Jackie!

If you have any questions, please contact the PMTA Foundation Chair, Edward M. Kuhn, Jr. at kuhn@setonhill.edu.

Scam Warnings!

'Tis the season for unscrupulous individuals to try to scam the honest, unsuspecting music teacher! They come in all different packages — the 'talented' child — what is your fee — your studio owes money, etc. And they're getting a little more sophisticated each year. If you don't recognize the sender, DON'T RESPOND!

It is sometimes difficult to spot a genuine student inquiry from a scam, especially if you are based in the area where the email might originate. Most of the time these emails originate from an overseas source. There are patterns to scams which could contain many of these elements:

- Poor English, poor spelling and punctuation, incomplete sentences.
- Demands for a ridiculous teaching schedule like "one hour lesson every day for four weeks"
- Can't meet in person immediately because they're traveling
- Strange travel and accommodation requests for the child
- Pupil is always very talented

- Attempts to dictate terms to you rather than asking for your terms
- No phone number
- Greeting does not use your name, but rather "Hello"
- Does not refer to an actual instrument, but rather generalizations such as 'music lessons'
- Uses a hotmail, yahoo or other disposable email account
- Requests an address for sending you money, generally several hundred dollars

Ignore emails containing any of the above! And NEVER accept payment by wire transfer or checks by mail - ALWAYS in person.

If the email says your studio owes money, it's a scam — another scare tactic.

Companies, collection agencies or the IRS will NEVER contact individuals via email, text or phone. Craigslist is another playground for these individuals. It is highly recommended that you DON'T advertise for lessons on Craigslist.

STAY SAFE! DON'T GET SCAMMED!!

For some sample scam emails, [CLICK HERE](#). If you have any you'd like to share, send them to info@readingmusicteachers.org. We'll include them in this list.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REPORT A SCAM:

[FTC Consumer Information on Phishing](#)

[United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team](#)

[USA.gov - Online Safety](#)

[FBI Scams and Safety on the Internet](#)

[FBI - Filing a Complaint with the IC3](#)

[IRS - Report Phishing and Online Scams](#)

[Apple Website: Phishing and other Suspicious Emails](#)

[YAHOO - phishing@cc.yahoo-inc.com](mailto:phishing@cc.yahoo-inc.com)

[MAC - spam@mac.com](mailto:spam@mac.com)

[Gmail - https://support.google.com/mail/answer/184963?hl=en](https://support.google.com/mail/answer/184963?hl=en)

PMTA FACEBOOK PAGE



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

www.pamusicteachers.org

An Affiliate of Music Teachers National Association

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