
Music Horizons

Official Newsletter of the Wyoming
Music Teachers Association

April 2018

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MISSION STATEMENT OF WMTA

WMTA, acknowledging the value of music in our lives, seeks to advance musical knowledge and education, and to nurture professional growth and fellowship of independent music teachers.



President's Report

Dear WMTA members:

It is hard to believe that we are in April. I hope everyone's teaching and learning are going well. It is wonderful that Emily Durrant has agreed to be our new chair of the Wyoming Achievement Day (WyAD). Please express your appreciation to Emily for her willingness to organize WyAD. I am also excited to share with you that the Laramie Chapter was selected as Local Association of the Year and received the award at the MTNA National Conference in Florida in March.

Our state conference this year is at the University of Wyoming in Laramie on June 7-9. Cindy Peterson, our President-Elect, has been doing excellent work of planning this event. Please look at our website at www.wyomingmta.org for the schedule, topics of presentations, and bios of the presenters. More information can be seen in the President-Elect's report. We would love to see you and your students at the conference!

Sincerely,

Dr. Chi-Chen Wu

MTA President

WMTA CONFERENCE

June 7-9 in Laramie

We are excited about our conference coming up in June!

Please invite a fellow music teacher who has never attended the conference before – it's a great opportunity for them to learn more about our organization! Be sure to print out copies of the flyer and let everyone know.

Be sure to register soon -registration fees for the conference go up after May 24th. Information about our conference hotel, Quality Inn and Suites, is under Accommodations on the website – as is all the information about the schedule, registration, and everything else. Find it at : wyomingmta.org

The deadline for applying to any of the three Master Classes is May 18th. Students performing for the Master Classes will not need to pay anything, but their teachers will need to pay at least a one day registration fee. All participants will be able to attend the Helios Piano Trio concert for free.

Please note that for this year, you may register for the conference on-line, but you will need to send a check to our treasurer, Cheryl Hemphill

I look forward to seeing all of you there! and serving you as your President Elect.

Cindy Peterson

WyAD

Dear WMTA Teachers,

I'm excited and nervous to be taking over for Jani as WyAD (formerly SAD) chair. We are appreciative for all of her hard work over the past few years.

The registration form on the next page and on the website. Registration for WyAD is due May 25th. Registrations may be sent by email or USPS. I will accept payment by Paypal or mailed. Schedule will be available by May 29th. Thank you.

Emily Durrant

Wyoming Music Teachers Association

Conference featuring clinician
Dr. Kevin Olson, and artists
The Helios Piano Trio

June 7th – 9th in Laramie



Sessions in the newly
renovated Buchanan Center
for the Performing Arts,
University of Wyoming

Visit with colleagues from around the state
Shop for new music

Bring your students to participate in the
master classes or achievement recitals

Why should I go?

Three Master Classes: Piano, Strings, and Composition

Dr. Brooks Hafey on Introducing Impressionism and Debussy

Dr. Jessica Pacheco on Successful Group Teaching

Dr. Kevin Olson on Improvisation,
Jazz Basics, Baroque Ornaments,
and Coaching Young Composers

Wyoming Achievement Day

Showcase with FJH Music

Commissioned Composition

"Pistol Pete's Piano Posse Rides
Again"—eight hands!

Great Coffee Breaks



All Are Welcome

Special prices for first time
attendees, and students.

For info visit our website:
wyomingmta.org or email:
cindymomma@gmail.com

Local Association Reports

Report for the Laramie Music Teachers Association

This spring we implemented some changes to our Achievement Day. We made the decision to start our primer and level one students at a place where they could have the experience of Achievement Day without the pressure of receiving a rating. In March, we initiated a program called "Take the Stage!." At this event, primer and level one students experienced performing solo pieces from memory for an audience. We had volunteer evaluators from our membership who gave encouraging comments for each of the students without ratings. At the end of the event, student performers were presented a ribbon and certificate for their achievements. We set up some time for photo opportunities and ended with refreshments. The atmosphere was set up to be a celebration of their achievements. This was our first time to try this and we found it to be quite successful. We had 22 students playing for this event. Both parents and students commented on how much they enjoyed it.

In April, we held Achievement Day for Level 2-6 students and Level 7-12 students. We scheduled Level 2-6 students in small groups of 4-6 students. They first performed memorized selections for evaluators and an audience; then they were led by a member of LMTA to different musical activity stations to play games drilling different fundamentals of music theory. The students (and teachers!) really enjoyed this aspect of LAD. Levels 7-12 performed individually for the evaluators in the morning of the same day. We found this helpful as older students often have more conflicts in scheduling than the younger students. This year was the first time we tried this and it worked very smoothly. We had 31 students performing at this event. A big thank you to our evaluators, Eleanor Lane and Jerilyn Seifert from the Cheyenne chapter.

We will be hosting an Honors Recital on May 13th for all students who received a I or II rating. Students will be presented with medals for their achievements.

We had a logo designed for our chapter. This was printed on both a heavy-duty tablecloth large enough for an 8 foot table (see photo) as well as on signs we could post during events. We have been pleased with how these turned out and have used them on several occasions already.

The Laramie Chapter was awarded the MTNA Chapter of the Year award for our fundraising concert providing a piano for our local senior housing center, Springwind. This award was presented to the chapter at the National Convention in Florida this year. President Cheryl Hemphill accepted the award for our chapter. Members Cindy Peterson and Lorene Sims Brook attended the conference and were present for the award ceremony as well.

Submitted by Lisa Rickard



From the Cheyenne chapter :

The ladies of the Cheyenne Chapter have been quite busy getting ready for Guild! However, we did have a lovely break away from all the preparations at our April meeting. We met at Becky Tish's house where our guest, Debra Throgmorton from Greeley, gave a wonderful presentation on Baroque harpsichord technique and ornamentation. We had the use of Becky's beautiful harpsichord, which made all the difference. And of course, we are anxiously awaiting the June conference!

Submitted by Alaina Niemann

Southwest Chapter:

Lots of changes happening here. We just completed our Area Achievement Days on April 21st. We had 40 students participate, with judges Eric Delores and Christy Lev. Everyone seemed to have a great time and the students did a good job. We had a great Honors Concert that evening, with many attending. We also completed a wonderful event last fall with our ensemble festival. Our sad news of the year is we said goodbye to long-time member Eileen Evans, who moved to Arizona. We have always appreciated her contributions to the association and her excellent teaching to many many students here in Green River and Rock Springs. We wish her luck in her future adventures. We've become very small in numbers, but continue to do our best to bring quality teaching to this area.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Durrant

Certification News

There are several members who are working on getting certified – Let's make it a goal to get it completed this year! All of the information you need is on the website:

www.mtnacertification.org

Here is a note from our Division Certification Commissioner:

The beauty of the MTNA National Certification Program is that it offers all teachers the chance to work on meaningful projects that actually apply to our everyday professional lives. Back in my day, the program was based more on academic knowledge and performance skills. It was assumed that a person with a degree in the music field, or someone who had passed several MTNA sanctioned exams, would know how to teach. At that time, there was no examination of true teaching ability, communication skills, nor of business practices. In short, we were given the professional title of NCTM without necessarily knowing how to communicate what we knew musically to our students, let alone run a studio as a business.

The current program, however, is astounding in its breadth and purpose. The five Teacher Profile Projects (TPP) address all the most important facets of our profession and give teachers a chance to raise the bar on their professional skills at the same time. Each project is structured to delve into the heart of the individual's core philosophy and knowledge base, provides guidance with business ethics, and gives opportunities for self-evaluation. For example, even as I graded others, Project 2 made me think about my own presentation of music history and composers to students. I found myself wondering if I had slacked off in this area. Project 3 had me asking myself the most important question every teacher needs to keep in the back of his mind: am I presenting the material in a way that the student would understand? Was I being as interesting and creative as I could be or had I become complacent? And the great thing is the other projects (1, 4 & 5) are also set up for teachers to look at themselves in a different light as they prepare for certification.

Finally, the MTNA National Certification Program's most valued feature is the opportunity to keep working toward staying certified. Accumulating points annually through participation in local and state associations, adjudications, festivals, etc. keeps all of us involved and aware of the latest news in our field. Through this 2-step process, we can continue to learn and grow as professionals, striving for excellence every step of the way. For as we all know, "Success doesn't come from what you do occasionally. It comes from what you do consistently."

Ann M. Fernandez
NCTM Northwest Division Certification Commissioner