

Music Horizons

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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:

The Wyoming MTNA competitions were held on November 11 at the University of Wyoming. The events went smoothly, and the judges were impressed with the wonderful performances of the entrants.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for competition chair Barbara Binger's fabulous organizational work and my gratitude to the teachers from the Laramie Chapter who helped. I would also like to welcome Scott Schwab, piano faculty at Casper College, to join WMTA and thank him for serving as our membership chair.

In September, I attended the 2017 Summit for MTNA Leadership in Cincinnati. During our division meeting, each state president gave a presentation on their nominee for Local Association of the Year Award. Laramie MTA was nominated for the fund-raising recitals their members held for a piano donation to Spring Wind (a senior living community) last spring. They successfully raised sufficient funding to have an old grand piano rebuilt. The Boomerang newspaper wrote an article about these successful fund-raising events and the invaluable musical joy the piano brought to the senior residents at Spring Wind. After the state presidents' presentations in the division meeting, each of us cast our vote, and LMTA was selected unanimously to represent the Northwest Division!! The National Board of Directors will evaluate nominees from each of the seven divisions at its December meeting and select the recipient of the award. What LMTA members did was absolutely educationally meaningful. They not only gave wonderful musical experiences to the elderly, but showed the students who participated in these events what music

could do to help with and bring sunshine to people's lives!

Our President-Elect, Cindy Peterson, is organizing the 2018 state conference on June 7-9 at the University of Wyoming with Kevin Olson being the keynote speaker and Helios Trio the featured artists. It is going to be an exciting event. Please mark down these dates in your calendar and plan to come. More information about the conference can be seen in the President-Elect's report.

Wish you a great rest of the fall semester!

Sincerely,
Dr. Chi-Chen Wu

Be sure to check out our new website! It's getting lots of attention! Dr. Jim Margetts would love to hear from you about how you are using it and what you would like to see on it. Be sure to email him at margettsjames@gmail.com

STATE CONFERENCE

This year's state conference (June 7-9, 2018, University of Wyoming) will host a Composition Master Class. Here are the details for your students to participate:

As I announced last month, WMTA has commissioned FJH composer Kevin Olson to write a two-piano, eight hand intermediate level piece to be presented at the conference. This is a wonderful energetic piece entitled "Pistol Pete's Piano Posse Rides Again."

As well as presenting his commission, Kevin has agreed to hold a Composition Master Class. Your students, of any age or level of playing ability, may submit an original, notated composition, of any length. During the class, they will perform their composition (or play a recording). Teachers, and students and their families, will be able to hear Kevin's comments and encouragements, while observing the notation which will be projected to a screen. Deadline for submission is May 19, 2008.

Our Composition Master Class will be a wonderful follow-on to one of his conference workshops: Integrating Improvisation into the Classical Piano Lesson. Other topics that Kevin will cover during our conference include Baroque Performance Practice, and Hands-On Jazz Basics.

It's going to be a great conference, featuring the Helios Trio performing for us Friday night! Look for details on our website after the first of the year. I look forward to seeing all of you there!

Cindy Peterson

State Competitions

The Wyoming state MTNA competition was held on Saturday, November 11 at the University of Wyoming.

Wyoming State Winner List

Junior String:

- Winner - Gracie Zhang, Sherry Sinift, teacher
- Alternate - Anna Chen, Sherry Sinift, teacher

Senior Piano:

- Winner - Tarje Grover, Theresa Bogard, teacher
- Alternate - Sai Kit Ng, Lisa Rickard, teacher

Young Artist Piano:

- Winner - Lennart Triesschijn, Theresa Bogard, teacher
- Alternate - Celso Luiz Barrufi dos Santos Jr., Chi-Chen Wu, teacher

The Wyoming state winners and representatives (students with no other competitors in their category) will go on to the Northwest Division Finals. Congratulations to our students and their teachers and best of luck in the division competition!

Congratulations to our newly certified member -
Eileen Evans from Southwest Assoc.!



What are your reasons for not getting certified?.....

I am too busy. It is too much work. I don't have time to do it.

Everyone these days is too busy, and there is no question that music teachers work very hard. But think about it: How many times have you heard the same excuse from your students concerning practice, and what was your response? I'm guessing it wasn't "Oh, my dear, I am so sorry you are so busy. It is okay for you to play those wrong notes and not count if you can't find time to correct the mistakes." If you are like me, the excuse doesn't hold water, and you proceed to help the student find holes in their daily schedule to practice and show them how to use practice time efficiently and effectively.

Not only does the no-time excuse fail for students, it also fails for teachers. A professional music educator needs to practice teaching—to enhance and increase knowledge and skills, to improve business practices and to stay abreast of innovations in the teaching field. It is not okay to ignore current teaching practices, philosophies, and materials. Our students live in the present. We must teach in the present. Certification fosters a teacher's connection with the present, a teacher's practice and growth and sometimes might even create an excitement and freshness to the everyday routine.

Local Association Reports

Report for the **Laramie Music Teachers Association**

These last few months have been quite busy for the chapter. A new slate of officers was elected: Cheryl Hemphill, president; Lorene Sims, vice-president; Kim Shepherd, secretary; Barbara Basinger, treasurer.

In the spring, the group worked to bring together a recital where students performed a variety of collaborative works. Audience members were encouraged to donate funds used toward the purchase of a newer piano for the local senior facility, Springwind. Enough funds were donated that we were able to work with Steve Westfahl in providing the center with a nice Yamaha console piano. At the National Summit of MTNA state presidents, Chi-Chen nominated our chapter for the Local Chapter of the Year award in regard to our work to provide Springwind with a piano, and it was unanimously voted to submit our chapter for this award at the national level.

We sadly said goodbye to our longterm member, Elena Berlinsky as she has moved to Denver. We were also happy to congratulate her as she was awarded the 2017 WMTA Teacher of the Year Award. She plans to continue her association with our chapter.

Our chapter has put together a committee to revisit and rework all aspects of our Achievement Day, starting with renaming it—Laramie Achievement Day. We hope to implement these changes in the spring.

This fall, we met jointly with the Cheyenne chapter at a brunch hosted by Cindy Peterson in Laramie. It was an enjoyable time of fellowship and sharing of ideas.

A fall recital was put together with students from all studios. We had 40-50 students participate. Alla Latchininsky put together a presentation on William Gillock in honor of the anniversary of his 100th Birthday. Many students played his compositions.

Lisa Rickard took her students and parents on a field trip to Westfahl's Piano Company and learned about how pianos work, the rebuilding process and the difference in the upright and grand action. Steve Westfahl was very gracious in sharing his wide knowledge of the piano with them.

Our chapter is looking forward to hosting the WMTA State Conference in June 2018 and hope to see you all there!

Submitted by Lisa Rickard

News from the **Cheyenne Chapter**: The CMTA just wrapped up our annual Pianofest. We had a successful turnout of talented, well-prepared students in both our traditional room, with distinguished judges Beth Kean and Dr. Robert Hjelmsted, and our Master Class room with equally distinguished judge Jessica Pacheco. In October, we received an invitation to join monthly meetings with the Laramie chapter. They provided us a delicious brunch, and we got to hear about all the great events their chapter had planned. [A great morning of exchanging ideas goes well with quiche and banana bread!](#) We hope to do more joint events with Laramie in the future.

Alaina Niemann
Treasurer

Southwest Chapter - The SWMTA held our annual Ensemble Festival on November 11. We had two sessions with over 50 students participating, playing duets with each other and quite a few with a sibling or parent - a great experience for all involved! The teachers also prepared a trio on one piano which was a lot of fun and well received by all. Many cookies were enjoyed!

We look forward to planning our AAD to be held in April.

We are saddened that one of our members Eileen Evans will be moving to Arizona and will be joining the local MTNA chapter there. We will all miss her - especially her students! We wish her all the best!

Our little chapter continues to function with what will be only 2 members, but we are continuing to try and recruit some new teachers.

Lynette Nelson
Secretary/Treasurer
