



VERMONT MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.

Summer Newsletter

A Message from the President



Summer greetings to everyone!

At the 2012 MTNA Conference in New York City, Benjamin Zander transformed the lives of charmed attendees with his dynamic keynote address entitled *The Art of Possibility*. Teachers have a powerful job and that job is to guide and draw out the potential in each student. *The Art of Possibility* takes insight, patience, energy and commitment.

Vermont had an impressive attendance at the at the 2012 MTNA Conference:

- **Exhibitor:** Polly van de Linde with Summer Sonata. Knowledgeable and charming.
- **Presenter:** Elaine Greenfield as the Vermont half of *Double Trouble: Performance and Rehearsal Techniques for Duo Pianist* with partner Janice Meyer Thompson. Excellent presentation and hand-out.
- **Attendees:** A record number of eight VMTA members attended the MTNA Conference. Great turn out.

Did you imagine all this possible? As our new VMTA board plans programs for students, conferences for teachers, and support for our members, let's remember that the *Art of Possibility* takes the same insight, patience, energy and commitment we each exhibit as teachers.

Marie Johnson
President, VMTA

President

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Unfilled at this time.
Contact Marie Johnson if
interested in this position

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2012 - 2013 VMTA Calendar

July 1, 2012	Deadline to register for Noteflight Learning Edition Workshop
July 16, 2012	Noteflight Learning Edition Workshop
August 1, 2012	VMTA Fall Newsletter Deadline for articles, reports and member news
August 1, 2012	MTNA Dues Payment Deadline for 2012-2013 VMTA Membership Directory
September 12, 2012	Registration Deadline for Student Competitions
September 22, 2012	Deadline to Vote for Proposed Changes to the VMTA Constitution
September 22, 2012	Fall Convention
November 18, 2012	Student Competitions

2012 MTNA Conference Report

At the 2012 MTNA Conference held in New York City, I represented Vermont as president-elect of VMTA at both the annual State President's Advisory Council (SPAC) meeting and the eastern Division meeting.

During the SPAC meeting, the volunteer and staff leadership of MTNA presented the strategic plan adopted in July 2007 by the MTNA Board of Directors. By doing so, a framework for forward action was affirmed by supporting the current budget. The 2011 elimination of MTNA competitions for brass, woodwind, voice and strings sparked many budget related questions and suggestions which resulted in several motions to discuss and vote. The final outcome was a unanimous vote of confidence in the strategic plan and in the MTNA leadership.

Some of the highlights from the Eastern Division meeting included the following:

- Delaware celebrated its fiftieth anniversary and Gary Ingle delivered the keynote address.
- Kathleen Theisen, Connecticut President, will live stream presentations four times a year.
- Maine will host the next Quad State convention.
- Pennsylvania moved the traditional November conference to a resort location in June 2012 to allow families to attend.

These two meetings provide examples of the interaction, networking, brain storming and synergistic energy national conferences can inspire.

Marie Johnson

Spring Festival

The VMTA held its annual Spring Festival on Saturday, March 31st, 2012 at St. Michael's College McCarthy Arts Center. 77 students from 15 member studios performed throughout the day. We especially thank Susan Summerfield, co-chair of St. Michael's College Fine Arts Department. Without her support and sponsorship this event would not have been possible. This event requires the participation and contribution of many to be successful. I am grateful to member teachers not only for preparing students but also for volunteering as judges and monitors throughout the day. Thank you to all!

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MusicLink Foundation

Okay, by this time you have all heard about the MusicLink Foundation. BUT, what you may not have heard is that teachers, students and business partners are linking up every day! Lisa Goodrich, Kelley Lyon, Sue Nicholas, Judy Vanesse and Nora Zablow are actively teaching MusicLink students. Our newest Vermont MusicLink teacher linked up at the NY Convention in March.... a big Welcome goes out to Marie Johnson! Vermont now has 13 business partners offering discounts on music and materials, instrument rentals, instrument purchases, piano tunings, piano repair work, piano moving, donations of instruments, music, supplies, rentals, on and on. The Vermont business community has to be the most generous out there! Vermont has 6 Vermont MusicLink teachers teaching 11 MusicLink kids. New Hampshire is close behind with 7 teachers and 8 students and 7 business partners on board. On May 6th from noon – 4:30, 27 students took part in our first Annual Upper Valley Playathon to raise additional funds for our local kids. We raised \$1,721 which will help with those needs over and above what our generous business partners are already providing. 4 of the 6 teachers were MusicLink teachers and the students enjoyed the opportunity to perform at the Powerhouse Mall in W. Lebanon, NH to the delight of the shoppers, parents and management alike.

A Playathon is being organized in Montpelier for November. Once the place is confirmed, any teacher wanting an opportunity for their students to perform in a relaxed format to a very appreciative audience, give a call and we will include them on the schedule. All monies raised will be used to assist with supplementary music, metronomes, music stands, instrument rentals; whatever isn't supplied by our business partners for the Montpelier/Burlington local programs.

If you are a music teacher wondering how you can help give something back to your community, there is no better way than to put your efforts into our youth and their musical futures. To become a MusicLink teacher, all that is needed is a willingness to teach 1) 30-minute lesson to 1) eligible MusicLink student for half your normal rate. If a teacher is willing to do that, they will be eligible for \$150 per year for any need your MusicLink student may have over and above what already is available. If you save receipts, the Teacher Reimbursement Program will reimburse your expenditures.

The student, after being in the program 6 months, can apply for \$250 for a music summer camp of their choice. There are other benefits to both teacher and student. To become a MusicLink teacher simply give me a call at (802) 295-9092 or email me at jvan2006@comcast.net and you will be on your way to one of the most heart-warming experiences of your lifetime. You can learn more about us from our website, www.musiclinkfoundation.org. Down the left hand menu on the homepage you can read our recent newsletter, listen to a CD of some of our MusicLink students. Down the right hand side you can click and view our business partners in Vermont and other states in the country.

In closing, I would like to share what one of our New York teachers says, "I am committed to MusicLink because of a life-long belief in equality. The idea that one might lose out for economic reasons is entirely unacceptable. We all should be eligible for the deep sense of joy and wonder that comes with expressing ourselves through music."

Thank you for caring,

Judy Vanesse,

Northeast Regional Coordinator, MusicLink Foundation

P.S. Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania are states I work with. If you know any music teachers you feel would be willing to consider becoming a MusicLink teacher in any of our US states, kindly either let me know or have them contact me. We reached our goal of the 5,000th student link while at the NY Convention in March! By the end of 2012 it is our goal to reach every one of our states with the MusicLink opportunity. We have 4 states to go, Michigan, W. Virginia, Nebraska and Hawaii. If you can help us get these states on board, we thank you!

Music Composition Tools and Optional Mentoring for Studio Teachers and their Students

It's official! VMTA is now a participating member of Music-COMP (Music Composition Online Mentoring Program), an organization dedicated to composition for students. Formerly the Vermont MIDI Project, this organization includes over 5000 student participants each year throughout Vermont and in a few other states – Virginia, Indiana, and Connecticut. The program began in 1995 and has served tens of thousands of students since then. Some of these students find a new passion in music composition and pursue it throughout as they head to college. Most others find joy in their work and delight as composition activities bring new skills and knowledge to their personal musicianship.

Read below for an outline of the benefits of this membership. Also included is a registration form if you're interested in participating and an agreement to abide by the protocols established by Music-COMP.

Benefit 1: FREE access to a notation software tool that is completely online (“in the cloud”) so students may access this from home, school, your studio, the public library – anywhere and anytime. Each studio teacher who registers is allowed to sign up their students for the notation program.

The program is called Noteflight Learning Edition (NLE) and it includes much more than notation software. NLE is nested into an online system so our group may develop lesson content. The version of Noteflight you receive is their “premium” editor, Noteflight Crescendo (a \$49.95 yearly subscription value). Students may complete lesson templates from NLE or create a brand new composition and store up to 250 scores – all in the cloud. They can edit, playback, print, share, and export as audio or other file formats.

Benefit 2: Mentoring with professional composers. This is optional and includes a \$30 per composition fee. Student work-in-progress will be reviewed and suggestions made at the Music-COMP online mentoring site by one or more of the professional composers on the mentoring roster. For more information about these mentors visit: vtmidi.org/vercom.htm For examples of mentoring discussions, visit vtmidi.org/student.htm

This \$30 fee is paid by the student for each composition they wish to submit for mentoring. Online discussion continues until the student signals that they have finished. The fee is payable directly to Music-COMP at 30 Steeplebush Rd., Essex Junction, VT 05452. Sandi MacLeod, Executive Director, will create the student account and notify the student for access the mentoring site. She will also notify the student's studio teacher and set up an account for the teacher too.

Benefit 3: Live performances of student compositions. (Optional) Work from the online mentoring site may be submitted for live performances organized in collaboration with Music-COMP. Current opportunities are the Fall Opus concert featuring professional performers from a brass quintet, piano, percussion, and voice. The Spring Opus concert is for strings and woodwinds. Students may write a solo or combine any of the instruments provided. For more details view vtmidi.org/opus.htm

Additional opportunities are with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, Burlington Ensemble, Vermont Youth Orchestra, Vermont Contemporary Music Ensemble, Vermont Philharmonic. Information will be posted on the website as it becomes available.

All compositions for live performance must go through the online mentoring process. An additional fee of \$50 is required for all Opus concerts if the piece is selected for performance.

If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail Sandi MacLeod at sandi@vtmidi.org or call 802-879-0065.

Sandi MacLeod



Vermont MIDI Project

Vermont MIDI Project, Inc.

Sandi MacLeod, Executive Director

30 Steeplebush Rd. Essex Junction, VT 05452

(T) 802-879-0065 (M) 802-578-8580

sandi@vtmidi.org http://www.vtmidi.org



Membership form:

VMTA teachers and studio students to participate in Music-COMP

Teacher Name: _____

Teacher e-mail: _____

Teacher address: _____

Teacher phone: _____

Approximate total number of students in your studio _____

Approximate number you think would benefit from the participation _____

Remember start small for success and build from there! You may add students at any time during the year. Once you've sent this form to Sandi, you will receive login info via e-mail and HELP SHEETS to get you started. Contact Sandi for technical assistance and lesson support. Contact info above.

This membership agreement is in effect from June 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. By signing below, a studio teacher agrees to:

- work in a constructive and respectful manner on the Noteflight Learning Edition group website
- contact Sandi (sandi@vtmidi.org or 802-879-0065) for technical assistance and lesson support
- report any unusual issues with the site. Things will happen since we're sharing our login, so don't hesitate to contact Sandi she can resolve any issues as quickly as possible
- guide students to use the site constructively and respectfully
- abide by the online mentoring guidelines currently posted at www.vtmidi.org/mentorguidelines.htm if you use that benefit
- guide any of your students who may choose online mentoring or live performance options

I am a current member of VMTA in good standing.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Vermont MIDI Project is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit educational organization, supported by individuals, businesses and grants.

On July 1, 2012, our name will change to Music-COMP (Music Composition Online Mentoring Program) to more accurately reflect our mission and activities.



Sandi MacLeod

Special Workshop To Help You Get Started With Noteflight Learning Edition

A special workshop in Noteflight Learning Edition will be held on Monday, July 16th from 9am – 4pm at Champlain College in Burlington. The cost for MTNA teachers is \$25. Lunch is included.

Registration required no later than July 1. Bring your own laptop for this session. Contact Sandi – sandi@vtmidi.org or 802-879-0065 to reserve your space.

Competitive Auditions

One of the benefits offered to MTNA members is the opportunity to enter students in its annual competitive auditions. All requirements for the 2012-2013 students competitions can be found in the April/May Journal, or online at www.mtna.org. Applications must be submitted online by 3 p.m. EST on September 12, 2012. Application forms are accessible online in August by all MTNA members whose dues for 2012-2013 are paid.

You will note in the requirements that the Junior level competitions will now be held for only piano, strings and woodwinds. Senior

competitions also include brass, voice and piano duet categories. Details for these performance categories and for the Young Artist and Chamber Music competitions are specified in the Journal. Composition competitions are held for all levels from Elementary through Young Artist.

The 2012 Vermont competitions will be held on Sunday, November 18th at the Richmond Library. As in the past several years, any single entrant in a category will be automatically named by MTNA as a Vermont State Representative, and is required to take part in the Eastern Division Competitions in January. The VMTA Board has decided that not only all performance competitors in the state level but also any state representatives must perform their complete program, as submitted in their application, at the Vermont competition on the date scheduled, and will receive written comments.

Composition winners or representatives may be invited to perform their piece(s), or have them performed, at the VMTA performers' competition if time permits.

Because we must secure judges for the Vermont auditions, it would be very helpful if teachers who are considering entering students could inform Competition Chair Liz Metcalfe as soon as is feasible, even if their plans are still tentative. The final list of approved entries will not of course be available until after September 12th.

Elizabeth Metcalfe

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PROPOSED CHANGES TO VMTA CONSTITUTION

The following changes are proposed to the Constitution of the VMTA.
Please vote on the ballot below by September 22, 2012.

Existing language:

Article VI. Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the President, President-Elect, Conventions Chair, Competitive Auditions Chair, Composition and Composer Commissioning Chair, Non-Competitive Auditions Chair, Membership Chair, Certification Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter, Publicity and Archives, Hospitality, Scholarship and Immediate past President. They shall determine policies of the Association by actively pursuing the purposes of The Association within the limits of the Constitution and Bylaws. It shall have discretion in the disbursement of all funds of the Association.

Section 2. In order to transact business, a quorum consisting of eight voting members of the Board of Directors, at least one of them being the President or President-Elect, must be present.

Proposed language:

Article VI, Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the President, President-Elect, Convention Chair, Competitive Auditions Chair, Composition and Composer Commissioning Chair, Non-Competitive Auditions Chair, Membership Chair, Certification Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter, Publicity and Archives, ~~delete Hospitality~~ Scholarship, and Immediate Past President. It shall determine policies of the Association by actively pursuing the purposes of the Association within the limits of the Constitution and Bylaws. It shall have discretion in the disbursement of all funds of the Association.

Section 2. In order to transact business, a quorum consisting of ~~one-half plus one~~ of the voting members of the Board of Directors, at least one of them being the President or President-Elect, must be present.

By my signature, I vote _____ for the proposed changes.
_____ against the proposed changes..

Printed Name _____ Date _____

Signature _____

Return the ballot via mail by September 22, 2012 to Marie M. Johnson, 3 Kiln Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452 or bring to the General Membership meeting on September 22, 2012.

Save the date!

The VMTA fall convention will be on Saturday, September 22 at the Richmond Free Library.

Our guest clinician will be Dr. Jane Magrath, Director of Piano Pedagogy at the University of Oklahoma. Jane Magrath is well known as an author, clinician, and pianist. Her book, The Pianist's Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance Literature has become a classic reference work for pianists throughout the country. Magrath's work in the area of the standard classical teaching literature has been central to the current revival of interest in this music throughout the U.S. She currently has more than thirty-five volumes published with Alfred Publishing, and her music editions are used widely throughout the U.S. and abroad. Her classical series include the *Masterwork Classics* series in 9 volumes, *Encore*, *Masterpieces with Flair*, *Melodious Masterpieces*, *Sonatina Masterworks*, *Modern Masterworks*, and the *Classics Alive* series. Her newest literature series is titled, *Audition Repertoire for the Advancing Pianist*.

More details of the convention and registration information will be sent in the August newsletter. But, save the date!

Patty Bergeron

BBVMTA Monster Concert

The Burlington Branch of the Vermont Music Teachers will hold its 10th monster concert on November 9-10 at the Trinity Baptist Church in Williston. A preliminary music list was distributed by e-mail. If you have not received one, or need more information about the monster concert, please contact Patty Bergeron (pcberg@myfairpoint.net or 802-878-9873). More detailed information and student applications will be sent by e-mailed newsletter in August.

Patricia Bergeron

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Member News



Stuart Carter

Mitch Logan performed 1/2 a recital as part of a spring Octavemode Studio Recital. He played the Saint-Saens Cavatine, Barat Andante and Allegro and Vivaldi Concerto in A minor (originally for Bassoon). He will attend UMass Amherst with a minor in music in the fall. On June 2, he performs the Vivaldi with the Essex High School Orchestra. Mitch and Octavemode students Matt Bonna, trombone; Sabine Rogers, euphonium; and Nate Belluche, trumpet, will play for the Fletcher Free Library on July 18 at 6:30 PM, as part of their summer children's series. Both events are open to the public.

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Elaine Greenfield finishes the season with three performances by Greenfield Piano Associates (May 30, June 1 and June 2), and a solo performance with commentary presented to the Burlington AAUW group on June 9th. Elaine teaches at the Traditional Session of the Adamant Music School, July 16th - August 6 and while there presents a solo performance featuring music by Maurice Ravel. Melody Puller receives a partial scholarship from Greenfield Piano Associates' Scholarship Fund to aid in her participation in the John O'Connor master class at Adamant, July 10 - 14. Greenfield Piano Associates and St. Paul's Cathedral Arts sponsored guest pianist Matthew Manwarren in recital and master class, May 18th

& 19th. GPA pianists Melody Puller, Kate Wolinsky, Susan Nicholas, Barbara Williams, and Anne McGuire performed. Elaine looks forward to a rare and long overdue vacation in the US Northwest at the end of August!



Greenfield Piano Associates
Recital 6/1/12



Transcontinental Piano Duo
MTNA Conference presenters

Paul Orgel

Two of my students were winners in the Vermont All-State Festival's Scholarship contest for solo piano: Teddy Ninh (3rd Prize) and David Ro (1st Prize). David performed pieces by Liszt and Debussy at the festival. Ivan Voinov won a composition award in the Opus 24 contest held by Music COMP (formerly Vermont Midi Project). Alan Chiang (age 14) will participate in Boston University's Tanglewood Institute this summer as well as the Walnut Hill School's summer program for Chinese pianists. Kevin Wang was invited to play Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" at South Burlington High School's spring band concert. He will attend Harvard University in the fall. Keren Wheeler performed a successful Senior Recital, graduating from UVM as a piano major.

I will once again be on the piano faculty of the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, held at UVM from June 23 - July 21. I will perform on July 4th (Martinu) and July 13 (Stravinsky).

Marilyn Taggart

Senior Aaron Gould-Kavet gave a stunning performance of the first movement of Schumann's G Minor Piano Sonata at The Next Generation Concert at Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, Vermont on Friday evening May 18, his fourth appearance in this Vermont version of From The Top, featuring Vermont and New Hampshire high school students, chosen by audition. Aaron repeated this the next day at the annual recital of the studios of Marilyn and Cynthia Huard's students at Middlebury College on their fabulous piano. We also heard part of the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto, first movement, played by Mitchell Goff. Mitchell was preparing for the VYO Concerto Auditions on Tuesday, May 22, which he did on that day, accompanied by Alison Cerutti. Bravo Alison for your great skill at turning a second piano part into an 80 piece orchestra. Several days later we heard that Mitchell and the Tchaikovsky will be featured on one of the VYO concerts of the 2012-2013 season. This will be Mitchell's second appearance with orchestra as a piano soloist. Last year he won the Burlington Chamber Orchestra Concerto Competition and played Mozart's K.467 with them in May, 2011. (I never did get that in the newsletter). If your students complain too much about practicing, ask them to think about Mitchell, who practices two instruments every day to maintain his assistant concertmaster seat in the VYO!

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Keren Wheeler

Keren Wheeler is just three credits away from graduating from the University of Vermont with her B.A. in Music with a concentration in Piano Performance. This past March she performed her senior recital featuring works by Mozart, Dello Joio, Schumann, and Chopin. Although thrilled with the accomplishment of completing her senior recital, she misses her weekly piano lessons with her instructor, Paul Orgel. However, she has been putting her time to good use as she recently prepared her twenty-two piano and voice students for their year-end student recital this past May. Now, only a few credits away from graduation, Keren diligently prepares for the fall when she will be teaching several new students as well as taking some accompaniment jobs in the local public schools and studying for her MTNA certification.

Membership Directory

It is time to pay your MTNA Membership Dues for the year. If you haven't already sent in your dues please do so by August 1st in order to be included in our VMTA 2012 - 2013 Membership Directory. All VMTA members should receive their directory in September. In future years the deadline for MTNA Membership Dues payment will be June 30th.

Teresa Miranda

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