



October 1, 2017



Fall Newsletter

2017-2018

VMTA Calendar

October 14, 2017

Quad State Convention,
Concord, NH

November 12, 2017

BBVMTA Student Recital
VMTA Competitive Auditions
Richmond Library

January 6-7, 2018

Eastern Division Competitive
Auditions Providence College,
Providence, RI

January 19-21, 2018

Play-a-Thon
University Mall
South Burlington

February 2018 BBVMTA

Student Recital St. Paul's
Cathedral

March 17-21, 2018

MTNA Convention Lake
Buena Vista, FL

March 31, 2018

Spring Festival

President's Message

Welcome back to another year of teaching music to Vermont's young and young at heart! It is invigorating to visualize nature's colorful splendor, feel the crisp air, taste freshly picked apples, and hear our students practicing.

I am eager to attend the QUAD State Conference on Saturday, October 14, at the Concord Community Music School in Concord, New Hampshire. Forrest Kinney is the presenter. He is a pianist, arranger and composer. Also a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM), he has taught music for four decades. His workshops are intriguing: *The Four Arts of Music*, *Teaching Improvising from the First Lesson Onward*, *Teaching Arranging from the First Lesson Onward*, and *The Art of Interpreting and Creative Practicing*. Forrest is widely sought after as a guest clinician, and has been featured extensively at both MTNA and NCKP conferences.

The "best" reason to attend the QUAD State Conference is to hear the world premiere performance of Vermont's Commissioned Composer. David Gunn has composed a masterful composition entitled *Streams of Conscience* for flute and piano. His work will be debuted at the Conference after lunch on October 14.

Additional information including registration information is available at http://nhmta.net/Quad_State_Conference.html.

After The QUAD State Conference, exciting VMTA activities include the Play-a-Thon in January, the MTNA Conference held at Walt Disney World, and our popular Spring Festival to be held at Saint Michael's College.

Pick some apples, be inspired by Forrest Kinney, and make music with your students!

Marie M. Johnson,

VMTA President

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MTNA Member News

Sylvia Parker presented a paper entitled

“Percy Grainger and Béla Bartók: Parallel Lives of Two Ethnomusicologists”

at the College Music Society international conference in Sydney, Australia in July.

The abstract for her paper follows:

Hungarian Béla Bartók (1881-1945) and Australian Percy Grainger (1882-1961) were born within four months of each other. Both became concert pianists and composers. Both encountered folk music quite by accident and were profoundly influenced by it. Their work in collecting folk music, recording and transcribing it, arranging it into settings appealing to the general public, and composing music incorporating folk elements reveals intriguing similarities despite their dissimilar personalities. Grainger focused primarily on English and Nordic folksongs due in part to his family heritage and European training, supplemented with music from Polynesia encountered during travels back to Australia and New Zealand. Bartók focused primarily on Hungarian and East European folksongs of his native land, supplemented with music from North Africa encountered during travels to Algeria. Parker’s CMS presentation includes biographical details, historic photographs, recordings of piano performances by Grainger and Bartók themselves, and a time line of parallel activities. Audio examples contrast rustic field recordings with sophisticated settings of folk melodies including Grainger’s Brigg Fair, Molly on the Shore and Lincolnshire Posy, and Bartók’s Hungarian Folk Songs, For Children and Violin Duos. Original compositions exhibit elements of folk music uncommon in the classical tradition in which both men were trained. Church modes and irregular meters abound. Microtones appear in Bartók’s transcriptions and scholarship, while Grainger’s Free Music specifically features microtones and he even invented new instruments for playing them.

The 2018
MTNA National
Conference will
take place
March 17-21, 2018
in Lake Buena
Vista, Florida.

As always, you will
be treated to an
outstanding array
of informative
sessions, master
classes, thrilling
concerts, and
exhibits. Details on
the MTNA website.

BBVMTA Workshop Held

On September 15 the BBVMTA presented a workshop titled “Improvisation, Performance & Passion” presented by *Michael Stenger*. It is always inspiring to hear people that are passionate about teaching speak to others that are passionate about teaching. Michael thinks we have an amazing group of teachers and would like very much to visit us again. For those that missed the workshop, and would like to learn more about Michael, please visit www.michaelstegner.com/teaching-and-presenting-highlights. Thank you to our sponsor *Advance Music* for graciously hosting us!

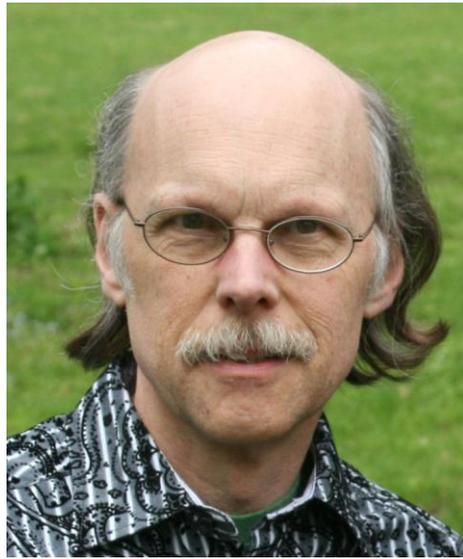
Commissioned Composer Selected

MTNA is dedicated to encouraging the creation of new works by American composers and assists VMTA in the generation and performance of new through the national composers commissioning program.

VMTA is proud to announce that *David Gunn* has been selected as the VMTA Commissioned Composer for 2017. His original work will be debuted at the QUAD State Conference in New Hampshire on October 14.

To further promote and recognize outstanding contributions to American music, MTNA annually has its state affiliates submit commissioned compositions to a panel of recognized composers for selection of the MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year. The new work of the selected composer is presented in a performance at the MTNA national conference in March. The selected composer also receives a \$5000 award.

Following below are David Gunn comments about his experience and the piece he is writing for VMTA.



David Gunn has written for symphony orchestra, chamber ensembles, adventurous vocal groups, theremin, solo viola, and Ray Bradbury's Pandemonium Theatre Company, though his professional flute-playing spousal unit helped channel his flute-centric oeuvre. Turns out, this was a good *moeuvre*. I mean *move*. His first tune for flute choir won the inaugural National Flute Association's Flute Choir Composition Competition, which involved a pecuniary award, always a plus. For 10½ years, Gunn co-hosted the radio show *Kalvos & Damian's New Music Bazaar*, which won an award once. Or twice, actually. In 2003, Albany Records released

Somewhere East of Topeka, a CD of Gunn's early chamber music performed by the Vermont Contemporary Music Ensemble. Brisk sales are anticipated any day now. Exactly ten nearly-to-the-hour years later, he and his previously mentioned if not specifically identified spousal unit founded the chamber music concert series Vermont Virtuosi, whose concerts—according to the always spot-on Barre-Montpelier *Times Argus*—“are now among the most rewarding chamber music performances in the state.” In February (i.e., 2017), Fomite press published “Cautionary Chronicles: An Illustrated Compendium of Human Striving,” Gunn's book of “very short, humorous fiction” that adds up to “a funny trip” [*Seven Days*]. Meanwhile, Gunn lives simultaneously in Barre, Vermont, and in hope of, in order, peace on earth, good will towards men, and a pile of cash in the bank.



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*Photo taken by Saint Michael's student
Meredith Johnson '08 while studying abroad in
Namibia during her junior year.*

Save the Date for Spring Festival!

VMTA Spring Festival will be held on **Saturday, March 31st, 2018** at the St. Michael's McCarthy Arts Center? To register students, teachers should email cldkramsey@comcast.net to request a registration. Lily Ramsey will then send an electronic registration via email attachment. Deadline for registration is Friday, February 23rd, 2018, 6 p.m.



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Play-A-Thon 2018

It's Play-a-Thon Time!!!
Stop the Presses...Save the Date...Set aside Time

January 19-20-21, 2018 marks our fourth Play-a-Thon at University Mall in South Burlington. Our students can use their abilities to raise money for children battling cancer. All levels of playing are acceptable and appreciated.

We have chosen to again raise money for the Children's Oncology Unit at UVM Medical Center. In 2016 we purchased over \$2000.00 in gift cards to help families struggling with the extra expenses related to a child in cancer treatment. Could we do better in 2018?????

Although there will be no sponsored "competition," I encourage teachers to sponsor incentives within their studios to raise funds for this worthy project. All students playing must have at least one donation on record with their teacher. Otherwise, ALL STUDENTS are encouraged to take part.

Times scheduled are as follows:

Friday	5:00pm - 9:00pm
Saturday	11:00am - 5:00pm
Sunday	11:30am - 4:00pm

Please schedule as soon as possible with Lynn Smith (luspiano@gmail.com) since ALL times are on a first-come-first-served basis.

I look forward to seeing you in January!!!!

-Lynn Smith



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SPAC at the MTNA Conference

It was a distinct pleasure to attend the MTNA annual Summit Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, from September 8 to 10. This two-day event gives representatives from all 50 states the opportunity to network, share ideas, organize, and learn to be better leaders in their respective chapters. I encourage all VMTA members to explore the newly designed MTNA website, www.mtna.org. And I want to remind all of you to take advantage of the many programs that MTNA offers. New this year is a national competition for piano duos sponsored by the Stecher and Horowitz Foundation. I also encourage you to watch the many webinars that are accessible any time on the MTNA website. They are geared to the professional development of the serious music teacher. And please consider entering the eFestival for either yourself or your students. This online-only program, which launched last May, is especially valuable for musicians in rural areas or where performance opportunities are limited. If you're looking for constructive comments of a performance from a professional, this is the place to go. Remember: MTNA is *your* organization.

MTNA Benevolent Fund

How can we help during natural disasters, such as the recent hurricanes that battered Texas and Florida? It is reassuring to know that our national organization of independent music teachers has a benevolent fund in place. Those funds will help other MTNA members who live in affected areas. Please visit the MTNA website, www.mtna.org, for further information.

What can MTNA membership do for you?

As an independent music teacher, I am required to have business liability insurance by some organizations before I can teach in their facilities. I am sure many of you face this issue, too. Did you know that MTNA partners with Richard F. Jones & Co. Inc., a Kansas City, Missouri insurance firm that offers this insurance coverage at a reduced rate? By taking advantage of this benefit of my membership, I just saved 40% from what I paid to a Vermont insurance company last year, a sum that more than covers the cost of MTNA membership. I encourage you to explore the benefits of being an MTNA member. Spread the word to your colleagues. Being an MTNA member can save you money!

-Laurel Maurer

Noteflight

Online Tools for Teaching and Learning:

VMTA will, once again, subscribe to the online music notation software that can inspire and liberate your students. Noteflight Learn includes these standard features: • Accessible on any device • A private community for secure communication and collaboration • Unlimited groups for organizing classes and ensembles • Activity templates for assignments • Perform mode for listening to and performing along with selected parts of a score • Discussion and assignment forums for communication and assessment • Record live audio into scores • Fully compliant with COPPA.

Users have the option to purchase Content libraries for Band, Choir, Orchestra, Piano, and Guitar, to access hundreds of digital scores of the most popular repertoire from today's publishers of teaching material. Students can choose to participate in Online Mentoring, working with professional composers to improve their work. This fee-based program can include performance opportunities. Noteflight Learn has evolved significantly since VMTA was a subscriber to Music-COMP a few years ago. There are numerous Webinar and tutorial videos which give a good idea of how we can use this software.

Take a look - these resources say it better than a newsletter article. As part of your membership to VMTA, you and your students have access to the notation software tool from home, school, your studio, the public library – anywhere and anytime. After a teacher enrolls, she or he may enroll students for the program. Noteflight Learn is an online system so our group may develop lesson content for composition and theory and beyond. The version of Noteflight you receive is their “premium” editor, a \$49 yearly subscription value if purchased individually. Students can complete lesson templates or create unlimited brand new compositions. They can edit, playback, print, share, record, and export as audio or other file formats. If you have used Noteflight Crescendo (or the more recent Noteflight Premium), enrolling will expand the features you already know. Try it out for a few students, for groups of students, or for yourself. Complete and return the Enrollment Form and send it to Sarah Williams - Details are on the form.



Noteflight Learn

Music Notation Software for members of VMTA and their Students

Enrollment Form

Teacher name and email:

Teacher phone and best time to call:

Approximate number of students in your studio who might like to participate: _____
(Students can be added or removed at any time.)

This enrollment is for October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018.

Each enrolled teacher agrees to

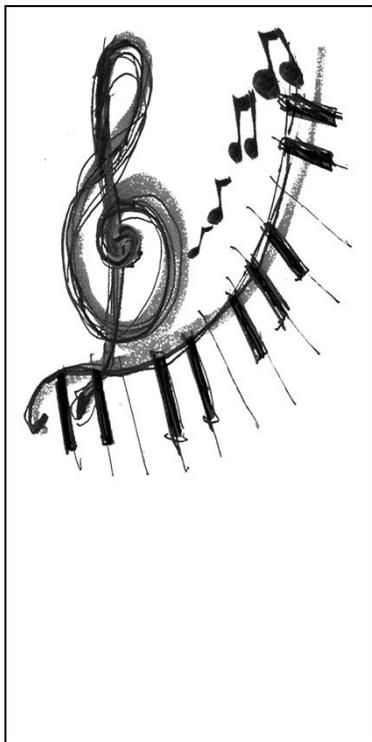
- *work in a constructive and respectful manner on the Noteflight Learn group website and guide students to do the same*
- *assist students who choose to use the online mentoring program, and abide by online guidelines for that program*
- *consult online tutorials or contact Sarah Williams for technical support*

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return form to Sarah Williams at sarah5432@gmail.com
or 796 North St, Montpelier, VT 05602 (802-223-5307)

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***Mirth and Mystery:
A Nordic Piano Trio Program***



The Stellaria Trio kicks off its 2017-18 season with a spotlight on works by Finnish, Norwegian, and Danish composers. Violinist Letitia Quante, cellist John Dunlop, and pianist Claire Black present the 'Lovisa' Trio of Jean Sibelius, Edvard Grieg's Andante con moto, and Piano Trio in F Minor by Peter E. Lange-Müller.

Saturday October 7, 7:30 pm, Richmond Free Library
201 Bridge Street, Richmond, VT 05477

Sunday October 8, 2:30 pm, Shelburne United Methodist Church
30 Church Street, Shelburne VT 05482

Free admission. Donations welcome.

Elaine Greenfield reports an upcoming season loaded with events...solo and duo concerts, master classes, GPA concerts and classes; plus, the ongoing work as Artistic Director of St. Paul's Cathedral Arts. Three Fall Transcontinental Piano Duo Concerts and Master classes, with AZ Duo partner Jan Meyer Thompson, are planned for Oct. in WI, at U. WI at Stevens Point & St. Norbert's College and MN at Gustavus Adolphus College. After retiring from solo performances to concentrate efforts as a Duo pianist, Elaine returns to a solo project dear to her heart. This season she tours the Northeast with an all-Ravel program, kicked off Sept. 10th in Ashburnham MA, for Historical Piano Concerts, performing on an 1893 Erard, from the Frederic Piano Collection, exact make and model as Ravel's own instrument. The concert is presented in No. & So. Carolina during Nov., at Blue Ridge College and Winthrop U. respectively. A portion of it is heard on Jan. 12 in Burlington, for St. Paul's Cathedral Arts. The concert, "Cathedral Keyboards", features the Cathedral's Karl Wilhelm organ and 1926 Steinway B. Cathedral organist, Mark Howe, and Elaine each provide half a program. In Feb. Elaine travels to CT for another solo Ravel performance at Western CT State U. Greenfield Piano Associates kicks off its season of monthly study & performance classes on Sept. 23rd. A Feb. Workshop focuses on composer Frederick Chopin. St. Paul's Cathedral Arts' season, October - June, features 4 ticketed concerts on the Weekend Series and 8 free concerts on the Tuesdays Noon to One series. Details can be found on the Cathedral Arts web page on St. Paul's Cathedral's website.

Upcoming Concerts

MTNA E-Festival

MTNA's e-Festival Reminder

While attending the MTNA Conference in March in Baltimore, I learned of the new MTNA program entitled MTNA e-Festival. This new program was well received, and I wanted to share my excitement with you. Read on and let me know if you have any questions.

The new MTNA eFestival launched on May 15! Here's what you and your students need to do to apply!

What Is it?	The <i>MTNA eFestival</i> is an online-only performance opportunity where you receive a constructive critique from a highly-qualified evaluator.
Why An eFestival?	Many music students live in remote areas and don't have access to evaluative events. Others are unable to attend a live festival. Some have an audition or performance coming up and want additional comments. <i>The MTNA eFestival provides a convenient option!</i>
Who Is It For?	EVERY piano student,* beginner through advanced, young or old, amateur or competitor, studying with a teacher or on your own... perfect for those with performance anxiety.
How Does It Work?	The pianist video-records up to 15 minutes of playing and uploads the video(s) to our application via Acceptd. The month after you submit, you will receive, via e-mail, a critique of your performance from a highly skilled evaluator. <i>THAT'S IT!</i>
What About Repertoire?	Any solo piano pieces of any level, including arrangements and transcriptions, are acceptable.
What About Video Quality?	Cell phone, tablet, video camera...it doesn't matter as long as the sound is clear.
When Can I Start?	The <i>MTNA eFestival</i> officially launches May 15, 2017 . Then it runs year-round. No deadlines! No hassle!
What Does It Cost?	\$60 application fee
Anything Else?	For more information, click here or contact mtnaefestival@mtna.org .

*Other performance areas will be added as the program grows.

HOT OFF THE PRESS!!!!

VMTA member Emily Hilbert has agreed to open her piano studio in Bristol for teachers and students to use while participating in the e-Festival program. She can be reached at emilyhilbert1000@gmail.com.

-Marie Johnson



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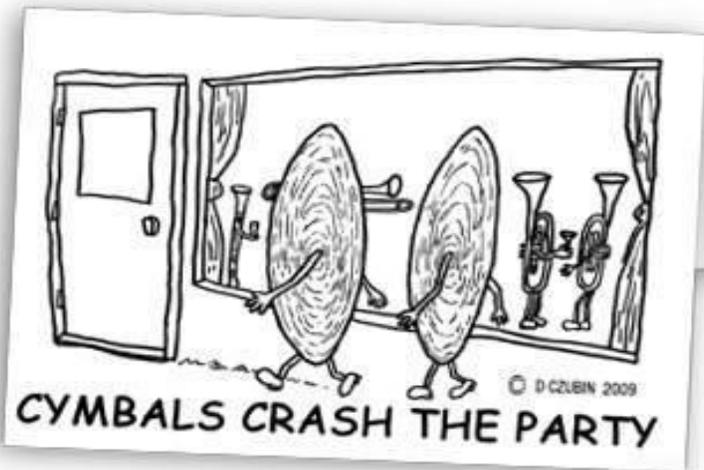
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Vermont Virtuosi



2016-2017 Season

Pipe Dreams 5. The Vermont Virtuosi Flute Ensemble, Vermont's only professional flute choir, performs new works and classical transcriptions. Sep. 30 and Oct. 1 and 2, 2016.

Twilight at the Opera. Singers Sarah Cullins and Wendy Hoffman join flutists Anne Janson and Laurel Ann Maurer and pianist Claire Black in a panoply of luscious operatic arias. Nov. 5 and 6, 2016.

New Beginnings. Clarinetist Karen Luttkik, flutist Laurel Ann Maurer, cellist Emily Taubl, and pianist Paul Orgel perform Brahms' Op. 114 clarinet trio as well as newly commissioned works by Vermont composers Gwyneth Walker and David Gunn. March 4 and 5, 2017.

April Cool. Flutist Laurel Ann Maurer, violinists Letitia Quante and Jane Kittredge, violist Paul Reynolds, and cellist John Dunlop play Mozart, Debussy, Jacques Hétu, David Gunn, and other cool composers. April 1 and 2, 2017.

The concerts are free; donations are appreciated. For venues and other data, visit www.LAMaurerflute.com or www.facebook.com/VermontVirtuosi.

"Vermont Virtuosi concerts are now among the most rewarding chamber music performances in the state."—Barre-Montpelier Times Argus.

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Addendum to Fall Newsletter

Dear Fellow Musicians, Teachers, and Members of the Musical Community,

The search is on for talented high school musicians to participate in the annual Young Artists Showcase Recital, to be held this season on **Tuesday, January 9th from Noon to 1:00** at St. Paul's Cathedral in Burlington, as part of the Cathedral Arts 12-1 concert series.

This is an excellent opportunity for gifted young musicians performing at a high level. The caliber of performance for this concert is high, and students are expected to be polished, artistic, and professional in approach. This special concert is always engaging and enthusiastically received.

Students are asked to audition for the concert by submitting an audio recording to me at the address below, or via email. Recordings must be received by **Friday November 10th**. Students should submit their contact info and their teacher's contact info, as well as repertoire details (titles, composers, and length of pieces) along with their recording. Notification of acceptance will be emailed by Monday 11/27. Vocalists and instrumental soloists other than pianists should make arrangements to play with an accompanist for their recording unless their repertoire is specifically solo. The same accompanist must be available to perform at the concert. The repertoire to be performed on the concert will be chosen from what the student presents on the recording. There is no time limit for material presented on the recording, but selections may be limited if several students are accepted to play on the concert. I will not be available to accompany any students.

The deadline is earlier this year so that concert details can be worked out before the holidays.

If any of you would like to recommend one student, or more, please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to your reply and to listening to the musicians you present. There are talented young people in Vermont who deserve to be heard.

Sincerely,

Claire Black
Bookings Coordinator, Cathedral Arts
[4035 Spear Street](#)
Charlotte, VT [05445](#)
[518.796.4188](#)
claireblack@hotmail.com