



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

July 15, 2014

Dear colleagues,

It's official! As of July 15, 2014, I have certified that VMTA does not engage in actions that could result in an unreasonable restraint of trade among our members. Association members are free to make business decisions based on the dictate of the market. VMTA has no statements in its Bylaws, code of ethics, website or policies that restrains soliciting and recruiting students, advertising prices, terms of teaching services, and competing on price related terms.



MTNA's voluntary withdrawal of its Code of Ethics statement has ended the Federal Trade Commission's investigation that alleges the following provision deprives students from the benefits of competition among music teachers:

THE TEACHER SHALL RESPECT THE INTEGRITY OF OTHER TEACHERS STUDIOS AND NOT ACTIVELY RECRUIT STUDENTS FROM ANOTHER STUDIO.

A copy of the FTC Decision and Order is available for review at <http://www.mtna.org/about-mtna/code-of-ethics>. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Our VMTA does have the following statement in our Bylaws:

VMTA STRONGLY ENCOURAGES ITS MEMBERS TO ADOPT THE MTNA CODE OF ETHICS AS THEIR PERSONAL MODEL OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT.

MTNA has changed its Code of Ethics to meet the Federal Trade Commission compliance guidelines. The new Code of Ethics can be found in its entirety elsewhere in this newsletter. Please read the new Code in its entirety.

Summer provides an opportunity to revise, rethink, and begin anew. Enjoy the freedom summer provides.

Marie Johnson, President, VMTA

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VM TA – 50 Years Old

The Vermont Music Teachers Association was founded in 1965 and will soon be celebrating its 50th anniversary! How exciting that this occasion will fall on the year that VMTA will be hosting the Quad State Convention. Please mark your calendars for October 2nd and 3rd, 2015. Plans are underway for the convention that will begin on Friday night with a dinner and concert. Would you like to help with the celebration? Please contact Patty Bergeron at pcberg@myfairpoint.net. All help is appreciated.

2014 - 2015 VMTA Calendar

September 1, 2014	MTNA Dues Payment Deadline for the 2014-2015 VMTA Membership Directory
September 1, 2014	VMTA Fall Newsletter Deadline for articles, reports and member news
September 10, 2014	Registration Deadline for MTNA Student Competitions
September 27, 2014	Crane Piano Pedagogy Conference
September 30, 2014	Registration Deadline for Fall Convention
October 4, 2014	Fall Conference with Lois Svard, THE MUSICIANS GUIDE TO THE BRAIN
October 4, 2014	Competitive Auditions at the Richmond Library
November 14, 2014	BBVMTA Monster Concert Rehearsals, Trinity Baptist Church, Williston
November 15, 2014	BBVMTA Monster Concert, Trinity Baptist Church, Williston
February 20, 2015	Registration Deadline for Spring Festival
April 4, 2015	Spring Festival at St. Michaels College



The Vermont Music Teachers Association held its 35th annual Spring Festival at St. Michael's College McCarthy Arts Center on Saturday, March 29th. 80 students from the studios of 16 teachers participated, which included several entries from New Hampshire. Many thanks to teachers who provided judging and who monitored throughout the day. We are especially grateful to Susan Summerfield, St. Michael's College Fine Arts Department Chair, who for the fifth year has sponsored this event. Without her, this event would not be possible.

Lilly Ramsey, Spring Festival

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Pianist Claire Black has performed extensively as a soloist and collaborator throughout North America. Originally from the heart of the Adirondacks, Claire is a recent addition to the Vermont classical music scene. She currently enjoys frequent collaborations with flutist Laurel Ann Maurer and her chamber group, Vermont Virtuosi, and hopes to establish many more fruitful partnerships in the area. She also freelances as an accompanist for soloists and various choral groups, including the Burlington Choral Society. Claire spent the previous 8 years in Cleveland, OH. There, she worked as a staff accompanist at Baldwin Wallace University, accompanied several area choirs, and trained at the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM). She received a Master of Music degree in piano performance under the tutelage of Margarita Shevchenko. Her deep interest and commitment to chamber music have led to abundant experience, including many years of performance tours with the Cialde Quintet and with her cello/piano Elegua Duo.

Alongside performing, Claire is an avid piano instructor. She previously taught via the Oberlin Community Music School, in her own studio, and at CIM's Summer Sonata festival for young pianists. She has established a private piano studio in South Burlington and is a proud new member of Vermont Music Teachers Association.

Claire Black, VMTA Secretary



Our VMTA Newsletter is published four times per year. It is delivered as a PDF attachment in your email. New for 2014-2015 is a revised schedule intended to assist with your planning for our upcoming VMTA events as well as to help keep you informed about our past and present activities. You may send submissions for newsletters at any time to tgmiranda@comcast.net. You will find deadlines for your submissions to our newsletters in your VMTA Calendar on the 2nd page of every issue. Our readers love to hear about your lives and studios. They welcome your opinions on performances that you have attended and music that you enjoy. Pictures are always welcome. Every issue will include a section devoted to our members news; both professional and personal. Our lives have become so hectic that we often have difficulty finding the time to correspond with our friends and colleagues. Our Newsletters are a great medium for maintaining contact. Your newsletters will arrive during the following months.

- **SUMMER NEWSLETTER:** Your summer newsletter will arrive in July. This publication will feature our Fall Convention, Quad State Convention and Competitive Auditions information.
- **FALL NEWSLETTER:** Your fall newsletter will arrive in October. This publication will feature our Collaborative Music Event as well as all activities happening in November through February.
- **Winter Newsletter:** Your winter newsletter will arrive in January. This publication will feature Spring Festival as well as all activities happening in February through April.
- **Spring Newsletter:** Your spring newsletter will arrive in April and will feature our activities happening in May through July.

I welcome your feedback on how to make our newsletter more beneficial to your professional and personal teaching career. It is my honor to serve as your newsletter editor and my aim is to publish a magazine that is enjoyable to read as well as providing all of the information that you will need to participate in our VMTA events.

Teresa Miranda, Newsletter Editor

VERMONT MUSIC TEACHERS STATE CONFERENCE

A MUSICIAN'S GUIDE TO THE BRAIN

LOIS SVARD, CLINICIAN

OCTOBER 4, 2014

9:00 - 10:30 SESSION ONE: WHY ARE OUR BRAINS DIFFERENT – AND DOES IT MATTER?

Neuroscientists have been studying musicians and the process of making music for over two decades, and they have amassed a wealth of information that can help us practice and teach more effectively and help us feel more confident in performance. One of the most relevant research areas for musicians is *plasticity*, the ability of the brain to change in response to practice. Over time and hours of practice, the brains of musicians show both structural and functional changes. Understanding how a musician's brain undergoes change can have implications for how we practice and teach, for avoiding injury, for performance anxiety, for students with disabilities, and more.

10:45 - 12:00 SESSION TWO: MIRRORS IN THE MIND

One of the hottest research topics in neuroscience today is mirror neurons, amazing brain cells that fire not only when we act but also when we see someone else performing that same action. Musicians have both an auditory and a visual mirror neuron system, and we'll look at the tremendous implications these mirror systems have for how we listen to music, how we learn music, and even for how an audience member responds to a performance.

12:00 - 1:30 LUNCH FOLLOWED BY VMTA GENERAL MEETING

1:30 - 3:00 SESSION THREE: FROM PERCEPTION TO PERFORMANCE

There are many fascinating discoveries in neuroscience that can have a significant impact on us as performers and teachers and we'll touch on a few of them in this session: the biological basis for making music; the importance of motor imagery in learning and performance; emotion in music; and how to store memory more effectively when learning so that we are able to retrieve it more effortlessly when performing.

3:15 VMTA/MTNA COMPETITIVE AUDITION-TBA



Lois Svard is Professor of Music emerita and former chair of the Department of Music at Bucknell University. Well-known as a champion of contemporary American piano music, she has performed as soloist at festivals and on concert series across the United States, and in Denmark, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. Svard has premiered more than a dozen works written specifically for her and has recorded for both Lovely Music, Inc. and Innovera Studios. *Fanfare* magazine wrote: "Svard's performance impresses ... as so in keeping with the music's soul as to sound a syncretic marvel."

Svard is also known for her work in applying current neuroscience research to the study and performance of music. Results of her work have been presented at major teaching hospitals; at national science conferences such as the Society for Music Perception and Cognition, Neuroscience 2006, and the Performing Arts Medical Association; and at national and international music conferences such as the International Society for Music Education in Thessaloniki and Beijing, the World Piano Pedagogy Conference, and the Music Teachers National Association. She is currently at work on a book that explores how recent discoveries in neuroscience can help musicians in their work in the teaching studio, the practice room, and on the concert stage.

Svard received her D.M.A. in piano performance from the Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University.

2014 VMTA FALL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

WE WOULD SINCERELY APPRECIATE EARLY REGISTRATION TO HELP IN PLANNING. IN ORDER TO BE GUARANTEED OF LUNCH YOU MUST REGISTER BY THE DEADLINE, **SEPTEMBER 30, 2014.**

Name: _____
Telephone: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____

CONVENTION FEE: (PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE CATEGORY)

_____ VMTA Member	\$35
_____ MTNA Member from other states	\$45
_____ Non-Member	\$65
_____ College Student (with ID)	Free

LUNCH (FROM PANERA BREAD): \$14 PER PERSON: PLEASE CHECK CHOICE.

Choices:

___ SANDWICH: MADE ON HOMEMADE BREAD. SERVED WITH CHIPS / COOKIE / BEVERAGE.
Circle choices: Ham & Swiss / Smoked Turkey / Tuna / Mediterranean Vegetable
Bread: Country White / Multi-Grain / Rye / Tomato Basil
Condiments: Mayo / Mustard Vegetables: Lettuce / Tomato / Onion

___ SALAD. SERVED WITH COOKIE / BEVERAGE AND CHOICE OF: **CHIPS / BREAD**
Circle choice: **Classic Salad** (with Balsamic dressing)
 Greek (with herb vinaigrette dressing)
 Caesar (with Caesar dressing)

CONVENTION FEE _____ + LUNCH FEE _____ = TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THE ABOVE FORM AND ENCLOSE A CHECK FOR THE TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE TO THE VERMONT MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION. MAIL TO PATTY BERGERON, 166 WEST STREET, ESSEX JUNCTION, VT 05452.

Questions: Please contact Patty at 802-878-9873 or pcberg@myfairpoint.net

DIRECTIONS TO RICHMOND FREE LIBRARY, 201 BRIDGE ST, RICHMOND VT:

From I-89, take Exit 11. Turn onto Route 2 going towards Richmond for 1.6 miles. At the traffic light turn right onto Bridge Street. The Richmond Library is approximately .2 miles on the left.

2013 Distinguished Composer of the Year



The 2013 MTNA Distinguished Composer of the year, commissioned by the Michigan MTA, had a linear quality with tones going forward. Michael-Thomas Foumai's, **FLASH FICTION**, is a seven movement orchestral work with flute, oboe, clarinet, and horn.

FLASH FICTION takes its title from a term that has come to represent the form of the short story. In this mindset, the work is a set of musical stories drawn from popular culture and literature. Each movement is titled to parody several of the composer's favorite fictional stories from comics, television, novels, short stories, cartoons and cinema:

1. **221B**, the famous door number of Sherlock Holmes.
2. **MODUS OPERANDI**, a kind of homage to detective soliloquies of Dick Tracy and Columbo.
3. **WHODUNIT**, a short musing with seemingly unconnected lines that through time converge, much like the plots found in Agatha Christie's Poirot mysteries.
4. **THE OUTER ZONE**, a combination of The Outer Limits and The Twilight Zone.
5. **TROUBLE WITH MICE...**from Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men.
6. **FANTASTIC FIVE**, after Marvel's Fantastic Four Comics and
7. **STIRRED, NOT SHAKEN**, a homage to the spy-chasing sequences often found in Ian Fleming's books.

This work premiered at the MMTA State Conference recital celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Western Michigan University School of Music.

Kris Becker, commissioned by the Texas MTA, received Honorable mention for his piano solo, **ENTICEMENTS AND ETERNITY**. Since its beginning in 1969, the Commissioned Composer Program is dedicated to encourage the creation of new works by American composers.

Marie Johnson, VMTA President



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

Reflections of Chicago 2014

The MTNA National Conference, held in Chicago in March, exhibited once again the power of music with national competitions, advanced piano master classes, inspiring opening and closing concerts, a Distinguished Composer recital, poster sessions, forums, many choices of presentations, twice daily exhibitor showcases, an exhibit hall, as well as one for all sessions which addressed topics of interest to students and teachers of all instruments.

While Disneyland emphasized the magic of music, Chicago emphasized its power. There were so many topics I wanted to explore! If only there were more of me.

In the Chopin Etudes: Tips and Tricks for smaller hands, Jacelyn A.K. Swigger presented so many strategies (and a couple of cheats) for playing the difficult Chopin etudes with hands that reach just an octave or ninth. Remember that it's about flexibility and not size. Chopin could put his ankle behind his neck!

The liveliest session I attended was Wednesday morning just before the shuttle to the airport. Martha Brewer-Hong presented her Crash Course in Vocal Pedagogy for Piano Teachers during which she entertained us with demonstrations of a variety of vocal styles. She presented slides to illustrate anatomy for breathing, vocal folds, and resonators. Before leaving, the piano teachers promised Martha that we understood we knew just enough to be dangerous. We all promised to be careful with our new knowledge!

One of the most impressive composition winners was the elementary winner, Rebecca Liu, from California. Her composition was entitled, **MY MAGICAL ADVENTURE**.

The three movements were:

- In a Mysterious Dark cave
- Resting on a Cloud
- Jumping with Rabbits

Rebecca played the piano with a clarinet and double bass. The clarinetist told me that he was surprised at Rebecca's composure and maturity during the rehearsal which she directed!

In the midst of so many choices, I attended the following meetings as the President of the VMTA:

- Eastern Division Meeting
- State President Advisory Council
- Annual Business Meeting of the MTNA

The MTNA National Conference is always an energizing musical pot pourri. Think about joining me in Las Vegas next March 2015 for the next national conference.

Marie Johnson, VMTA President



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MTNA Conference – Variety for All

MTNA has made an effort to include topics of interest to teachers of all musical instruments at its national conferences. Some of the One-for-All Sessions were intriguing:

PRACTICING: WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

Sharing effective practice strategies with students is a constant concern of all music teachers. Practical suggestions from a member of the New York Philharmonic was presented as well as the current research on this topic.

MINDFULNESS AND MENTAL WELLNESS FOR MUSICIANS

This topic explored the current research on contemplative practices in education, as well as a variety of mindfulness activities for teachers and students. Lastly, practical ways to incorporate these into the music studio for stress and anxiety management.

STUDENT PRACTICE BEHAVIORS: WHAT ARE THEY REALLY DOING?

This session presented research – based observations about music student practice behaviors, reviewed guidelines for healthful and effective practices, and the implications for teachers.

TEACHING THE EMOTIONAL ASPECTS OF FORM.

Do any of these topics interest you? Would you come to a workshop at the VMTA State Conference if some of these were offered? Please e-mail Patty Bergeron (pcberg@myfairpoint.net) or Marie Johnson (mdjkiln@juno.com) and let us know your interests.

BBVMTA Monster Concert

The Burlington Branch of the VMTA will be holding a monster concert on the weekend of November 14 – 15 at the Trinity Baptist Church in Williston. This is the 11th time the local chapter has held such a concert. The Monster Concert is a large ensemble concert. This year we will have duets and trios played on 6 pianos simultaneously. Ginger Hwalek from Maine will join us again as conductor.


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Address _____

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BBVMTA members will be receiving information regarding the event by the end of July. If you are not a member of BBVMTA, but would like to have your students participate, or have further questions, please contact Patty Bergeron for more information. You can reach her at 878-9873 or pcberg@myfairpoint.net.

Patty Bergeron, Monster Concert Coordinator

MTNA Revised Code of Ethics

The principles and aspirations found in the Code of Ethics are not conditions of membership, but are goals and ideals that each MTNA member should strive to make an essential part of his or her professional commitment to students, to colleagues and to society.

Commitment to Students

- The teacher shall conduct the relationship with students and families in a professional manner.
- The teacher shall respect the personal integrity and privacy of students unless the law requires disclosure.
- The teacher shall clearly communicate the expectations of the studio.
- The teacher shall encourage, guide and develop the musical potential of each student.
- The teacher shall treat each student with dignity and respect, without discrimination of any kind.
- The teacher shall respect the student's right to obtain instruction from the teacher of his or her choice.

Commitment to Colleagues

- The teacher shall maintain a professional attitude and shall act with integrity with regard to colleagues in the profession.
- The teacher shall respect the reputation of colleagues and shall refrain from making false or malicious statements about colleagues.
- The teacher shall refrain from disclosing sensitive information about colleagues obtained in the course of professional service unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law.
- The teacher shall participate in the student's change of teachers with as much communication as possible between parties, while being sensitive to the privacy rights of the student and families.

Commitment to Society

- The teacher shall maintain the highest standard of professional conduct and personal integrity.
- The teacher shall accurately represent his/her professional qualifications.
- The teacher shall strive for continued growth in professional competencies.
- The teacher is encouraged to be a resource in the community.

Adopted December 2003; Revised May 2013



Piano Deconstruction



Our piano has been laid to rest by the most expert of hands and shall be reborn into new creations. Warren Ellison, violin maker (etc..) of Jericho believes he may turn the soundboard into a lute at best, and violin pegs, at least. Ken Mills, of Terra Logic Landscape Designers, has taken the harp to be incorporated into a landscape design. Artist, Michelle Jackson, will be taking various parts to incorporate into new works of art. Frank White and Dave Harmon walked away with all sorts of little parts and pins that will be used for special music, math, or science projects with children. With at least 62 people in attendance ranging from age 3 to adulthood, most were well-absorbed in the days activities and all walked away with a better appreciation for, and understanding of, the instrument they play. We are indebted to so many fine people and organizations for the day's success. Their generosity and talents are what made the day a possibility.

First and foremost are Ed and Emily Hilbert. Emily embraced my idea and helped it to blossom well beyond what I had envisioned. They assisted with moving the piano from our basement to the garage. They enlisted the assistance and passion of their fellow members of the Vermont Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild. Together with the piano technicians who joined them (Allan Day, Tom McNeil, Rose Kinnick and Emily Roth), they spent hours devising the mounted piano actions we later gave as door prizes and worked tirelessly preparing and executing the event. The Hilbert's neighbor, Drew Siegle, helped load the piano into the Hilbert's van. Trinity Baptist Church donated the use of their facility and Mr. Phil Ronco worked tirelessly helping us with onsite logistics. Marie and David Johnson fulfilled the technicians wish list through donations of their own; of their friend Mike Plageman, of the EHS Center for Technology, and of Home Depot. Kirk Smith, Lynn Smith's husband and owner of S&D Landscapes, transported the piano from our garage to the Hilberts for pre-show preparations and then helped them move it into the church. My husband Dave took a film course at RETN to allow us to record this event. He was able to project up close shots from a bird's eye angle on a screen as the deconstruction encouraged hands on participation. VPR gave us special publicity for the event. Our VMTA teachers assisted with checking in guests, monitoring, jumping in and helping kids dismantle smaller sections of the piano, and helping to restore order to the beautiful Trinity Baptist church. Our Teachers promoted and sent families our way. The Burlington Free Press covered the event. Community papers and Seven Days placed us on their calender of events for the day.

O.K. So, would it have been less effort and less expense to bring it to the dump? Absolutely. That said, it would not have been nearly so rewarding! Thank you all so much for making this "crazy idea" come to life.

Lisa Goodrich

Piano Deconstruction Event Coordinator



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From the Student's Perspective

On Saturday April 5th, I had the pleasure of attending a Piano Deconstruction demonstration. It started with modeled diagrams of the keys and the pedals and how they all worked together. After that, we entered into the demonstration hall where the piano sat where it was to be taken apart. The first thing the instructors did was teach us about the types of materials in a piano and then talked a little about it's history. After that they called a girl up to try to play it and the piano played, but it sounded awful. Some of the keys did not work. Next, the instructors started taking the piano apart and asked for volunteers to help. I was chosen to participate. They gave me a screw driver and I went to work taking out all the screws and separated the wood from the metal. All the parts were to be recycled or reclaimed. The next part to be dismantled were the keys. One by one they came out. This was very cool because you got to bring some of the keys home. After that, they took out the dampers along with all the guts in the piano. Finally, the strings were the last removable pieces to come out. This was a very long process because they had to remove each individually. While they were doing this we had to wear safely goggles in case one of the strings flew off into the crowded area of spectators. In the end all that was left of the piano was the sound board. Finally, all of the pieces of the piano were available to be taken home for another use. They raffled off the modeled diagrams of the keys for people to take home. It is amazing how much work goes into making just one key work in a piano. Overall, I think that it was a great day! I found the people to be very kind and energetic along with a very family friendly and hands on project. This was a great experience and I would recommended it to anyone who wants to know more about a piano and how much work really goes into making such a wonderful instrument.

Max Boulerice, 8th grade student and photographer

Max lives in Swanton, Vermont and will be attending Rice Memorial High School in the Fall. He studies piano with Teresa Miranda.



VERMONT MUSIC STUDENTS LEARN WHAT IS BEHIND THE PIANO KEYS

PIANO DECONSTRUCTION TEACHES KIDS WHAT'S BENEATH THE TUNES

USED WITH PERMISSION FROM BURLINGTON FREE PRESS, APRIL 5, 2014

WILLISTON— A 1950s piano, well-worn and beyond repair, sat silent in front of the altar at Trinity Baptist Church in Williston on Saturday.

One by one children removed all 88 keys, 52 white, and 36 black.

While somber at times, even reminiscent of a funeral, the Vermont Music Teachers Association and the Vermont Guild of Piano Technicians intended the piano deconstruction event be a means of education for the public.

Pianist Molly Murphy, 8, of Essex Junction was eager to get her hands dusty. She was told a decomposed mouse carcass, or loose change could be a revelation as she delicately removed a piano key.



Piano Technician Ed Hilbert of Bristol helps children remove piano keys. The Vermont Music Teachers Association and the Vermont Guild of Piano Technicians held the piano deconstruction event Saturday at Trinity Baptist Church in Williston. / LYNN MONTY/Free Press

She had no fear, and there were no surprises for Murphy, good or bad. She victoriously held up her embattled ivory exhumed from the relic with a smile for her parents who were sitting a few rows back. Knowing the mechanics behind her music lessons will make them more interesting, Molly Murphy said after the event.

The Vermont Music Teachers Association, founded in 1965, is a nonprofit educational organization representing music teachers in Vermont.

As curious kids gutted the tired instrument, its back frame and trusses stood sturdy. Maple bridges were removed, and felt-tipped hammers that once struck melodious tunes upon tight strings were laid to rest by tiny hands with the help of piano technicians Emily and Ed Hilbert of Bristol.

The Piano Technicians Guild is a worldwide source of piano service and technology expertise representing more than 100 years of collective knowledge with more than 4,000 global members.

The Hilberts were there to demystify the hidden workings behind the hours of practice music students endure. Higher levels of inquisitiveness arose with each exposed layer students uncovered.

Vermont Music Teachers Association member Lisa Goodrich donated the retired piano. “This is educational, and it will be recycled into other instruments, and design elements for architecture,” she said. “As much as can be will be reused and recycled.”

Learning about the good work piano technicians do gives music students insight, and a solid background to communicate about their instrument, Emily Hilbert said. "This opens the door for them to see that there's more behind that key they play than what is visible to them."

President of Vermont Music Teachers Association Marie Johnson said she was pleased the event was well-attended and that it spread awareness about piano technicians, and the complicated mechanics inside of a piano.

"All of the kids had such good questions for the technicians that as a teacher I couldn't answer, so this is a great collaboration here today," she said.

Contact Lynn Monty at LynnMonty@FreePressMedia.com and follow her on Twitter at www.twitter.com/VermontSongbird.



Music in the Mall



The Music Teachers National Association declared a Collaborative Day of Music in January of 2011. It was to be a Saturday of musicians working together to create music beyond their own discipline. Since our group is predominantly piano oriented, we chose to "collaborate" to "make music" for other children by using our weekend to raise funds for a non-profit specifically for children. In both 2011 and 2012, the VMTA raised money for Camp TaKumTa, a summer camp for children with cancer.

In 2014, we continued to collaborate to raise money for children with serious health issues. This year, we chose to raise money for Ronald McDonald Charities.....also a non-profit for helping families with children experiencing extended hospital stays. They provide housing, food and a home-away-from-home atmosphere with easy access to Fletcher Allen NICU and PICU.

More than 100 students of all ages from at least 10 teachers participated in 12 hours of almost continual music-making. Music from a variety of genres and at every level was well-received by the University Mall audience. Ariel Hanudel and I teamed up to play several duets during "down" times.

What fun to set aside time from busy schedules to prepare with a fellow teacher and to play just for the sheer enjoyment of playing! Many of the students expressed appreciation for the privilege to share their music in a non-recital format.....and for a good cause! Thank you to all the teachers who participated. We sent a check for \$966 to RMC in early April and have received a thank-you letter stating that the money has already been put to good use.

Of course, we could not accomplish what we did without the help of our sponsors.....Hilbert Pianos, Green Mountain Piano Movers and Physicians Computer. A huge THANK YOU for their amazing donations of the piano, the time and manpower to move the piano and the underwriting of the mall fee.

Our next "Collaborative Weekend", which I ended up dubbing "Music in the Mall", is scheduled for January or February of 2016. If you have ideas for charities or other constructive suggestions concerning this event, please feel free to contact me at luspiano@gmail.com. I'll look forward to hearing from you!

Lynn Smith, Collaborative Day of Music Coordinator

From the Student Perspective

Playing at the mall to benefit the Ronald McDonald house was an interesting experience. I was a little nervous at first because the grand piano was up on a platform but after I got up and was playing, it was fine. It was cool to see the people walking by stop and listen to the music. Playing on the Hilbert's beautiful grand piano was fun because I had previously played on it while searching for a new piano. I'm glad I got a chance to play at the mall because it was a unique experience.



Madelyn Ludko, Student of Brenda Logee

Madelyn Ludko & Aly Brady Performing a Duet

I had a good experience playing piano at the mall. I was a little nervous before, but that's because I didn't know how many people were going to be there or stop and listen. It was nice having Maddy play with me because it made it more fun. Once we played through the song the first time, I realized that it wasn't really that nerve racking. All in all, I had a pretty good time.

Aly Brady, Student of Brenda Logee

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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 2014-2015 student competitions can be found online at www.mtna.org. When you go to this website, you will find details for all performance categories and for the composition competitions. Applications must be submitted online by 3 p.m. EST on Wednesday, September 10, 2014. Application forms will be accessible online in August by all MTNA members whose dues are paid for 2014-2015.

The 2014 Vermont performance competitions will be held on Saturday, October 4th at the Richmond Library. As in the past several years, any single entrant in a category will be automatically named by MTNA as our Vermont State Representative, and is required to take part in the Eastern Division Competitions in January. In addition to the required performances by competitors, all state representatives are strongly encouraged to perform their complete program, as submitted in their application, at the Vermont competition on October 4th. All competitors and state representatives will receive written comments from Lois Svard, their judge, who will also be our guest clinician at our VMTA conference. Lois is an experienced performer and a longtime professor at Tufts University.

New this year is a requirement that all compositions must be submitted online with a PDF score and MIDI file. The PDF score must be computer generated using music notation software. No handwritten manuscripts will be accepted. If time permits, Composition winners or representatives may perform their piece(s), or have them performed, at the VMTA performance competition on October 4th.

Teachers who have not previously entered students in the performance competitions should be aware of the level of difficulty of the repertory being played in our other states competitions, especially at the high school level. Repertory from recent competitions may be requested from competitions chair, Liz Metcalfe, at 802-863-2296 by phone or william.metcalfe@uvm.edu. You might find it helpful to look at some past representative programs.

We must secure judges for our Vermont auditions in advance. It would be helpful if teachers who are considering entering students would inform Liz as soon as is feasible, even if their plans are still tentative. The final list of approved entries will not be available until after September 12th.

Elizabeth Metcalfe, Competitive Auditions

Membership Directory

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES? MTNA, VMTA, and BBVMTA dues for the 2014-2015 fiscal years are now due. MTNA mailed your renewal forms in April. The 2014-2015 Membership Directory will be compiled in September for an October delivery along with your 2014 Fall Newsletter. MTNA dues must be paid by September 1, 2014 in order to be included in this directory. Please let me know if any of your contact information changes: mailing address, telephone number, email address or web address. Also, if you hear of any member not receiving our VMTA publications please ask them to contact me. You can reach me at tgmiranda@comcast.net or by phone at 802-893-1919.

Teresa Miranda

Member News



Pianist Diana Fanning and cellist Dieuwke Davydov spent a month in Europe this spring playing concerts in France and Holland. Upon returning home, they collaborated with violinist Viktoria Grigoreva, a senior faculty member of the Royal College of Music in London, in a concert of works by Shostakovich, Franck and Tchaikovsky. This summer Diana will play solo recitals in Nova Scotia and in Glens Falls, Long Lake and Essex, NY. She will perform as a guest artist in the Point Counterpoint Music Camp faculty concert in Middlebury on July 28.

.....

We had a wonderful student and audience turnout for THE NEXT GENERATION concert in Randolph on May 16. This is the 6th year for this event, which is the Vermont version of FROM THE TOP, and is the brainchild of Janet Watton, the president of the board of Chandler Center for The Arts. More VMTA teachers and others in the Burlington area ought to take advantage of this performing opportunity for their high school aged students (13 to 18). The hall is acoustically fabulous and the 9 foot Steinway is excellent. 29 students played and or sang in various configurations: chamber groups to soloists; piano, cello, violin, flute and even marimba! The kids all had a great time getting to know each other at the tech rehearsal and pot-luck dinner which preceded the concert. You cannot put a high enough value on a gathering like this, where *all* of the kids love CLASSICAL music and find out they are not alone in that love. No membership in any organization is required of either student or teacher: just sign up to audition. March is when auditions are held. This year the judges had 24 auditions to hear and accepted 16 for the concert, which lasted about 2 1/2 hours. I was particularly pleased to hear Tyler Emerson play the ABEGG Variations of Schumann *very* well. I heard him several years ago when I did a Master Class for Marie-Helene Belanger's students in the St. Johnsbury area. He has come a long way since then. Congratulations, Marie-Helene!

The Goff brothers were again on the program with Jonathan as the pianist for Schubert's, Trio in Bb Major (1st movement) with his brother Matthew on cello, and David Horak on violin; Jonathan and Matthew played the Shostakovich Cello Sonata (2nd movement). Youngest of the four brothers, Joseph, played solo Bach: two Minuets and the Gigue from Partita in Bb. You and your students can enjoy these performances on the Goff Brothers channel of YouTube. However watch out that you don't get the rock group of the same name!

On a much more serious note, our homeowner's insurance company recently threatened to cancel our coverage *because I am teaching piano in my home studio*, which of course I have been doing for over forty years without any problems! So, fair warning to all of us who teach at home: homeowners will not and does not cover damage or loss to your instruments or music or equipment in a home business. They will also not cover liability for student injuries or God forbid: sexual harrassment claims. I am being forced to take out a business policy and an instrument policy *or* we will lose our homeowners policy. MTNA can help. They have information on their website for Clarion Insurance which can provide both home, business and instrument insurance. BUT it ain't cheap, folks. Be warned!

Marilyn Taggart

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Elaine Greenfield reporting on Friday, August 8th, 7:30 pm, the **TRANSCONTINENTAL PIANO DUO** performs for the **VERMONT FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS**. We present a program of piano four-hands featuring works from Beethoven to Bernstein at the Warren United Church in Warren Village. Contact 802-496-3865, 864-9209, or www.vermontartfest.com for information. On Friday, June 13, at St. Paul's Cathedral, I performed a joint recital with flutist Pamela Guidetti of Philadelphia & Maryland, formerly of New England, winner of the Young Concert Artists Guild Competition and protégé of the great French master, Marcel Moyse. We teamed up to present **A SPRING EVENING OF MUSIC AND ART**, which featured many familiar flute piano works, solo piano & solo flute works, and a special display of Pamela Guidetti's oil paintings. Check out <http://www.elainegreenfield.com> for audio samples of our performances. **GREENFIELD PIANO ASSOCIATES** performed their annual recital Friday, May 30, at St. Paul's Cathedral and Wed., June 4, at the Richmond Library. The concert, **INTO THE 20TH CENTURY**, featured works drawn from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Concerts benefitted GPA Scholarship Fund and Richmond Senior Center.



I taught once again at the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, held at UVM, this summer, and performed on two faculty concerts in the Recital Hall: the Mozart E-flat Piano Quartet, K.493 on Wednesday evening, June 25, at 7:30, and Josef Suk, Piano Quartet on Wednesday, July 2, 7:30. Please check my website for details: <http://www.paulorgel.com>. Also check out two new youtube videos: my concert performances of the Chopin Fantasy, op. 49 and the Schubert Impromptu D. 935/4.



Paul Orgel



Brenda Logee, Georgia, VT, received her Master's degree in School Counseling, in May, 2014, from Johnson State College. She is hoping to secure a full time Guidance Counselor position soon. As part of her course of study, Brenda conducted an independent study in music therapy and plans to bring elements of this discipline into her work as a school counselor as well as her piano teaching studio. Music is a powerful medium to heal mind, body, and soul and she is excited to have a greater impact on students.

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A Special Solo Piano Recital by Alan Chiang

On Tuesday evening, July 29th, 7:30 PM, at Saint Michael's College's McCarthy Arts Center, 16 year-old piano virtuoso Alan Chiang will perform music by Haydn (Sonata in E Minor), Schumann (Papillons), Liszt (Mephisto Waltz), and others. Admission is free and open to the public with donations accepted.

Alan's hour-long program is a benefit concert for Burlington's Me2 Orchestra, the world's only classical music organization created for individuals with mental illnesses and people who support them. The orchestra is a non-auditioned ensemble that rehearses weekly and performs 3-4 times annually in traditional concert venues, inside correctional and rehabilitation facilities, and for mental health events. Me2/ ("me, too") is a model organization where people with and without mental illnesses work together in an environment where acceptance is an expectation, patience is encouraged, and supporting each other is a priority. For more information, please visit www.Me2orchestra.org.

Alan Chiang, 16 years old, is a rising junior at South Burlington High School. He was Vermont's 2013 MTNA Piano Competition state round winner, and a Foundation for Chinese Performing Arts Piano Concerto Competition finalist. He has attended and performed at many international summer music festivals, including Boston University's Tanglewood Institute, the Bowdoin International Music Festival, and the Walnut Hill Music Festival, and has been featured for several years in Young Artists concerts at Burlington's St. Paul's Cathedral. Alan Chiang's primary piano teacher is Dr. Paul Orgel. He has played annually in master classes at the Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival, as well as for such notable teachers and performers as Hung Kuan Chen, Alexander Korsantia, John O'Connor (at the Adamant School), and Arie Vardi, among many others, and will participate in master classes given by Menachem Pressler later this summer. Alan's performances can be seen on his youtube channel: ABCVermont.

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