



WINTER NEWSLETTER

January 9, 2015

HAPPY BIRTHDAY VMTA! This is the year that VMTA is turning 50. That's a lot of candles to blow out! When a friend turns 50, there are many sayings on cards from which to choose to wish a happy 50th:

- If you haven't grown up by 50, you don't have to!
- Life begins at 50. Everything else begins to wear out, fall out, or spread out!
- I'm not 50. I'm 18 with 32 years' experience!
- Just remember, when you are over the hill, you pick up speed!



VMTA is just picking up speed! From our humble beginnings to 2015, VMTA has been a vital organization uniting music professionals throughout Vermont. Frank Lidral was our first president in 1965, and since that first year, there have been seventeen different Presidents and numerous other officers and members (many serving more than one term!). During these 50 years, there have been countless conferences, festivals, concerts, distinguished composers, and board meetings. At 50, we have a rich heritage and an exciting future as we march to 100!

Patty Bergeron is chairing a committee planning our 50th celebration to coincide with VMTA hosting the QUAD State Conference the weekend of October 2-3, 2015. Save the date! If you have ideas, let us know. In the interim, just remember: **VMTA IS NOT GETTING OLDER, ONLY BETTER!**

Marie Johnson, President



2015 VMTA Calendar

February 20, 2015	Registration Deadline for Spring Festival
March 15, 2015	VMTA Winter Newsletter Deadline for articles, reports and member news
March 21 - 25, 2015	MTNA National Conference in Las Vegas
April 4, 2015	Spring Festival at St. Michaels College
October 2, 2015	VMTA 50th Anniversary Celebration
October 3, 2015	Quad State Convention

Spring Festival 2015



The VMTA Spring Music Festival is scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 2015 in the McCarthy Arts Center at St. Michael's College in Colchester. Keyboard auditions will use a recital format, with each open audition block having a rotating panel of two judges. Recital format with one judge will be used for non-keyboard auditions.

All students will have open auditions scheduled in one-hour "audition" time blocks. The students should plan to check in with the monitor 10 minutes before the scheduled audition block is to begin, and they are expected to stay through the one hour audition block in which they are scheduled. Because of scheduling challenges, teachers should not count on being able to hear their students perform.

To register, please email Lilly Ramsey at cldkramsey@comcast.net. Lilly will email you an Excel attachment to complete and return to her with teacher, student and performance information. After completing the electronic registration form, you will mail your registration check to Lilly. The deadline for registration and receipt of registration check is Friday, February 20, 2015 at 6 pm. **YOUR REGISTRATION CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED IN ORDER FOR YOUR REGISTRATION TO BE PROCESSED.**

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mdjkiln@juno.com

President Elect

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

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Claire Black
(518) 796-4188
clairemblack@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Sarah Williams
(802) 223-5307
sarah5432@gmail.com

Convention

Patricia Cleary Bergeron
(802) 878-9873

pcberg@myfairpoint.net

Non-Competitive Auditions

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(802) 879-7425
cldkramsey@comcast.net

Competitive Auditions

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william.metcalfe@uvm.edu

Certification

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sylvia.parker@uvm.edu

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Composer Commissioning

Susan Nicholas NCTM
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snicholasvt@msn.com

2015 VM TA SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

8:30 to 9:00 am	Pick up schedules
9:00 to 10:00 am	Auditions
10:00 to 11:00 am	Auditions
11:00 to 12:00 pm	Auditions
12:00 to 1:15 pm	Lunch & Business Meeting: bring your lunch; Water, Juice & Dessert will be provided.
1:30 to 2:30 pm	Auditions
2:30 to 3:30 pm	Auditions
3:30 to 4:30 pm	Auditions

Please note: There will be no refreshment table. Please plan accordingly.

LEVELS AND FEES

KEYBOARD:

		Total Time	FEE
Level I	Beginner to Mid Elementary	3 minutes	\$10.00
Level II	Late Elementary to Early Intermediate	5 minutes	\$10.00
Level III	Mid-Intermediate to Early Advanced	8 minutes	\$15.00
Level IV	Advanced	11 minutes	\$15.00

NON-KEYBOARD:

All levels	11 minutes	\$15.00
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Recital format with one judge will be used for all non-keyboard auditions. Non-keyboard repertoire is left to the discretion of the teacher. You will find sample programs on the next page.

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VMTA SPRING FESTIVAL AUDITION RULES

1. **Students entered in levels I and II** shall perform a program of 2 or 3 pieces that are contrasting in mood, style, or tempo. At these levels (I and II) each individual piece or movement counts as one item, with no restrictions as to number of composers or periods.

Students entered in levels III and IV shall perform a program of 2 or 3 Program Items, each item representing a different historical period and style from the other(s). At these levels, the student and teacher may Combine shorter pieces or movements from a work by the Same Composer into One program item. The time limit for the overall program still applies regardless of the number of pieces within the program items. No arrangements of any kind are allowed.

2. No repeats shall be taken in long intermediate/advanced level works (i.e. sonata allegro form). Repeats may be performed in short elementary level pieces or when differing 1st and 2nd endings are important to the structure of the piece.
3. All programs *must adhere* to the *stated time limits*. Please allow time for a brief pause between pieces.
4. The student must provide the judges with a copy of the music. *NO PHOTOCOPIES ARE ALLOWED.*
5. For pianists, all pieces must be memorized. For instrumentalists, it is suggested that one piece be memorized.
6. **For keyboard students, no simplified arrangements of original piano works by Baroque, Classical, Romantic, or Contemporary composers are permitted.** Arrangements of folk/traditional songs are acceptable for levels I and II. Original repertoire is encouraged for all students. For instrumentalists, the use of arrangements is at the discretion of the teacher.
7. Instrumentalists must provide their own accompanists.
8. Repertoire for pianists is limited to solo works (no ensemble pieces). All auditions are conducted in an *open recital* format where students play for an audience of parents and other students in addition to the judges.
9. Only students of member teachers may participate.
10. The student must have studied with his/her teacher for at least 6 months.
11. All students in keyboard auditions levels III and IV are advised to number the first measure of each line in their music. Other students may also wish to enter measure numbers in their scores.



SAMPLE KEYBOARD PROGRAMS

These sample programs are only a very few examples of possible programming. The repertoire choices (and their sources) at each level are left up to the teacher. However, **please follow all the audition rules from the previous page.**

Level I: Beginner to Mid-Elementary

audition time limit: 3 minutes

<i>Sample Program A</i>	1. French Folk Song arr. Faber	Au Clair de la Lune	30 sec.
	2. Brown	Rainbow Song	60 sec.
<i>Sample Program B</i>	1. Alfred Premier Piano Course 2A	Butterfly World	40 sec.
	2. Alfred Premier Piano Course 2A	Boogie Bounce	25 sec.
	3. Goldston	The Lady and the Dragon	75 sec.

Level II: Late Elementary to Early Intermediate

audition time limit: 5 minutes

<i>Sample Program A</i>	1. Latour	Sonatina in C Allegro	1 min.
	2. Siegmeister	Song of the Dark Woods	40 sec.
	3. Mier	Lady Brittany's Ballad	2 min.
<i>Sample Program B</i>	1. Petzold	Minuet in g minor	2 min.
	2. Tchaikovsky	Old French Song	1 min. 45 sec.
	3. Kabalevsky	The Clown	45 sec.

Level III: Mid-Intermediate to Early Advanced

audition time limit: 8 minutes

<i>Sample Program A</i>	1. Clementi	Sonatina Op. 36 No. 3 Allegro con spirito	3 min.
	Clementi	Sonatina Op. 36 No. 3 Rondo	2 min.
	2. Grieg	Puck	2 min.
<i>Sample Program B</i>	1. Bach	Invention No. 8	1 min. 30 sec.
	2. Mozart	Sonata K.545 Allegro	3 min.
	3. Khatchaturian	Etude (Ivan is busy)	2 min.

Level IV: Advanced

audition time limit: 11 minutes

<i>Sample Program A</i>	1. Bach	Prelude WTC Book 1, No. 21	1 min. 30 sec.
	Bach	Fugue WTC Book 1, No. 21	2 min. 30 sec.
	2. Chopin	Mazurka Op. 33, No. 1	2 min.
	3. Shostakovich	Fantastic Dance Op. 5, No. 1	1 min. 30 sec.
	Shostakovich	Fantastic Dance Op. 5, No. 3	1 min. 30 sec.
<i>Sample Program B</i>	1. Beethoven	Sonata Op. 2, No. 1 Allegro	3 min. 30 sec.
	2. Chopin	Nocturne Op. 72, No.1	5 min.
	3. Kabalevsky	Prelude Op. 38, No. 2	1 min.

STEPS TO ENROLL A STUDENT 2015 VM TA SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL

ELECTRONIC ENROLLMENT

To register, please email Lilly Ramsey at cldkramsey@comcast.net. Lilly will email you an Excel attachment to complete and return to her with teacher, student and performance information. After completing the electronic registration form, you will mail your registration check to Lilly. The deadline for registration and receipt of registration check is Friday, February 20, 2015 at 6 pm **YOUR REGISTRATION CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED IN ORDER FOR YOUR REGISTRATION TO BE PROCESSED.**

Please carefully read the rules, the levels and fees chart (see page 3), and the instructions that follow. Email Lilly Ramsey as soon as you know you will have students participating in Spring Festival to request the Excel attachment so that you have time to complete this Excel form and email it back.

Lilly Ramsey will do her best to accommodate teachers' request to hear their students' auditions but she cannot guarantee that the schedule will allow every teacher to hear all her entrants. Completing the registration process early and being flexible in the time and number of hours that you are available to judge helps this scheduling process. Also, entry fees cannot be refunded; therefore, teachers are advised to check with students/parents regarding conflicting activities for April 4th prior to registration deadline.

If you are sending students to the auditions, it is required that you volunteer your time to judge or monitor. To make the Spring Festival a success, we must have high teacher participation! For every 2 students entered, a teacher should volunteer 1 hour. The *Guidelines* sheet for monitors will be sent to you by email when you register.

TEACHERS NOT SENDING STUDENTS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO VOLUNTEER AS JUDGES OR MONITORS. PLEASE EMAIL LILLY TO VOLUNTEER.

**TO EXPEDITE THE ENORMOUS TASK OF SCHEDULING
PLEASE OBSERVE THE FEBRUARY 20TH DEADLINE.**

VMTA Donor Program

Your VMTA Board has endorsed the new donor program again for 2015. Launched in 2013, the donor program was created to expand the base of VMTA supporters and increase revenue allowing our VMTA to become more financially stable and increase programs for students and members. Prior to 2013, VMTA had not asked for charitable contributions. Instead, VMTA solicits sponsors to advertise their businesses on our web site and in our newsletter. Presently, there are eleven sponsors adding \$1300 annually to our budget.

Each of our 54 VMTA members has committed parents who support the music education of their children. Many also work for businesses that would support our organization with charitable contributions and/or matching contributions. The donor program is different from the sponsorship programs because VMTA does not provide advertising in our publications or on our web site. Instead, donors will be listed in our fall and spring program publications. All contributions are tax deductible as our VMTA is a nonprofit organization registered with the Vermont Secretary of State.

I believe that many parents will support VMTA just by asking. The major reason people do not give is because they are not asked! Asking parents who know the VMTA should be an easy ask as our teachers are known and represent a profession that they are already supporting by having their children enrolled in music lessons. Monies raised by the donor program are used to expand programs for students and increase the training and educational programs for teachers.

Attached are preprinted letters and donor forms for your personal use. At your convenience, please personalize the letter and distribute to your parents. The contributions can be sent directly to our VMTA Treasurer whose address is listed on the form. Your cooperation and participation is very much appreciated.

For further information, please call me (879-8863) or e-mail mdjkiln@juno.com.

Marie Johnson, VMTA President

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Dear Parents and Friends,

I am a member of the Vermont Music Teachers Association (VMTA). We are an affiliate of the Music Teachers National Association, which has affiliates in all 50 states. The VMTA is a nonprofit educational organization representing and supporting music teachers in Vermont. Its purpose is to promote music education in Vermont and to encourage growth and professional development for members by providing opportunities that support teaching, performing, composition, and research.

For me, the VMTA is an important organization, and I know that my colleagues feel the same way. It offers many benefits for our students. The following are some of our programs and activities:

- Professional Certification
- Continuing Education through State, Regional, and National Conventions
- Professional Development Scholarships and Grants
- Local Workshops
- Competitive and Non-competitive opportunities for students
- Regional Concerts and Student Recitals

These programs are supported by member dues and a loyal group of sponsors. We also seek financial support from our student families, local businesses, and others. By supporting and expanding these programs for students and teachers, we can offer high-quality music education in Vermont. If your employer offers matching contributions, we would very much appreciate it if that could be included in your gift. Donors are listed in several event programs. VMTA is registered as a non-profit corporation in Vermont, so your donation is tax-deductible. Please donate to VMTA. We offer the following contribution levels:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| • Up to \$25 | Andante Level |
| • \$26-\$99 | Allegro Level |
| • \$100 - \$199 | Vivace Level |
| • \$200 and above | Presto level |

Please complete and mail the donor form with your check to the address listed on the form. And *thank you* for supporting music education in Vermont.

Sincerely,



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How do you wish your name(s) to be listed _____

For Student Families - your Teacher's name _____

If your employer offers matching contributions, we would very much appreciate it if that could be included in your gift.

Please make check payable to VMTA and mail it with this form to the VMTA Treasurer:

Sarah Williams
796 North Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

THANK YOU for your support of Vermont Music Teachers Association

In Memoriam

Lowell Trecartin

1957 – 2014

Lowell Trecartin, owner-operator of Green Mountain Piano Moving, and active supporter of the VMTA, died unexpectedly but peacefully at his home in West Danville on November 24, 2014. A service of remembrance for Lowell was held on December 1, 2014 in the Seventh Day Adventist Church in St. Johnsbury.

As owner-operator of Green Mountain Piano Moving based in South Barre, he developed a nationwide reputation for excellence and was considered the best in that niche market. Over the years, he has moved many pianos for VMTA.

Lowell was born in Iron Mountain, Michigan. He attended Seventh Day Adventist Church Academy and College, and was self-employed throughout his career owning cabinetry and plastering companies in Massachusetts. He loved canoeing and exploring in Canadian wilderness areas. In 2013, he fell in love with maple sugaring and had nearly finished work on a maple sugar house.



Lowell is survived his wife, Suzanne, and daughter Brittany, along with other family members. Contributions in lieu of flowers can be made to Evangelism, St. Johnsbury SDA Church, 54 Southard Street, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819.

Lowell's life touched many people. VMTA will miss him and extends condolences to his family.



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Winter Piano Care

TIPS TO HELP KEEP YOUR PIANO FROM CLUNKING

We all think about preparing ourselves for the winter. Winterizing our homes usually includes things like chimney sweeping, furnace maintenance, and window sealing. Before you put the checklist away, take some time to consider the negative effects the heating season can have on your piano.



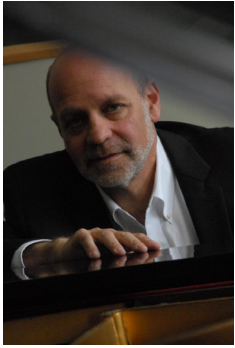
When your piano technician comes for your semi-annual/annual tuning, you are probably used to hearing a lecture about the benefits of keeping your piano in a steady climate. **THE MORE THE CLIMATE FLUCTUATES THE MORE YOUR PIANO'S TUNING WILL AS WELL.** When we turn on the heat the dry air will gradually suck the moisture out of the wood, changing the position of the soundboard and bridges, hence changing the tuning. When wood loses moisture other problems may crop up, too. You may notice **EXTRA NOISES** when you play. Clicking sounds are sometimes caused by loose screws, loose hammer heads, loose key tops, or other broken glue joints. Too much moisture can also cause problems, so we need to be mindful about keeping our pianos in the comfort zone.

What you can do for preventative maintenance:

1. **BUY A HYGROMETER THAT HAS A "MIN/MAX" FEATURE.** This is a tool that helps you to measure the relative humidity (RH) in the room. According to the Dampp-Chaser Corporation, 42%RH is ideal. However, according to the National Environmental Systems Contractor's Association (NESCA), during the winter months, the highest "safe" indoor humidity when the outside temperature is 30 degrees is 35%RH. Keep the hygrometer on the piano's music desk or in an area near the piano so that you are getting an accurate reading of the cycle your piano is experiencing.
2. **DO I NEED TO MOVE MY PIANO?** If your piano is directly next to a heating source (or a window that will be open during the non-heating season) move your piano to a different location! I know that this is not always possible. Check with your piano technician if you have any doubts.
3. **TURN DOWN THE HEAT. RUN A HUMIDIFIER?** If you are able to control the heat by room, consider keeping the room with the piano at a lower temperature. If you decide to run a room humidifier, make sure that it is far enough away from the piano and that you follow the guidelines of the NESCA (mentioned under Heading 1.) If the humidifier is too close it can cause piano issues associated with too much moisture like rust and mold. Remember to check your hygrometer to monitor the room's moisture!
4. **Consider a climate control system for your piano.** The "Piano Life Saver" system by the Dampp-Chaser Corporation is an excellent product that will help to minimize your piano's climate cycle: www.pianolifesaver.com If you already have one of these, please ask your piano technician to change the humidifier pads when they are there to tune.
5. **Schedule an appointment for Tuning or Maintenance.** It is a good idea to adhere to your regular tuning schedule. However, if your piano is making extra noise or if you're experiencing sticking keys, it may be time for some maintenance. If you don't already have someone taking care of your piano, find a **Registered Piano Technician** in your area at www.ptg.org

by Roselyn Kinnick, Registered Piano Technician

Member News



Two of my students, Alan Chiang, and Annie Meadows, will be featured in solo performances on the Young Artist's Program, Jan. 13th at Saint Paul's Cathedral, Burlington, from 12:00 - 1:00 PM.

Matthew Wu performed a solo recital on the piano series at the Essex Public Library in September. Teddy Ninh will do the same in the spring.

In October, I accompanied Geoffrey Penar and Christopher Colmenero, two up-and-coming young opera singers, who started their training locally in the inaugural program of a new concert series, *THE ART OF SINGING*, presented by voice teacher Bill Reed. I'll accompany soprano Jennifer Bird-Arvidsson in the second concert in the series on March 25th at Saint Michael's College, featuring the first Vermont performance of Alban Berg's *SEVEN EARLY SONGS*. I was also happy to honor Walter Parker for 30 years as a classical radio host in a live concert on WVPR, performing with flutist Karen Kevra.

Paul Orgel

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This Holiday Season would be the perfect time to think about sharing our gifts with those less fortunate. As private, professional teachers we can help give a child the gift of a lifetime. The MusicLink Foundation pairs professional teachers with students of limited means enabling them to have lessons they otherwise could never afford.

Please help us in our mission to 'create musicians ... one student at a time'. We are seeking teachers with BIG hearts willing to teach (1) student a 30-minute lesson for half their normal rate. By many teachers teaching one MusicLink student rather than one teacher teaching 10, it shares the load and shares the wealth to reach more kids in need.

Here is what one teacher had to say..."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."

If you are willing to join our family of dedicated MusicLink teachers and put a smile on a face, a song in a heart, or make a dream come true; then please contact me if you would like more information about this life-changing program.

If you are already teaching a student scholarship lessons, the registering process is even simpler. All it takes is 5 minutes of your time to 'link' up. You and your student will receive help securing a practice instrument, donated music, discounted piano tunings and moving costs, a scholarship to a summer camp, teacher reimbursement grants and more. Check out our website at www.musiclinkfoundation.org. Read our latest newsletter where we placed 3 beautiful pianos in the homes of MusicLink students this past summer. What joy! One was a Vermont student from Thetford!

When I attended the Richmond Convention in 2010 and heard the presentation by Joanne Haroutounian,

Executive Director and founder of MusicLink, my heart was touched. I thought this could be my way of 'giving back', my way of reaching one child who may be longing to play an instrument. It has turned out to be the most life-changing experience for me. My heart has grown so much bigger and the smile on the face of a child receiving donated music or a donated piano is priceless!~ I have had the opportunity to witness this first-hand multiple times.

I have recently stepped down as the Northeast Regional Coordinator for 11 states and wish to dedicate my time to the children of Vermont. Please help me by spreading the good news about MusicLink. If you would like some brochures, I'll be sure they are sent to you.

Next May (date to be determined), we will be holding our annual PLAYATHON fundraiser at the PowerHouse Mall in West Lebanon, NH. If you and your students would like to participate, we have a wonderful day of music making filling the mall with beautiful sounds. In past years we have had piano, violin, cello, and vocal students participate and hopefully this year some guitar students will join in the fun and fellowship.



Yes I have moved from Montpelier to Wilder, Vermont; but I think of you often and wish you all the Happiest of New Years!

With Warmest Wishes,

Judy Vanesse, Vermont State Coordinator,

jvan2006@comcast.net

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Additions to Membership Directory

Your Membership Directory included all members that renewed or joined the VMTA by September 23, 2014. The following members are not included in your directory. We would like to welcome our new members.

Nancy Osborne
119 Hadley Rd
South Burlington, VT 05403
1-802-863-0086
nancyosborneinvermont@gmail.com

Joanne K. Rawson-Moreau
351 Cilley Hill Road
Underhill VT 05489
802-899-3945
jrawsonmoreau@gmail.com

Spring Newsletter

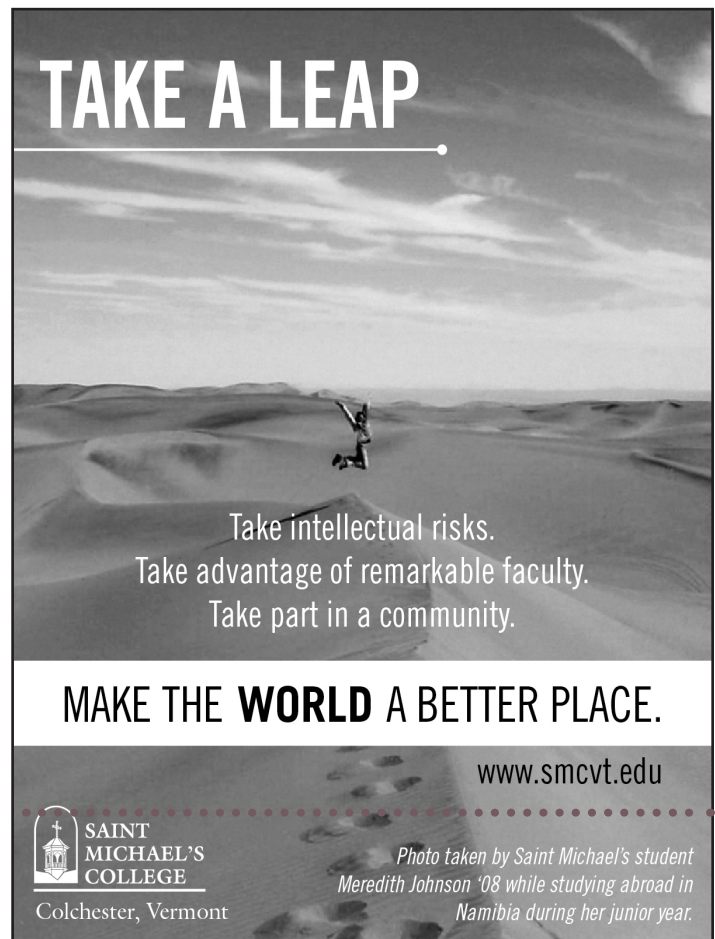
Your VMTA Spring Newsletter will be published in April. Please send your articles, member news and photos to Teresa Miranda at tgmiranda@comcast.net by March 15th in order to be included in our Spring Newsletter.

Do you have a teaching technique that works well in your studio? Have you read an inspiring book or seen an inspiring performance? Do you have a student that would like to write about their experience performing in our VMTA events? Our members would love to read about your studios and your thoughts. All photos and paragraphs written by children under the age of 18 will need to have a consent form signed by their parents. Let me know if you would like for me to supply this document.

Every VMTA member should have received a Summer Newsletter in July, a Fall Newsletter in October and a Winter Newsletter in January as well as a Membership Directory in October. You should also receive a Spring Newsletter in April. All VMTA Newsletters and Membership Directories are published as PDF documents attached to your email. You may also request printed copies of any or all of these documents mailed to your home.

If and when any of your contact information changes please let me know by phone 802-893-1919 or by email tgmiranda@comcast.net so that I can update my files. If you know of any members not receiving their mailings, please let me know so that I can correct this oversight.

Teresa Miranda, Newsletter Editor




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

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<http://www.greenmountainpiano.com>

Hilbert Pianos

40 Pleasant Street
Bristol, VT 05443
(802) 453-3743

Little Valley Piano Service

Greg Moore, Jr. RPT
1863 Howard Hill Road
Benson, VT 05743
Office: (802) 438-5279
Cell: (802) 247-4266

<http://www.littlevalleypiano.com>

Piano Service by Rose Kinnick, RPT

(802) 598-3385
roselynkinnick@comcast.net
<http://www.rosespianoservice.com>

St Michael's College

1 Winooski Park
Colchester, VT 05439
(802) 654-2580
<http://www.smcvt.edu>

Vermont Piano Service

Ben Giroux
64 Paquette Road
St. Albans, VT 05478
(802) 343-1333
Ben@vermontpiano.com
<http://www.vermontpiano.com>