

# VERMONT MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.

February 13, 2012

## WINTER NEWSLETTER

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this, I hope my students are polishing their pieces for their VMTA sponsored performance at University Mall in Burlington! After a great Quad State Convention in Massachusetts, we followed up with Sylvia Parker's presentation on Bartok in Vermont, a regional meeting in Montpelier, and a gathering to hear about the Vermont Midi Project and its new software for studio use. This was held in Middlebury. There has been a sincere effort to make VMTA more accessible throughout the state and new ideas are planned for the future. It will take time but the board is hopeful we can encourage new members with these efforts. Your ideas are always invited as we work together on this.

As the year concludes there are several events to highlight. 1) Spring Festival is on March 31. There is the traditional general meeting of VMTA members over lunch. Come join us at the St. Michael's College Fine Arts Center even if you did not place students in Spring Festival. 12 Noon (in Room 134) is a good time to target joining us. We will be done by 1:15 PM. 2) The MTNA Convention is in New York City. Several members are going and Elaine Greenfield will be a panelist/performer. This is a huge honor! 3) The deadline and guidelines for application for VMTA Professional Development Awards has been changed. New details are included in this newsletter.

Thank you for your help and support in these endeavors,

**Jane Goldstein, VMTA President**

### 2012 VMTA SPRING FESTIVAL

The VMTA Spring Music Festival is scheduled for **Saturday, March 31, 2012** in the **McCarthy Arts Center at Saint Michael's College**. Please email the Festival Chairman, **Lilly Ramsey** at [cldkramsey@comcast.net](mailto:cldkramsey@comcast.net) to receive by email an Excel attachment to complete and return to Lilly with teacher, student and performance information. If you are unable to do the electronic enrollment please call Lilly Ramsey at 802-879-7425. There is a great deal of work to be attended to after entries are in: schedules arranged, rooms assigned, programs printed, certificates made out, ribbons ordered, judges assigned and notified as well as teachers. Therefore, please observe the **February 24, 2012 registration deadline**.

### 2012 VMTA CALENDAR

**February 24, 2012** Registration Deadline for VMTA Spring Festival  
**March 31, 2012** VMTA Spring Festival, St. Michael's College, Colchester, VT  
**June 8, 2012** VMTA Summer Newsletter Deadline for articles, reports & member news

#### VMTA 2010/2012 Officers: (VT Area Code is 802)

<u>President:</u> Jane Goldstein 496-3418	<u>Convention:</u> Patty Bergeron 878-9873	<u>Membership:</u> Elaine Greenfield 864-9209
<u>President Elect:</u>	<u>Non-Competitive Auditions:</u> Lilly Ramsey 879-7425	<u>Web Development:</u> Lisa Goodrich 872-7554
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<u>Secretary:</u> Mary Ann Samuels 658-0832 Brenda Logee Hall 893-4660	<u>Certification:</u> Sylvia Parker 223-1172	<u>Student Composition:</u> Jody Woos 453-2360
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## Burlington Branch VMTA

**Thank you to Liz Metcalfe** BBVMTA Recital Chair, for organizing the Nov.6, 2011 student recital held at St. Paul's Cathedral. There was one recital at 7:00pm and 11 students performed. The students were from the studios of **Patricia Bergeron, Elaine Greenfield, Marie Johnson, Elizabeth Metcalfe, Paul Orgel, Melody Puller, Lilly Ramsey, and Barbara Williams.**

Other BBVMTA events this year include:

**February 12, 2012 2:30pm BBVMTA Student Recital**  
**St. Paul's Cathedral** (Postmarked Registration deadline Jan. 28)

### **June 11, 2012 10:00am Year End Meeting and Luncheon**

At the Home & Business of Emily Hilbert, 40 Pleasant Street, Bristol, VT

This is a wonderful location to play thru the music for the upcoming monster concert in monster style. We will have a pot-luck luncheon following. So, please bring your favorite dish to share for a fun time with your music colleagues.

**RSVP to Patty Bergeron:** [pberger@myfairpoint.net](mailto:pberger@myfairpoint.net) 802-878-9873

An e-mail was recently sent to BBVMTA members. Included in the e-mail were forms for the upcoming recital at St. Paul's Cathedral and information regarding the year end luncheon. If you are a member of the local chapter, and did not receive that information, please contact Patty Bergeron.

### **VMTA Fall Convention 2012**

Do you have suggestions for the fall convention? Your ideas are welcome regarding topic or suggestions for clinicians. Please contact **Patty Bergeron**, Conventions Chair.

### 2011 Quad State Convention A Great Success

by Barbara Williams

The Quad State Convention that was held at Tufts University in MA on October 1, 2011 was excellent and well attended. Ably representing VMTA were **Sandi MacLeod** on the opening panel "Nurturing the Creative Spirit in Our Students, and **Sylvia Parker** in the Master Class: "Love at First Sight – Introducing a New Piece".

The keynote speaker, Karl Paulnack, from Boston Conservatory was very inspirational – it was an incredible experience to hear him speak. Those of you who were unable to attend should search on google his name and speech. He was on the opening

panel as well. The morning ended with "Works of the Moment: A Composer's Process" with John McDonald from Tufts.

There was a wonderful lunch in the Alumnae Hall and time to converse with colleagues before MTNA President Ben Caton's address. The afternoon featured the Commissioned Compositions from NH, MA, and VT. **Sara Huff** was the VMTA Commissioned Composer. Her composition, titled "Beecher Variations" for violin and piano, was exciting and wonderful to hear. It was well played by Jane Bearden, violin and Mary Jane Austin-Reynolds, piano. The commissioned works from NH and MA were also excellent. I think it was the best commissioned works concert that I have heard in all the Quad State conventions that I have attended. The afternoon ended with the "Love at First Sight" Masterclass featuring 4 students being "Taught a new piece that they had only seen for a brief week or so". The students were different ages (3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 9<sup>th</sup> grade, 12<sup>th</sup> grade, college freshman) so that we experienced different levels.

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## MusicLink Foundation

by Judy Vanesse

*Thank you* just doesn't seem to say enough about the generous teachers and business partners who have joined our MusicLink family during the past year. When my phone rings and a teacher wants to know how he/she can become involved in bringing music into the life of a child of limited means, I know the news is getting out there! Yes, I received a phone call from a teacher in Rutland where he said 70-80% of the students in his district are on the free or reduced lunch program at their local school. **WOW! TEACHERS:** we have a crisis! With the arts being cut from our schools and teachers having to teach 20% at one school, 20% at another;

MusicLink is a perfect way to service promising, dedicated music students who desperately want private instruction but financially they know it is beyond their reach.

Many teachers tell me, "I already teach a student at a reduced rate. Why should I register with MusicLink? "What difference will it make?" It will make a BIG difference, especially for the student, but also for the teacher. Here are some of the benefits available: \*Discounts on music and materials. All the major publishers of printed music offer free or discounted music for ML students. \*ML teachers can take advantage of discounts on teaching materials, Theory Games, Electronics, Web design, software, play-along tracks and even event tickets. \*Early childhood teachers can get discounts on training workshops and teaching materials for their students. \*ML teachers can be reimbursed up to \$150/year for any out-of-pocket expenses they may incur on behalf of their ML student, e.g. Festival or Guild fees, strings, a metronome, instrument tuning or repair, etc., (after 6 months in the program). \*Scholarship opportunities are available for ML students, e.g. Summer Music Camp, (after 6 months in program), Senior Award of Excellence (after 3 years in program) or the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarships. \* Assistance getting a practice instrument. Committed keyboard students can get an acoustic piano placed in their homes. \*Many state and local MTA's waive program fees for ML students. \*Grass Roots Grants are also available for up to \$300 for a local MTA or Community School for start-up funding for a new ML program. These funds could be used for instruments, music & materials, piano moving expense, etc. – not for teacher tuition. \*ML teachers gain recognition as part of a nationwide network of teachers. \*Free music when it becomes available from donors.

In addition to all these benefits, there is also the great feeling we all get when we reach out to help someone less fortunate than ourselves. As you can see, there are many benefits available to MusicLink students and their teachers and my hope is that teachers will take a look at their schedules and see if they can find one available slot that could be filled by a ML student.

A BIG thank you to **Susan Nicholas** for adding a ML student to her schedule this year, and to **Lisa Goodrich** who has been with the program for several years. Four teachers are registered awaiting promising, dedicated students; **Norine Grant**, Richmond; Sandra Cathey, Lisa Carlson and Nora Zablow, Middlesex and Montpelier. Thank you for hanging in there and continuing to search for the perfect student for you! **A N D . . .** A VERY BIG thank you to **Kelley Lyon** who is teaching 5 MusicLink students with 1 more soon to be added. One of her students has already received a donated guitar from ADVANCE MUSIC and a second student will receive a donated keyboard from ADVANCE MUSIC that I need to deliver to her. [Oops, it's coming Kelley] **A N D . . .**

**A BIG thank you to our Vermont Business Partners:**

FREDERICK JOHNSON PIANOS, INC, White River Junction; ADVANCE MUSIC/MUSICRAFT, Burlington and Waitsfield; RUTH RICHARDS, piano tuner, Cabot; DAVID GAILLARD, piano tuner, Hardwick; GUITARSAM, Montpelier; VERMONT VIOLINS, Montpelier, Burlington and W. Lebanon.

If anyone needs more information, please call me any time. I return email and phone calls promptly!  
Judy Vanesse, NE Regional Coordinator, MusicLink Foundation, jvan2006@comcast.net or (802) 295-9092

**VMTA Collaborative Music  
Weekend – Jan. 21-22, 2012**

The University Mall was filled with the sounds of music on the weekend of January 21-22. One hundred and four students from ten studios provided music for patrons of the mall. Many students performed solo piano works. Some played duets. Others invited their instrumental friends to join them in small ensembles. It was great seeing the students collaborating to make such beautiful music. Lynn Smith has announced that about \$684 (final totals not in yet) was raised for Camp-Ta-Kum-Ta. This year there were no requirements for fund raising.

Co-chairs of the Collaborative event were **Lynn Smith** and **Jina Smith**.

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Teachers with students participating were: **Patty Bergeron, Jane Goldstein, Lisa Goodrich, Marie Johnson, Lilly Ramsey, Mary Ann Samuels, Jina Smith, Lynn Smith, Marilyn Taggart** and **Barbara Williams**.

The VMTA is also lucky to have such wonderful sponsors for this event. **Hilbert Pianos** provided a beautiful Steinway grand for the students to play. What a treat! **Green Mountain Piano Moving** provided their services moving the piano. **Physicians Computer Company** sponsored the cost of using the mall. We also thank the University Mall. **Thank you to all that made the event such a success!** The next time this event will be scheduled is Jan. 2014.

**VMTA Professional Development Scholarship Fund (updated 2012)**

The VMTA Board voted in June 2007 to establish an annual professional scholarship fund, making a limited amount of money available each fiscal year (July 1 - June 30) to VMTA members only, for personal, professional educational purposes. Currently a cap of \$750, total, has been set for each fiscal year. Once this amount has been reached, the fund is exhausted until the following fiscal year. Members are eligible to receive assistance once in a three-year period, and may apply any number of times.

Members may request an application from the current VMTA President. This application will include questions such as description of the proposal, the amount of money requested, purpose, goals, and time frame. The completed application must be sent by US mail to the VMTA President for the next fiscal year and must be received between May 1 to May 15 of the previous year (i.e. May of 2010 to be awarded for July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011). The award split between a maximum of 2 members for a given year. In the event that more than 2 applications are received in that period, a committee will be used to choose the 2 applicants to receive the award. If accepted, money would be held in escrow, awarded retroactively, following receipt of documentation of completion.


Please note: if applying for scholarship monies to reimburse a program spanning two fiscal years and the monies for the first of those two years is already awarded, a VMTA member may choose to enroll in that program and, submit a second application along with other members on the earliest date in the following fiscal year with the understanding this means there is no guarantee the money will be awarded.

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

**VMTA Level of the 2011-2012 MTNA  
Student Performance & Composition  
Competitions**

The Vermont Level of the MTNA competitions was held at the Richmond Library on Nov. 12, 2011. A sincere thank you to **Liz Metcalfe** for organizing this event. Julian Marohnic, student of **Cynthia Huard**, went to Eastern Division as the Vermont Representative in the Senior Piano Performance Competition.

There were two entrants in the Composition Competition who represented Vermont in the Eastern Division Competition. Shayla Winer, student of **Norine Grant**, entered the Elementary category with her piece for voice and piano, *Earth*. Ivan Voinov student of **Paul Orgel**, entered in the Senior category with his piece for piano, *The Norse Clockmaker*.

The Performance Competition Adjudicator was Mary Jane Austin and the Composition Adjudicator was Sara Doncaster. VMTA is appreciative of the two adjudicators' willingness to be judges for the competitions.

**VMTA MEMBER NEWS**

**We welcome new members:**

**Sandi MacLeod**

30 Steeplebush Rd  
Essex Junction, VT 05452  
sandi@vtmidi.org  
802-879-0065  
Piano, Composition, Executive Director of Music-COMP  
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**Kathi Tarrant-Tafuto**

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**Kathi Tarrant-Tafuto**, a teaching artist residing in the Upper Valley originally attended West Chester University as a voice and piano major, and went on to perform (mostly jazz standards) at some of the world's leading luxury hotels. She also applied her talents with regards to songwriting/composition, and recorded original pop/jazz material which was later performed at the Discover Jazz Festival in Burlington, VT. In recent years, Kathi completed a degree program at Goddard College, and obtained additional coursework/practicum in music therapy. Most recently, she attended a Suzuki teacher-training Institute (Piano Book 1), and was mentored by Marilyn Taggart, a 30+ year Suzuki veteran. Kathi is currently a faculty member of the Upper Valley Music Center in Lebanon, NH, is a chorale assistant, a music director, and operates a studio in Woodstock, VT.

**Sandi MacLeod** joined MTNA after being a cheerleader on the sidelines for studio teachers and students for many years. Although not a studio teacher at the moment, Sandi's experience and passion for music composition makes MTNA membership a logical step. She recently represented Vermont at the recent Quad State MTNA conference at Tufts University in October as a panelist on "Nurturing the Creative Spirit in our Students." She was hired as the first conductor of the Vermont Monster Concerts. She has taught classroom and vocal music for many years in both the Milton and Essex Town school systems. Sandi MacLeod, Ed.D., is the Executive Director of the Vermont MIDI Project and was a founding member of the group established in 1995. This nationally acclaimed program promoting music composition includes over 4,000 students each year in over 40 Vermont schools as well as schools in Virginia, New York, Connecticut and Indiana. Student composers connect with professional composers for online mentoring. The project promotes live performance of original student works in multiple venues. MacLeod is an author of *Inside Music: Exploring Composition*, a new online composition curriculum. She conducts numerous workshops and professional development courses focused on music composition, curriculum and the integration of technology. She has shared the work of the Vermont MIDI Project at over 70 technology or music conferences in locations across the country since 1998. She plays an active role in state arts initiatives in standards revision, assessment and arts education collaborative projects. The upcoming book, *Composing our Future* edited by Kaschub and Smith, includes a chapter written by MacLeod.

From **Polly van der Linde**: During the January Sonata Piano Camp, my master classes were streamed live on January 21, 23 and 25. Visit [www.sonatina.com](http://www.sonatina.com) and click Sonatina Alive! for more opportunities.

From **Kathi Tarrant-Tafuto**: Vermont Arts Counsel Arts Advocacy Day is in Montpelier on Friday February 24. I encourage all to come and speak to legislators about health insurance for teaching artists.

Holly Morgan, a student of **Alan Parshley**, was recently accepted in Sinfonia, one of the orchestras in the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association. Konrad Herath, also one of his students, is attending the Walnut Hill School in the Boston area for his senior year, and is a member of the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra of Boston. Alan was recently promoted to Lecturer III at the University of Vermont, and the recent holiday season brought fulfillment of two life-long dreams: he was asked to be Santa Claus for the Vermont Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops tour, and attended a performance of the Rockettes' dazzling holiday show at Radio City Music Hall in New York City.

From **Patty Bergeron**: The dates for 2012 National Guild of Piano Teachers Auditions will be May 14-23. Auditions will be held in the McCarthy Arts Center at St. Michael's College. Please let Patty Bergeron, local guild chair, know of your plans to participate. E-mail her at [pcberg@myfairpoint.net](mailto:pcberg@myfairpoint.net) You may also phone her at 878-9873 if you have questions or would like information how to join Guild.

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**Elaine Greenfield** reports several upcoming events this spring and summer. Personal highlights this March include performances of the Transcontinental Piano Duo in South Shore, NJ on March 23rd; at the MTNA National Conference at the Hilton, NYC on March 27th... presenting "Double Trouble", practice and performance techniques for duo pianists; and, for Bethany Center for the Arts, Bethany Church, Montpelier, Friday, March 30. The Duo's program of dances and variations for one and two pianos will feature Liszt's original 4- hands version of the Mephisto Waltz, and the Lutoslawski Variations on a Theme of Paganini, for two pianos. Elaine teaches at the Adamant Music School July 16 - Aug. 6, and performs a solo program while there. In May, she adjudicates for the Massachusetts MTA Bay State Competition. Upcoming studio activities include: a Feb. 11 workshop with Greenfield Piano Associates, focusing on Form and Creativity; a March study session at the Richmond Library; for St. Paul's Cathedral Arts, a recital by Melody Puller, performing Chopin Preludes, Op. 28, Tuesday January 31, and a master class with (and recital by) guest pianist Matthew Manwarren; and, three recitals in May/June. GPA's annual recital, Wed., May 30, at Wake Robin, Shelburne, and Friday, June 1, St. Paul's Cathedral, is entitled Musical Moods: Poetry, Fire, and Humor. The group also performs a portion of this program Saturday, June 2, for the Adamant Community's Annual Black Fly Festival! This January 17<sup>th</sup>, student Charles Wu participated in St. Paul's Cathedral Arts' Young Artists Program, performing Suite de dansas criollas, by Ginastera. Charles also performed a movement of Mozart Concerto, K. 414 with the VSO in the orchestra's recent

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holiday Youth Concert. Elaine Greenfield is resigning from the VMTA board, while continuing, temporarily, in the role of Membership Chairperson.

**Brenda Logee Hall** held her Christmas recital at the Converse Home in Burlington on December 28<sup>th</sup>. One of her students has an extended family member who is a resident. Although a snowstorm threatened the event, the storm held off a few hours and it was a great success. It was a wonderful time for her students to give the gift of music to the residents, staff and family members in attendance. One precious elderly resident made the comment to Brenda, "I've been to a lot of these types of things, but these kids are real sharp!" Christmas is a time to spread joy and these young people certainly spread joy through music that day!

Pianist **Diana Fanning** loved being invited to perform Brahms' C Major Trio with faculty members from Point CounterPoint Chamber Music Camp last July. Diana and her husband Emory owned PCP from 1979 to 1988, so this was a very meaningful concert for her. The string faculty at Point CounterPoint is extraordinarily fine! Middlebury's Town Hall Theater was filled to overflowing for this special event. In September Diana was invited to perform her second concert at the Frederick Piano Collection in Ashburnham, MA. She played works by Schumann and Chopin on the beautiful 1840 Erard piano. Earlier that month she played a benefit concert for flood relief at Brandon Music. Now she looks forward to playing in Middlebury on Sunday, March 11 – 4PM at the Mahaney Arts Center Concert Hall. The program includes works by Berg, Haydn, Barber, Chopin and Debussy.



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After very successful fall performances at Duke, North Carolina School of the Arts and the Rose Studio in NYC pianist **Cynthia Huard** returns home to present a solo piano performance at Middlebury College on Saturday, February 18, 8 pm. The program will be Beethoven Op. 109, Chopin F Minor Ballade, Ravel selections and Prokofiev Toccata. In March Cynthia will travel to the state of Washington to perform recitals with violinist Julia Salerno and cellist Ben Gish. (I am thrilled to play Cafe Music again!) In May she will be back in Vermont with the Heliand Woodwind Consort performing Tuille and Mozart, quintets and sextets for piano and woodwinds. In April Cynthia performs with soprano Susanne Peck at Middlebury College, Sunday, April 22, 5 pm. Four of Cynthia's graduating seniors at Middlebury College will be presenting solo piano recitals. Another senior will present a lecture/recital examining the math of historical tunings and the pieces written for

early keyboard instruments using these tunings. Cynthia's high school student Julian Marohnic just returned from the MTNA Eastern Division Senior Competition. He was this year's Vt. representative. He found the trip inspiring. He has been playing his repertoire regularly for local homes for the elderly. Cynthia is the artistic director of a summer concert series which will have its 18<sup>th</sup> season this year. The concerts begin on June 15 at the Rochester Vermont Federated Church, 7 pm, with the Johannes Quartet and guest violist Hsin-Yun Huan.

From **Paul Orgel**: My fall and winter included solo recitals in China, Florida, and VT. Upcoming area appearances include: Feb. 1, 7:30 PM, UVM Recital Hall Music and Literature Series, free admission. Chamber music by Prokofiev, Martinu, Debussy, and Ravel with Laurel Ann Maurer, flute, John Dunlop, cello and Colleen Jennings, violin; March 6, 7:30 PM, Saint Michael's College, McCarthy Arts Center, Humanities Program Concert Series, free admission. A violin/piano recital with Kevin Lawrence, violin. Sonatas of Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven; April 4 - same information as Feb. 1 - Chamber music and songs of Mussorgsky and Dvorak. Program also includes pianist Michael Arnowitz performing Stravinsky's "Petrouchka". These and other performances are posted on my website: [www.paulorgel.com](http://www.paulorgel.com)  
Student news: 8<sup>th</sup> grader Alan Chiang performed Chopin's Scherzo No. 2 in this year's Young Musician's Showcase

concert at St. Paul's in Burlington. Kevin Wang, David Ro, and Teddy Ninh competed in local competitions (Borowicz Scholarship, UVM Orchestra, VT All-state) with some results yet to come. Kayo Nagai, a UVM sophomore, was a finalist in a Beethoven competition in Tokyo, Japan.

From **Jody Woos**: In addition to my piano studio, I am the founder and director of the Green Mountain Suzuki Institute, a one-week music camp which draws young pianists, violinists, violists, cellists, and flute players from all over the country. Our camp has taken place in Rochester Vermont, every summer since 2004. This remarkable town has opened its doors to us, hosted our Suzuki institute, fed and housed our staff and participants, and welcomed us to share in its warmth and resources, consistently, year after year.

On August 28, tropical storm Irene hit Vermont. By August 29<sup>th</sup>, the town of Rochester had incurred a heart-breaking amount of damage – 20 homes immediately lost, the town cemetery washed out, the high school flooded, farm fields devastated, and roads inaccessible. Immediately, people in town gathered to deal with pressing needs. Over time, as residents and experts assessed the damage, we realized that the toll was much, much higher than this. To help the town, I mobilized support from the more than 250 families and 40 staff members who have, at one time or another been a part of our institute. In addition, I organized a practice challenge for my studio, where students sought out sponsors for their piano practice. My students raised \$1,203 in our “Help Our Vermont Neighbors” challenge. In addition, GMSI families and staff donated \$9,650. In total, we donated \$10,853 to the Rebuild Rochester Foundation. For current information about Rochester, and to donate online, visit [www.rochestervermont.org](http://www.rochestervermont.org).

From **Laurel Maurer**: Last spring one of the most amazing opportunities fell into my lap. My colleague in Suzuki flute-Kelly, had relocated to Berlin Germany when she married her German husband and started a thriving studio. After three years of successful teaching and performing in Berlin, Kelly found herself in need of a substitute teacher for her upcoming maternity leave. After much thought and discussion I decided to see if I could do this. I have always wanted to visit Berlin and this was a wonderful opportunity to live, teach, perform and attend concerts in Berlin. My first concern was “what will I do about my own students for 7 weeks”? I couldn’t leave them without a teacher. I had already been using SKYPE for some long distance teaching and for make-up lessons. This seemed like the most logical solution. All my students (except one) agreed to be taught through SKYPE for the duration.

After arriving in Berlin and being picked up at the airport by my host -Irene (one of the parents of Kelly’s students), I got right to work that day! I taught the German students 5 days a week and taught my students at night (10 pm in Berlin is 3 pm in Vermont). Although the week was packed, I had time for some sightseeing on the weekends. I enjoyed attending 2 concerts by the Berlin Philharmonic: one with guest conductor Nikolaus Harnencourt conducting the Beethoven Mass and the Symphony #5 and the other with Sir Simon Rattle conducting Mahler’s 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony. The hall has some of the best acoustics in the world. It was such a treat. I also went to the Deutche Opera 3 times and saw Lucia di Lammermour, Don Carlo and Der Rosenkavalier. The singers, staging, sets and the orchestra were stunning.

I decided early on that I wanted to give a recital as well. At the end of November, I gave a full recital with a wonderful German pianist named Stephanie Hoernes of music by Debussy, Prokofiev, Bach, Boehm and Vermont composer David Gunn. One of the most touching sights that I saw was the Holocaust memorial. Situated outside, it is hard to describe, but the evocative feeling of loss and sadness are so touching as one looks at endless dark “casket-like” slabs of granite. I also visited the area called “Potsdamerplatz” which is where part of the Berlin wall used to be. It is now a busy, thriving area full of shops and hotels. I thoroughly enjoyed learning about and traveling around such an interesting city. But it is great to be back home in Vermont!

## **Music Composition for Studio Students**

By Sandi MacLeod

A group of VMTA members met in November at Carol’s Hungry Mind in Middlebury to hear from Sandi MacLeod, executive director of Music-COMP (formerly known as the Vermont MIDI Project). Sandi shared the long time efforts of Music-COMP to bring composition to students across Vermont and to several other communities across the United States. Music-COMP features online mentoring of student work by professional composers, live performances of student compositions, and professional development for teachers. Sandi also shared a new composition curriculum program, *Inside Music: Exploring Composition*, developed from the many lessons learned over time. Although Music-COMP previously focused on school memberships and a few independent study students, the consensus at the meeting was that



membership for interested Vermont MTNA members could provide benefits to the students of studio teachers. An individual teacher member would pay a small fee for membership and then add on fees for additional services of interest to them.

Beginning in January 2012 through August 2013, VMTA members may join under a special group membership which will be coordinated by Jody Woos. An individual VMTA teacher pays \$25 for participation for this initial period – 1/2012 – 8/2013. The choice of additional benefits or services is then left up to the individual studio teacher recognizing all have different needs and different students.

**Benefit 1: Mentoring with professional composers.** Members may submit student compositions to the Music-COMP online mentoring website where the work in progress will be reviewed and suggestions made from one or more of the professional composers on the mentoring roster. For more information about these mentors visit: [vtmidi.org/vercom.htm](http://vtmidi.org/vercom.htm) For examples of mentoring discussions, visit [vtmidi.org/student.htm](http://vtmidi.org/student.htm) Fee: \$10 per student per composition for elementary and middle level students, \$15 per composition for high school students (grades 9-12)

**Benefit 2: Live performances by professional musicians of student compositions.** Work from the online mentoring site may be submitted for live performance by professional musicians hired by Music-COMP. The fall Opus concert features brass quintet, piano, percussion, and voice. The spring Opus concert is for strings and woodwinds. Students may write a solo or combine any of the instruments provided. For more details view [vtmidi.org/opus.htm](http://vtmidi.org/opus.htm) All compositions for live performance must go through the online mentoring process. Additional fees for submission of a composition specifically for an Opus event requires an additional \$15 submission fee. If selected, students pay an additional \$50 performance fee which includes workshops, rehearsal with professional musicians, dinner, concert DVD, and snacks on the day of the Opus event.

**Benefit 3: Participate for FREE in a pilot study implementation of *Inside Music: Exploring Composition*.** Music-COMP members may choose to participate in this study, but there are only ten slots for Studio teachers available. Act now. Visit the website ([myinsidemusic.com](http://myinsidemusic.com)) for more information about this exciting new composition curriculum that includes a notation editing program. The curriculum is designed for independent student use as well as classroom use. The regular price is \$259 per teacher for this newly released program, but free for pilot study teachers and students with Music-COMP until August 2013. Participation requires that teachers respond to periodic questions to help us grow and improve the product. *Inside Music* is developed by members of the Vermont MIDI Project. Remember there are only ten available slots, so contact Sandi now. If there is more demand beyond the ten slots for *Inside Music*, we will try to work out a cost effective solution for others.

If you have questions about membership, please contact either **Jody Woos** who is coordinating this group membership, or **Sandi MacLeod**, executive director of Music-COMP.

### **How to Become a Music-COMP Member**

Payment of \$25 per teacher should be sent directly to Music-COMP at 30 Steeplebush Rd., Essex Junction VT 05452 along with the completed participation form available from Sandi or Jody. Fees for the various services may be paid quarterly as services are desired. Of course, you may pass this cost onto your students. If you prefer to pay via credit card, use the “Donate” button at our website and write a notation in the comments section about the services you are subscribing too. The website is our only method of accepting credit card transactions at this time. Teachers interested in *Inside Music* must contact Sandi [sandi@vtmidi.org](mailto:sandi@vtmidi.org) or calling 802-879-0065.

### **Upcoming Live Performance Opportunity:**

Opus 24 sponsored by Music-COMP (formerly Vermont MIDI Project) for strings and woodwinds. Project membership by a VMTA studio teacher, public or private school or Independent Study Student agreement is required to be eligible. First postings must be submitted to the online mentoring website by Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Remember these are first ideas, not completed pieces. The Opus event will be held on Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Ludlow at the Town Hall Theater. Rehearsals begin at noon and continue through the afternoon with concurrent workshops. The concert will begin at 6:30 pm. We anticipate performing about 20 student works for strings and woodwinds. More details are available at [vtmidi.org](http://vtmidi.org) Additional collaborations, details announced to members as they become available: Vermont Contemporary Music Ensemble, Vermont Youth Orchestra, Vermont Philharmonic, Vermont Symphony Orchestra

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## 2011-2012 VMTA Sponsor Advertisers

Jane Goldstein, VMTA President, reports that VMTA Full Year Sponsor Advertisers for 2011-2012 are: American College of Musicians, Darrell's Music Hall, Ellis Music Co. Inc., Frederick Johnson Pianos Inc., Green Mountain Piano Moving, Hansen & Son Inc., Hilbert Pianos, Physician's Computer Co., and Saint Michael's College. We also thank the contact persons for each of the above businesses: Pat McCabe-Leche, Michele Edington, Joan Ellis Tabor, Dale Howe & Dick Johnson, Lowell Trecartin, Ole Hansen, Emily & Ed Hilbert, David Paul, John Canning, and Susan Summerfield. Their ads were published in the 2011-2012 VMTA Membership Directory. Their ads are also published in this 2012 Winter Newsletter, and will be published in the 2012 Spring Festival Program and in the 2012 Summer (June) Newsletter.

VMTA sincerely **thanks** all these businesses for their generosity and support.

## 2012- 2014 VMTA Slate of Officers

Nominating committee chair, Jane Goldstein, **presents the following slate of officers to be voted on at the business meeting during VMTA Spring Festival on Saturday March 31, 2012.** VMTA would not exist without members volunteering their time, skills and expertise to help run all the programs/services that are offered. *A very sincere thank you to all the members who have volunteered below:*

### VMTA 2012-2014 Officers

**President: Marie Johnson**

**President Elect:**

**Past President: Jane Goldstein**

**Secretary: Arielle Hanudel**

**Treasurer: Sarah Williams**

**Convention: Patty Bergeron**

**Non-Competitive Auditions: Lilly Ramsey**

**Competitive Auditions: Elizabeth Metcalfe**

**Certification: Sylvia Parker**

**Newsletter: Teresa Miranda**

**Membership: Melody Puller**

**Composer Commissioning: Lynn Smith**

**Webmaster: Lisa Goodrich**

**From the Newsletter Editor:** This will be my last Newsletter! I have been on the VMTA board almost consistently in various positions since 1984 and have been Newsletter Editor 1990-1994 and 2004 to the present! It is time for others to get involved! I will continue to have a busy teaching studio and to stay active in VMTA, attending conventions, workshops, and entering my students in VMTA events. The "member news" column in the newsletter was my creation! I sincerely thank all of you members who willingly shared your studio and life events. **Teresa Miranda** will be taking over the newsletter position as of March 31<sup>st</sup>. I know that Teresa will do a great job. I hope that all of you will continue to send Teresa member news and to support her in this new endeavor. My best to you all.

***The next newsletter deadline is June 8, 2012.  
Please send all news and reports to Teresa Miranda  
tgmiranda@comcast.net***