



June 1, 2017



Spring/Summer Newsletter

2017-2018

VMTA Calendar

October 14, 2017

Quad State Convention,
Concord, NH

November 12, 2017

BBVMTA Student Recital
VMTA Competitive Auditions
Richmond Library

January 6-7, 2018

Eastern Division Competitive
Auditions Providence College,
Providence, RI

January 2018

Play-a-Thon
University Mall
South Burlington

*If you have a suggestion for a
charity to sponsor, contact
Marie Johnson.*

February 2018 BBVMTA
Student Recital

March/April 2018
Spring Festival

President's Message

Hello to my music colleagues:

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

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

What Is it?

The MTNA eFestival is an online-only performance opportunity where you receive a constructive critique from a highly-qualified evaluator.

Why An eFestival?

Many music students live in remote areas and don't have access to evaluative events. Others are unable to attend a live festival. Some have an audition or performance coming up and want additional comments. The MTNA eFestival provides a convenient option!

Who Is It For?

EVERY piano student,* beginner through advanced, young or old, amateur or competitor, studying with a teacher or on your own... perfect for those with performance anxiety.

How Does It Work?

The pianist video-records up to 15 minutes of playing and uploads the video(s) to our application via Acceptd. The month after you submit, you will receive, via e-mail, a critique of your performance from a highly skilled evaluator. THAT'S IT!

What About Repertoire? Any solo piano pieces of any level, including arrangements and transcriptions, are acceptable.

What About Video Quality? Cell phone, tablet, video camera...it doesn't matter as long as the sound is clear.

When Can I Start? The MTNA eFestival officially launches May 15, 2017. Then it runs year-round. No deadlines! No hassle!

What Does It Cost? \$60 application fee

Anything Else?

For more information, click here or contact mtnaefestival@mtna.org.

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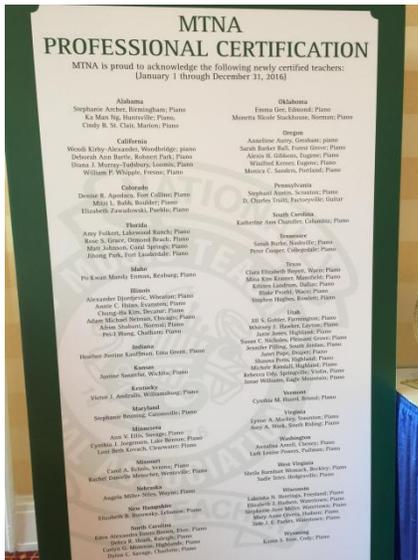
MTNA Member News

Sylvia Parker appeared as Guest Speaker to the New England Piano Teachers Association on February 27, 2017. Her NEPTA session entitled “Bela Bartok Setting Jewels” included photos, stories, documents, field recordings, historic recordings of Bartók playing and talking, and live performance as well.

Parker focused on Bartok’s work with folk music and his time spent in USA, then followed up with pedagogical insights on some of her favorite selections for young pianists.

Her paper entitled “Percy Grainger and Béla Bartók: Parallel Lives of Two Ethnomusicologists” has been accepted for presentation at the College Music Society International Conference in Sydney, Australia July 9-13, 2017. Her abstract explains that Hungarian Béla Bartók (1881-1945) and Australian Percy Grainger (1882-1961) were born within four months of each other. Both became concert pianists and composers. Both encountered folk music quite by accident and were profoundly influenced by it. Their work in collecting folk music, recording and transcribing it, arranging it into settings appealing to the general public, and composing music incorporating folk elements reveals intriguing similarities despite their dissimilar personalities.

MTNA recognition of **Cynthia Huard** for recently being certified by MTNA. Look under Vermont.



The MTNA Professional Certification Program exists to improve the level of professionalism within the field of music teaching. It benefits the members of the profession itself, as well as the public who interacts with the professional. For the music teaching profession, certification provides prestige, recognition and the potential for student recruitment and increased earning power. For the public, certification helps readily identify competent music teachers in their communities.

The program is based upon a set of five standards defining what a competent music teacher should know and be able to do. Upon fulfillment of these standards, applicants are granted the MTNA Professional Certification credential with the designation, Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM). All music teachers actively engaged in the profession are eligible for MTNA Professional Certification.

Congratulations to VMTA member, *Cynthia Huard*, who recently completed all the requirements and now proudly uses the designation of NCTM after her name. Huard joins five other VMTA teachers who have earned the NCTM designation. For information about how to begin your journey to NCTM status, contact Sylvia Parker, VMTA Certification Chair.

Commissioned Composer Selected

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

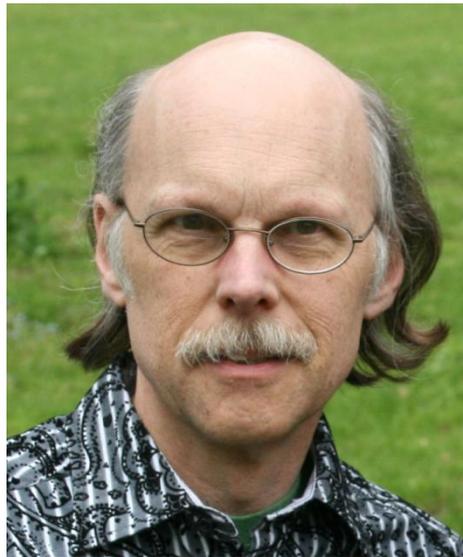
As always, you will be treated to an outstanding array of informative sessions, master classes, thrilling concerts, and exhibits. Details on the MTNA website.

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

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

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

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



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

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

About the piece...

Because I write music intuitively and without any plan, it is impossible for me to describe what the piece will be when finished because it is constantly evolving. One idea simply leads to another. Themes stated once typically recur, though rarely as they originally appear. Sequences involving leaps of the diminished fifth are not uncommon—or at least they haven't been in the past. I can't say if that motif will be prominent in this piece. (It isn't yet.) All I can say now is that the piano begins the piece in a time signature of 4/4, the flute enters soon thereafter, and some bits of chromaticism keep the tonal center unsure of itself. Oh, but in a *good* way!



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

More Member News



From Cynthia Huard:

Congratulations to my student, **Greta Hardy-Mittell** for Allstate Piano Scholarship concert and Vermont Youth Orchestra Senior Concerto winner, to be performed May 2018. Congratulations to my students **Nico Brayton** and **Paige Thibault** for their wonderful performances in 'The Next Generation' at Chandler Music Hall.

From Paul Orgel:

As winner of the Burlington Chamber Orchestra's Concerto Competition, **Sebastiaan West** performed the Bach D Minor Concerto (first movement) with the orchestra, Yutaka Kono, conducting.

Henry and Nathan Wu performed as duo pianists in the annual "Next Generation" concert at Chandler Music Hall, in Randolph.

Henry Wu and **Sebastiaan West** won scholarship awards in the Vermont All-State Festival's solo competition. **Grace Lu**, a fine pianist herself, was the winner for strings (violin) in the same contest. Her solo performance, the Beethoven Romance in F, was accompanied by **Henry Wu**.

from Larissa Hebert:

My students, **Lily Chomyn** and **Liam Patenaude**, performed in Fairfield Center School's "Fairfield's Got Talent" show. They did exceptionally well in front of a large audience made up of their peers, teachers, families, and community members!

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Save the Date

2017 QUAD STATE CONVENTION

The next Quad State Convention will be held on Saturday October 14, 2017. New Hampshire MTA will host the Convention and it will take place at the Concord Community Music School in Concord NH. The clinician will be Forrest Kinney. Kinney is an American pianist, teacher, columnist, and composer. He is the author of "Pattern Play" and "Chord Play" series for piano.

Please visit www.nhmta.net for further information and links to Forrest Kinney sites.

MTNA Eastern Division Competition

For the first time ever in 2016, the Eastern Division Competition was postponed and rescheduled. A winter storm of epic proportions closed roads, airports, and universities throughout the Eastern Division forcing the cancellation of the competition on the scheduled date. Fortunately, the competitions could be rescheduled for the following weekend. A Vermont competitor and several others were not able to attend the rescheduled event; however, a majority did attend and a strong field of competitors from the Eastern Division participated in the MTNA finals.

Eastern Division Chair, Ginger Hwalek, announced in late 2016 that a contingency plan has been developed in case a future competition would have to be postponed. The plan includes video recordings that will be submitted in a specific time window.

At the March 2017 conference, Eastern Division competitors collected nine awards in the following categories:

Two First Place Senior Voice, Chamber Music Strings

Five Second Place Junior Composition, Young Artist piano, Woodwind, Brass, Junior Piano

Two Third Place Senior Piano, Junior Woodwind

I was so proud to hear all these talented musicians.

The 2018 Eastern Division competitions will be held at Providence College. West Virginia University is being considered for the 2019 competitions and Duquesne University for 2020.

Marie Johnson,

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Spring Festival 2017

The 39th annual Spring Festival was held March 25th at St. Michael's College. There were 94 participants from the studios of 12 Member teachers including **Joan Bach Foster, Patty Bergeron, Claire Black, Carleen Graff, Gale Hansen-Patenaude, Marie Johnson, Petr Kepka, Elizabeth Metcalfe, Susan Nicholas, Andrea Orlyk, Nancy Osborne and Lilly Ramsey**. Special thanks go to 6 other members who judged, **Lynn Smith, Art DeQuasie, Jina Smith, Laurel Maurer, Sarah Williams, and Lisa Goodrich**.

We are especially grateful for the continued sponsorship of Susan Summerfield, co- chair of St. Michael's College's Fine Arts Department.

Great job, students!



Thank you, judges!





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SPAC at the MTNA Conference

The State President's Advisory Council (SPAC) met during the MTNA Conference at the Baltimore Waterfront Marriott on March 30 2017. According to MTNA Bylaws, Article XI, Section 1B, the SPAC shall make recommendations regarding policy, philosophy, long range planning, membership and other concerns to the MTNA Board of Directors for its consideration. Recommendations for MTNA to provide liability insurance to members, liability insurance for state board of directors, health insurance, efestival, webinars, and event insurance are some issues SPAC has requested and the MTNA Board of Directors have provided.

The SPAC meeting also provides a forum for issues presented by various states. This year, Janice Smith from Washington State, presented the conflict between Bylaws and unfilled officer positions and asked for consequences from a legal and not for profit perspective. The suggested solution was to have state bylaws reflect that officers should serve "x" years or until the next officer is elected and installed.

The new MTNA headquarters in Cincinnati has a recital hall for ongoing performances. Dr. Ingle announced that Steinway and Sons gifted a Steinway S Grand Piano (valued at \$60,000+), Yamaha donated a DC3X Disklavier (valued at \$78,000), and Casio provided a Celviano Grand Hybrid (valued at \$6,000). MTNA plans to open their recital hall to local associations as well as provide the setting for a series of brown-bag lunchtime concerts. Dr. Ingle also presented an update on The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) agreement with MTNA. MTNA is now filing its three-year compliance report. MTNA is required to file two more compliance reports through 2019, and will be under observation by the FTC for twenty years.

The next SPAC meeting will be held during the Summit for MTNA Leadership in Cincinnati. President-elect Laurel Maurer will be the voting representative for Vermont at the Summit this year. Please send any suggestions/concerns to Laurel for her to bring up at the meeting in early September.

Marie Johnson

2017 MTNA National Conference

Held for the first time ever in the birthplace of the “Star Spangled Banner”, Baltimore, Maryland, MTNA’s 131st conference was a most outstanding event! Maryland hosted with a wealth of musical resources, a comfortable hotel, and organizational genius. Scanning session titles in the program book made me realize how much new knowledge there was to learn

Another first for this conference were the digital handouts attendees could print out before attending the sessions. One-third of presenters provided this which allowed for clearer understanding and more in-depth retention of the material presented.

Vanessa Cornett from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, presented a fast-paced exploration of fascinating current research in sport psychology to uncover a variety of mental skills utilized by athletes which greatly benefit musicians of all levels. The following sport psychology practices can be modified to benefit performing musicians:

- Situational control
- Detachment training
- Attentional focus
- Externalizing thoughts and emotions
- Emotional awareness
- Advocacy recovery
- Structured and rehearsed self-talk
- Mental Imagery
- Automatic execution
- Anxiety management
- Goal setting and systems planning
- Post-performance analysis

The greater the mental resources, the more powerful tools a performer has at his/her disposal.

There were so many more presentations, equally informative, which made Baltimore a wealth of inspiration, knowledge and excitement.

Marie Johnson



Beginners' Luck
Stellaria Trio in Concert

Burlington's newest classical piano trio emerges with its second program following the group's debut in October 2016. Violinist **Letitia Quante**, cellist **John Dunlop**, and pianist **Claire Black** present the first piano trios of Beethoven and Brahms, and Ernest Bloch's Three Nocturnes.

Friday June 16, 7:30 pm
 College Street Congregational Church
 265 College St.
 Burlington, VT 05401
 Free admission. Donations accepted

Friday July 28, 7:30 pm
 UVM Alumni House, Perkins Music Room
 61 Summit Street
 Burlington VT 05401
 Limited seating for 25 audience members in an exquisite, intimate space—UVM's historic 'home on the hill.' Mason & Hamlin piano newly restored by Allan Day.
 \$25 admission fee. Parking on site.
 Contact Claire Black by Friday 7/21 to reserve your seat: stellariatrio@gmail.com or [518.796.4188](tel:518.796.4188).



Upcoming Concerts

More Concerts...

Cellist *Dieuwke Davydov* and pianist *Diana Fanning* recently returned from their 8th concert tour in Europe. The tour was part of a series of concerts celebrating 40 years of performances together as the Davydov-Fanning Duo. Other concerts were in Stowe, Middlebury, Brandon, and Randolph, VT., and in Saranac, NY.

Diana Fanning will play a solo recital in Essex, NY, on August 27; in Peterborough, NH, on October 29; and at Middlebury College on November 12.

The Rochester Chamber Music Summer Series, in Rochester Vermont
Cynthia Huard Artistic Director, will present a 23rd season:
June 24, Saturday 4 pm, the Johannes Quartet performs;

July 9, Sunday 4 pm, 'Seeing Double', two spectacular violinists, with Cynthia Huard at the piano;

July 21, Friday evening 7:00, *Peter Stumpf*, cellist in the Johannes Quartet and formerly principal cello in the LA Symphony, will perform Schubert, Schumann, Hindemith, Vaughn-Williams, Cynthia Huard, piano.

The final concert, August 6, Sunday 4 pm, is to be a Baroque Feast: Brandenburg 5 and Orchestral Suite # 2 in B minor, Boston players on original instruments, Cynthia Huard on Harpsichord.



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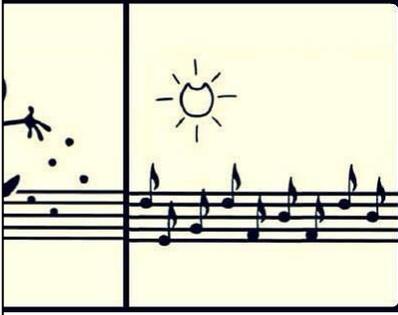


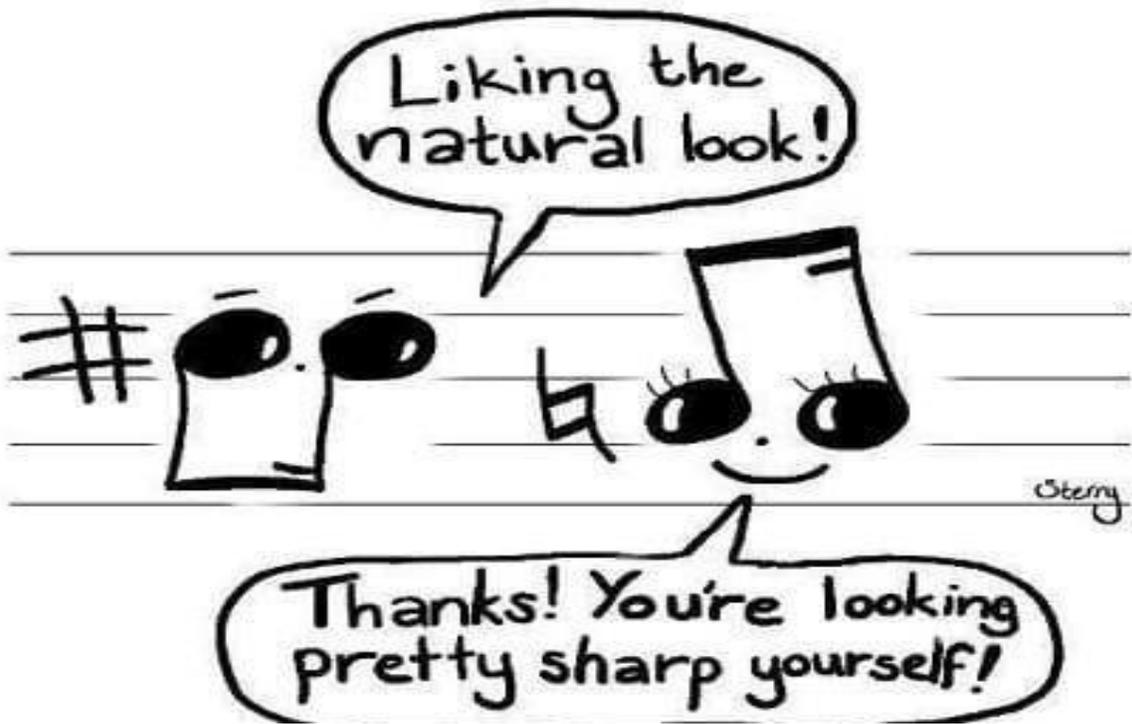
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— Hans Christian Andersen

Vermont Virtuosi



2016-2017 Season

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

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

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

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

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

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

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