

Burlington Branch Vermont Music Teachers Association

August 2022

Dear Colleague;

After a hiatus in 2021 the BBVMTA will hold its fourteenth "Monster Concert" on **Saturday January 28, 2023**. This event is open to students of BBVMTA member teachers only. The concert will consist of duets and a quartet performed on numerous pianos simultaneously. It will be an extremely exciting and valuable experience for all those who participate. **Please read this letter and all material so that you understand all that is involved for this event to be successful.**

Rehearsals for the BBVMTA "Monster Concert" will begin Friday afternoon **January 27th**. Rehearsals will continue on Saturday, January 26 culminating with a public concert on Saturday afternoon, **January 28th**. The rehearsals and concert will be held at the **Trinity Baptist Church in Williston**.

Ginger Yang Hwalek of Bangor, Maine will be our Monster Concert Conductor. She earned a BM in piano performance from Indiana University, a MM also in piano performance at Wichita State University and a DM in piano chamber music and accompanying at Northwestern University. Dr. Hwalek has taught at Illinois State University, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and has recently retired from the University of Maine after 26 years. She still maintains a private studio. Dr. Hwalek has been actively involved in Music Teachers National Association and has served in several capacities including director of Eastern Division for 2 terms and MTNA Senior Competitions Coordinator. In 2006, Dr. Hwalek was named MTNA Teacher of the Year and in 2013 became a Foundation Fellow. She is a veteran conductor of monster concerts in New Hampshire and Maine and is honored and very pleased to return to BBVMTA for the tenth time.

It is important that students know that they will be making a commitment of both days. Please see the enclosed rehearsal schedule. (We have planned for a "snow date" on February 3rd and 4th, but hope these dates are not needed). There is much to be accomplished in a short time. It is important that:

1. Students must **arrive 15 minutes before** their scheduled rehearsal time. (However, they may leave as soon as their ensemble finishes rehearsing.)
2. Each participating student **must attend the rehearsal on Friday and the rehearsal on Saturday (1/27-28)**. Absences and tardiness will not be excused. Please note that **if a student misses any rehearsal, they will not be allowed to perform in the concert.**
3. A snow date has been planned for February 3rd and 4th. We hope that students will save this date as well. Students should not be discouraged from participating if they can't commit to both weekends. If the snow date is used, a commitment of both February 3rd and 4th is needed to participate in the concert.
4. **Students should be available if needed for a call back rehearsal time Saturday afternoon.**
5. **A public concert will be at 4:30 on Saturday.** The concert is free, but there will be a donation basket at the concert to help with future monster concerts. No tickets are needed for the concert, doors will open at 4:15.
6. Each student will be scheduled to play in one ensemble, with the option of playing in an additional ensemble/ensembles if needed to fill parts. On the application form, you may check pieces from more than one group depending on each student's needs.
7. **When registering a student, please be sure to look at the music (and not just go by age or level).** There are varying degrees of difficulty within a group. **It is important that you recognize your students' strengths.** Challenges may include rhythm and nuances in the music. **It is always better to have a student play a piece at an easier level.** They will find it challenging playing in a large ensemble, following a conductor and observing all markings within a piece. **Please note all 2nd and 3rd grade students are to be in Group 1**, even if they are capable of playing at a higher level.
8. **No photocopied music will be allowed.** The list of compositions (including composer & publishing co.) to be performed is on the student application form.
9. There is much work to accomplish within a short time, and therefore, students should be **well prepared** before the first rehearsal begins.

Enclosed in this mailing are:

1. Teacher's Entry Summary Sheet
2. Student Application Form with the list of music that will be performed. Please complete one student application form for each participating student (note: make as many copies of this form as you need). **Student application form must be signed by student, parent and teacher before parts can be assigned and include an entry fee of \$25 per student.** (There is no entry fee for teachers participating in the "Teachers only ensemble"). Please send **one check** per studio.
3. Rehearsal Schedule.
4. Practice instruction sheet.

The **Application Postmark Deadline** is **November 1**. Assignment of pieces and parts will be made in the order that applications are received. Part assignments will be made for the first 20 students in a studio. Additional student assignments will be made following the application deadline date. Teachers will be notified by e-mail regarding student assignments November 8th.

If you have any questions, please call Patty Bergeron at 802-878-9873 or e-mail pcberg86@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Patty Bergeron

BBVMTA monster concert chair

