

JANUARY 2020

NEWSLETTER



Milwaukee Music Teachers Association, Inc.



A Note to Members

Dear MMTA Members:

Happy New Year! Now that we are on the "other side" of the holidays, how is the start of our second decade of the 2000s for you?

I have been thinking a lot about how much the world has changed since I began teaching in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Recently, I have been reviewing and purging old documents and materials I used over the years. I am in awe of the various adaptations I've had to make over the years in my teaching style, processes, materials, etc. While my instrument (the piano) has not changed much, it seems as if much in my profession has and is changing. I am continually challenged with how to engage my students, while our world is so rapidly changing culturally, technologically and socially. Perhaps some of you feel the same.

Our organization can be a valuable resource to each of us professionally. I invite all of our members to help each other negotiate these pedagogical waters going forward. Would you like to give a presentation or write an article for this newsletter? Please contact me with any suggestions you have for how we can support each other in our practice of independent music teaching. Best regards!

Alison Guthrie, MMTA President

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MARCH 2020 WORKSHOP

ON MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2020, MMTA WILL SPONSOR A WORKSHOP.

LAURIE SHAWGER WILL PRESENT:

"Alexander Technique-Introduction to A.T. Principles and Applications for Teaching and Performing."

Laurie Shawger is a violinist in the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra since 1989. She has also been a studio violin teacher for 35 years, and from 1988-1998 was on the faculty of the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. She holds B.M. and M.M. degrees from the Julliard School. She earned certification after completion of the 3 year/1600 hour A.T. teacher training course and has a teaching practice at the Green Square Integrative Health Center in Glendale. She is on the editorial board of the American String Teachers Journal (ASTA). During the 2019-2020 concert season, she is on leave from the MSO to pursue master's degree studies in mindfulness-based transpersonal counseling at Naropa University (Boulder, CO). Laurie can be reached via email at unibodyAT@gmail.com. Her website is <https://www.unibodyalexandertechnique.com>.

Time: 9:30AM – 11:00AM at The Steinway Gallery of Milwaukee

Cost: Free to MMTA members/\$5 for non-members

Contact: Anne Richie to register at aermezzo@gmail.com





Artist and Debut Auditions

Congratulations to pianist **Geoffrey, Xue**, student of Margarita Kontorovsky, on his successful Debut audition! Geoffrey is one of two pianists who auditioned on Sunday, January 19 at the Steinway Piano Gallery. The date of his recital this spring is to be determined.

Youth Concert Series 2019-2020

The Youth Concert Series is designed for the purpose of furthering the musical talents of students who study with MMTA members. Through auditions, students are selected to perform in either an MMTA 20 minute Youth Concert of solo repertoire and receive a cash award or elected winners will be presented in an MMTA 8 minute Honor Recital of solo repertoire.

Youth Concert Series Application Deadline:

March 7, 2020*

Audition date for 2020-2021 recitals:

March 29, 2020*

Contact Vickie Wagner: wagnermusicstudios@att.net or 414-871-1394 with any questions.

***Go to the link below to access the application.**

<https://www.milwaukeeusicteachersassociation.org/youth-concert-series>

Upcoming Recitals 2020

The next **Youth Concert is Sunday, March 1, 2020 at 1:30** at Steinway.

Performing students are:

Srikar Mudili (A) – student of Vickie Wagner

Nathan Hall (B) – student of Mary Ellen Burrencia

Sophia Neumann (Special A) – student of Margarita Kontorovsky

Nathaniel Chu (B) – student of Dr. Michael Thiele

Congratulations to all participating teachers and their students featured in the November 2019 and March 2020 recitals!

Annual Piano Olympics 2019

The Piano Olympics (Held on Sunday, November 3rd) was again a success. The event had the same number of students participating this year as in 2018. The final number included 2 adults and 1 exceptional needs student. We appreciate all organizers and participants in this event!

MMTA Junior Club



There are 10 teachers participating this year with a total of 40 student participants. There will be four (4) district sites used. If you have any questions, please contact [Marcia Earl](#) at 262-389-1803 or humady@aol.com.

MMTA CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

January 2020

- Board Meeting - 1/6/20 at 9:30AM(Steinway)
- Artist and Debut Auditions - 1/19/20 - 1PM-5PM(Steinway)
- Junior Festival Events(ongoing)

February 2020

- Junior Festival Events(ongoing)

March 2020

- Youth Concert - 3/1/20 at 1:30PM(Steinway)
- Board Meeting - 3/10/20 at 9:30AM(Steinway)
- Youth Concert Auditions - 3/29/20(Steinway)
- MMTA Workshop - Date TBA
- Application Deadline for Youth Concerts - March 7, 2020

April 2020

- Board Meeting - 4/20/20 at 9:30AM(Steinway)
- Fiscal Year Ends 4/30/20

May 2020

- Fiscal Year begins 5/1/20
- Annual Member meeting - Date and time TBA

June 2020

- Board Planning Meeting-TBA



Member Resources Page

On this page, we will feature information and tools to assist members in their teaching professions. In this issue, we spotlight the following websites which offer methods for teachers to better enjoy teaching while adapting our curriculum for 21st century students. While the topics are piano focused, the information is relevant to independent teachers of all instruments.

Teach Piano Today.com

<https://www.teachpianotoday.com>

This site is owned by Trevor and Andrea Dow who reside in British Columbia. This is a site filled with lesson activities, games, piano books, blogs and articles for the purpose of engaging both the student and teacher in the enjoyment of piano lessons. The site offers FREE downloads.

This site also features multiple articles on running a studio, teaching teens, handling teacher stress and more!

Trevor and Andrea have created their own piano method series called "Wunderkeys" which can be purchased on Amazon.com. There are supplementary printables, which help students with ear training, rhythmic practice, note reading and sight reading among others.

Tim Topham

<https://topmusic.co>

This site is very dedicated to showcasing innovative ways to engage today's students. The site owner, Tim Topham states, "I believe that motivating and inspiring 21st Century music students requires a different approach. Supporting your creativity and helping you grow a thriving studio business is my passion."

This site offers numerous videos, blogs and podcasts related to numerous topics associated with independent teaching. This includes how to advertise your studio on Facebook and how to create a website for your studio. Tim has been interviewed in *Piano Companion Magazine* (formerly Piano Clavier magazine). Tim, has also interviewed such individuals as Marvin Blickenstaff and Melody Bober among others.

The following article addresses thought provoking and perhaps controversial perspectives on teaching piano in the 21st century. This article is relevant to teachers of all instruments in some ways.

Go to the link below to read: <https://topmusic.co/the-future-of-piano-teaching-what-does-it-really-look-like>.

How One Conservatory of Music is Adapting to 21st Century Education

Lawrence University is developing a "new paradigm" for a 21st century conservatory education. The conservatory seeks to integrate old approaches with new to help students create their own musical lives and careers. This new paradigm is centered around the following:

Core Musicianship, Liberal Arts, Creative Impulse, Multi-Musicality, Social Engagement, Entrepreneurial Mindset, Performance Re-Imagined and Inter-connectivity. To learn more, visit:

<https://www.lawrence.edu/conservatory/about/21st-century-musicianship>

For interesting articles from the perspective of Brian Pertl, Dean of Conservatory, visit his blog here:

https://www.lawrence.edu/conservatory/about/deans_desk

MMTA Directory

Need to know who to contact? Please consult the MMTA Directory for a list of Board members.

MMTA Constitution and ByLaw Revisions

The Board will be finalizing updates to our Bylaws and Constitution. Membership will be notified of these changes prior to our annual May meeting. Member approval of these changes will be held by vote at the annual meeting.



Board Positions for 2020-2021

Our nominating committee is working to arrange a ballot for Board positions during this coming fiscal year. They are as follows:

- Second Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Artist and Debut Manager
- Youth Concert Manager
- Assistant Youth Concert Manager
- Board Member

If you would like to be placed on the ballot for one of the Board positions above, please contact Christine Weege at cmweege@gmail.com. The deadline is February 29th.

Member Support



Know of a member who is ill or needs support? Please contact our Sunshine Chair, JJoan McCallum at (414)429-3018 or via email at jmpiano@mac.com.

Student Masterclasses

Have an interest getting your students to participate in masterclasses during the coming year? Please contact Alison Guthrie at fortipiano@netscape.net for information.

Scholarship Opportunities

There are 3 scholarship opportunities available to students. Applications can be found on the WPMC website at

<http://wfmc-music.org/competitions-awards/wfmc-specific-awards/>

WPMC High Achievement Award(New)-\$500

(application deadline: March 15, 2020)

Peggy Radmer Music Scholarship - a \$500 scholarship

(application deadline: March 15, 2020)

Apple for the Teacher Award-\$500

(application deadline: March 1, 2020)

