



Conroe Music Teachers Association

Selected Best of State for 2007 by TMTA

Newsletter

April 2007

www.conroemta.org

UPCOMING DEADLINES

Friday, April 13

- Nominations for 1st VP
- ALL Scholarship/Senior Award Entries

Monday, April 30

- CMTA May Dinner reservations due (pg 2)
- Last day to register for TMTA convention at discounted rate (pg 4)

Friday, May 11

- All Scholarship Applications and Senior Awards Apps. Due – see yearbook

Tuesday, May 15

- Last day to book hotel reservations at special convention rates for TMTA Convention (p.4)

Remember that entries for an event may be submitted anytime prior to the deadline date or be in the hands of the chairman by the deadline.

DATES TO NOTE

Saturday, April 14

- Betty Clappitt Piano Contest and Winners' Recital (pg 2)

Friday, May 11 – 6:30 p.m.

- CMTA meeting/dinner Performance Contest Winners Concert (pg 2)

Tuesday, June 5

- 7 PM CMTA/CCMTA Piano Ensemble performance hosted by Montgomery College MTNA Chap.

June 8-11 TMTA Convention (Page 4)

APRIL General Meeting

Friday, April 13th

9:15 a.m.

LOCATION

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH in CONROE

600 N. Main, Conroe

(Same location as the Spring Theory Test)

DIRECTIONS

Take I-45 to SH105 Exit
Head east to downtown Conroe
Turn left on Main

Agenda to include:

Bylaw Revision Vote
Vote on Officers for 2007-2008
Member-of-the-Year Vote
Reports and other business

PROGRAM

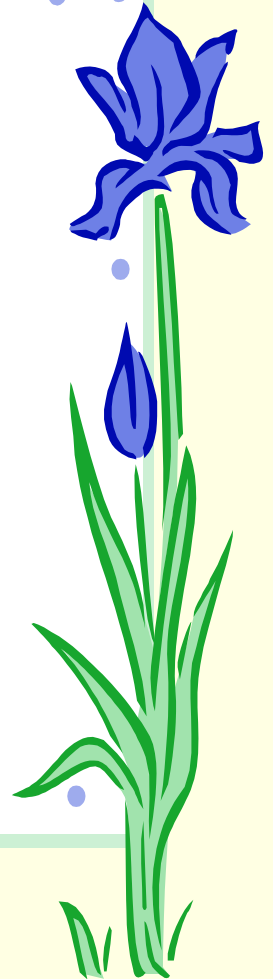
Clinician Betsy Rabon

Read her bio on page 3

New Music Release Review

Sponsored by The Music Rack

THANK YOU to all who attended the March meeting. We have some very important business to conduct in April and hope each of you will be in attendance at 9:15 on April 11th. Thank you!!!!



Invitation

**Conroe Music Teachers Association
MAY DINNER/MEETING/CONCERT**

Friday, May 11, 2007

6:30 p.m.

**Faith United Methodist Church
2403 Rayford Road**

**Dinner: Steak, baked herb potatoes, Caesar salad, green beans, rolls,
coffee, iced tea, and cake**

Program: Local Performance Contest Winners in Recital

May General Meeting and Installation of Officers

\$15 per person

Reservations due to Marc Layton on or before April 30th

Teachers and Guests Welcome!

Dear Conroe MTA,

On behalf of TMTA and TMTEF, I want to thank you for your generous contribution of \$260 (\$5 per member) for the Fargason Fund. We sincerely value your contribution which enables TMTA and TMTEF to make a difference in the lives of music teachers and students statewide.

Sincerely,

Roberta Gober

Teachers, parents, students and the general public are all invited to attend the

**Betty Clampitt Piano Contest
Winners' Recital**

At the

WEST CONROE BAPTIST CHURCH

1855 Longmire, just north of SH105, west of I-45.

Directions and map are available at <http://wcbc.us/wcb/directions>

Saturday, April 14, 2007

7:00 p.m.

Clinician Betsy Rabon
Guest Presenter at the April 13th CMTA General Meeting
Sponsored by The Music Rack

Betsy has taught piano for 24 years, not including teaching piano through high school, and presently teaches at The Music Rack. She received her Bachelor of Music in Piano and Voice from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey and Moores School of Music at the University of Houston, and has extensive training in piano pedagogy, music theory, ear training, sight singing, accompanying, vocal coaching, ensemble repertoire, and all piano repertoire. Betsy enjoys teaching students of all ages.

Betsy has 25 years experience working as a pianist. Currently, she is an active area accompanist for many school districts and churches. She also enjoys playing for local country clubs, hospitals, and special events.

Additionally, Betsy has experience as a choir director, a handbell director, and a director over children's programming in several churches.

A Certified State of Texas Music Teacher, Betsy taught middle school choir in which most of her choirs earned First Division Ratings in Concert and Sight Reading every year. She also taught elementary music and loved giving the children their first experience with music.

Betsy believes music can reach every child, and enjoys researching for that special piece(s) that can speak to each student, whether child or adult.

She knows that we can never forget Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Debussy, etc. but that it is important as a teacher to keep learning. As the world changes, Betsy believes teachers have a job to keep looking and listening to new music. Who knows, it may just be that new piece(s) that inspires your student.

NEWS BRIEFS

The Nominating Committee is still **looking for a member to serve as 1st Vice President** for next year. Following the vote on the officers at the May meeting, they will begin filling all other positions for next year. Please consider where you would like to work in CMTA next year and be willing to serve.

The Bylaws Committee presented and distributed proposed revised CMTA Bylaws the membership at the March meeting. A vote will be taken at the April meeting. **Please review a copy of the proposed bylaws on the CMTA website. www.conroemta.org.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO CMTA STUDENTS CHOSEN AS
STATE COMPOSITION WINNERS**

Alexandra Byrnes won 2nd place in Division S5
and
Jonathan Craft won 1st place in Division SP12

Both are students of Diane Delk

ATTENTION ALL TEACHERS - Pass this along to your students

Toni Zavatson, TMTA Composition Chair, asked that we encourage our students to attend the Dr. John Sharpley clinic on Sunday at the convention. She says "Dr. Sharpley promises that the program will be fun and interactive, as he explores the creative process through composition and improvisation."

LOCATION

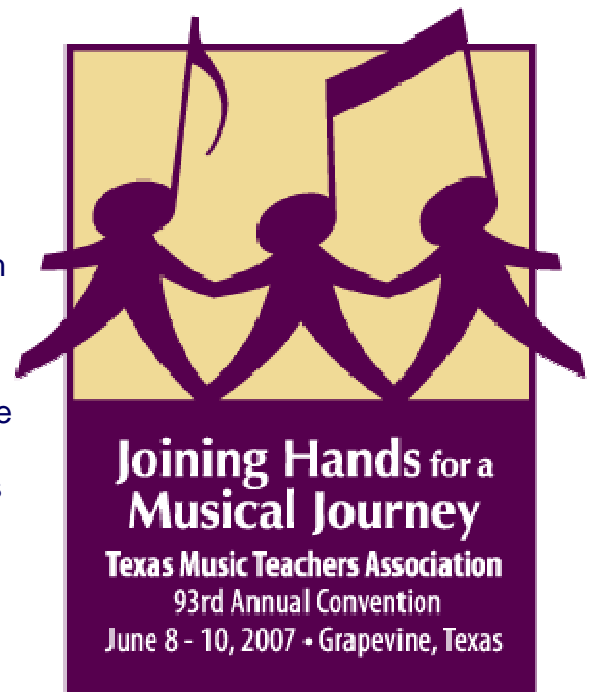
Hyatt Regency at DFW, Grapevine

HOUSING

Convention room rates are \$99 flat rate for all occupancy levels. Reservations will be made through the hotel by calling **1-800-233-1234**. To get the room rate, you must mention you are with Texas Music Teachers Association. The rate is in effect until **May 16, 2007**. After that date, full rates will apply. Be sure to reserve rooms for the **Hyatt Regency**, not the Grand Hyatt which is at the same location. Parking is complimentary to all convention attendees if tickets issued at airport entrance booths are validated at the Hyatt Regency hotel bellstand.

Teacher Registration BEFORE May 1st is \$55

Convention is a great time for meeting other teachers, hearing great music, learning from great speakers, learning about new music from the composers..... Registration is available online TODAY
<http://www.tmta.org/2007.htm>



TMTA Local and District Performance Competitions
Report by Don Harris



Local Competition

We had a sizable number of outstanding performers in our Local TMTA Performance Contest for this year (18 students!). CMTA's 600+ Student Affiliate enrollment for the year qualified us to send as many as three winners in each age category to the next level (District) of the competition.

Ten local unranked winners were selected by our judge, Brad Love, to advance to the District Competitions, which were held at Baylor University on March 10th.

They were as follows: (alphabetized)

Piano Solo (grades 7-8) – Christina Chan, Jordan Dewbre and Shane Pan
1st alternate – Jessica Wang and 2nd alternate – Kang Fu

Piano Solo (grades 9-10) – William Lian and Sarah Ray

Piano Solo (grades 11-12) – Miguel Espinoza-Chevez, Kevin Stiles, and Lye-Ching Wong

Piano Concerto (grades 9-10) – Ben Donahoo and Rosemary Wang

Our local judge also selected two post-12 performers to advance directly to State Level Competitions, which will be held at the TMTA State Convention in June.

They were as follows:

Piano Solo (young artist division) – Laura Noemi Valderrama-Ramirez

Concerto (young artist division) – Chi Wai Liu

Teachers entering students in this year's event were: Elena Bakina, Diane Delk, Don Harris, Doris Lum, and Dr. Sergio Ruiz.

The local competition had been unusually competitive this year, but the District Competitions proved to be much more so. In view of this, CMTA would like to highly commend all students who advanced to District, and performed so well on that level. CMTA was very well represented!

On the district level of the competition (for grades 7-12) only two winners in each age category (from all the associations in the district) are selected to advance to the final rounds at the TMTA Convention in June. Due to the very stiff competition on District Level this year, CMTA did not have any piano solo winners to advance to state. However, we did have two piano concerto winners who were chosen to compete in the state finals in June. They were as follows:

Piano Concerto (grades 9-10) – Ben Donahoo and Rosemary Wang

Heartiest congratulations to all participating students and teachers in CMTA's most challenging event of the year! We truly look forward to hearing some of these gifted musicians at our May Meeting/Dinner on May 11th.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MUSICIANS.....



ACCOMPANISTS NEEDED

The Woodlands High School band is holding their first ever Chamber Music Festival the week of April 23- 28. It is going to be an exciting festival with opportunities for all the kids in the program to perform in a recital setting. The winners of the contest will also perform at an Honors Concert at Montgomery College on April 28. The response from the students has been overwhelmingly positive and there are lots of solo entries!

If you are interested in accompanying for these students please contact Diane Delk at diane@tmta.org. It is especially important for interested new members to contact her as she may not have you on her list of contacts yet.

The Magnolia High School, Bear Branch JH and 6th grade are holding a solo contest for their band students April 26 and 27. The Magnolia West HS, Magnolia JH and 6th grade contest for their band students will be May 3 and 4. If you would be interested in rehearsing with and accompanying students either of these events, please contact Becky Landreth at blandreth@houston.rr.com.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION.....

On Saturday, April 28, The Shepherd School of Music, in collaboration with The Methodist Center for Performing Arts Medicine, will present a symposium on medical issues affecting performing musicians. We invite you to attend this special event at the Shepherd School. The all-day symposium will feature presentations by physicians who specialize in caring for musicians with performance-related injuries. Injury prevention and treatment will be discussed as well as topics of repetitive stress injuries; anatomy, physiology and care of the voice; nutrition; music and brain function; and psychological challenges relating to performing. Participating physicians will join Shepherd School faculty members Norman Fischer, Stephen King, and William VerMeulen in a panel discussion at the end of the day. This symposium will be directed to music students, parents of young musicians, educators, and recreational and professional musicians. Although this event is offered free of charge, advance registration is required. Contact Kristi Blair at the Shepherd School - 713-348-8000 or e-mail: klb2@rice.edu. More information is available at the Shepherd School website: <http://music.rice.edu>.

“Music to Munch By”

Free lunch time concerts on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

We invite our customers, employees of our neighbor stores, and music lovers in general to come to our new store, at 7530 FM 1960 West, in the Willowbrook Commons Shopping Center for these FREE concerts. They bring their lunch and come listen to great music while they eat.

Would YOU like to perform at one of these concerts? Any style of music is acceptable and you do not have to play by memory. This is your chance to be the STAR! This is your chance to play for an appreciative audience, hone your skills at performing, and share your music! Perhaps you have an advanced student who might enjoy performing. If performing is not your thing, come join us and listen!

Call Minnie Mosley at 281-890-6951 for more information.
Brook Mays PianoMax, 7530 FM 1960 West, Houston, Texas 77070

PianoTexas International Academy & Festival Teachers Program

Performers: June 7-17, 2007

Observers: June 13-17, 2007

A World Premiere Event for Piano Teachers!

PianoTexas is happy to announce that in June 2007 it will make its mark in the world as the first festival of its kind to offer concerto performances for teachers, collaborating with a professional orchestra - the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra. This unprecedented opportunity provides a perfect platform for teachers wishing to stay active in public performance, and unquestionably a concerto with an orchestra is the pinnacle of such experience.

In addition, performing teachers will be playing in master classes, private lessons as well as performing their solo pieces in recitals. Their experience will be further enhanced by various interesting and thought-provoking presentations and lecture-demonstrations. PianoTexas prides itself in inviting various internationally renowned artists/teachers as a testimony of the high standard of the Teachers Program. Among this year's guest artists are Paul Badura-Skoda, Philippe Bianconi, Yoheved Kaplinsky, and Nelita True.

For participation, we welcome both performing and observing applicants. PianoTexas promises an exceptional and unforgettable experience for all who attend.

For further information or to apply please visit: www.pianotexas.org or call 817.257.7456
