



*Conroe Music Teachers Association Newsletter*  
*August - September 2006*

**CONROE MTA CHOSEN AS TMTA'S  
BEST OF STATE ASSOCIATION  
FOR 2006-2007**

See page 3



First CMTA General Meeting  
Of 2006-2007 Year

**SEPTEMBER 8th**  
**NEW TIME**

**9:00 a.m.**

**The Woodlands Library**

**Grogan's Mill and Lake Robbins**

Hint: Being on time has its rewards!!

**Business**

**Yearbook Distribution**

**Bylaw revision – first reading**

**Other important news**

**Program**

**Preview of Ensemble Pieces**

**Preview of Piano Contest Repertoire**

## Registration by email!!!

This year, CMTA will be one of the TMTA associations who will receive their Student Affiliate registration forms by email to complete and return to Marc Layton, CMTA Student Affiliate Chair. Step-by-step instructions for completing the form were sent by email and Marc will be happy to assist you as well.



## TMTA THEORY FALL TEST FOR 2006 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28<sup>th</sup>

The testing center has changed for this test. We will be at the Woodlands High School **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Campus** on the corner of Branch Crossing and Woodlands Parkway. A testing schedule is being worked out for efficiency, but it will require coordination and promptness on the part of CMTA teachers. **MARK THIS DATE** on your calendar because *you will be assigned a time to work if you enter students in the test.* CMTA requires teachers to work at the events in which they have students entered, and we need every teacher to do their part.



## A Word About The Calendar.....

**Suggestion:** Mark entry deadlines on your own calendar 2 weeks ahead of "The Last Day to Submit" deadline. Remember that entries will be taken any time BEFORE the deadline.

Theory, Ensemble and Betty Clampitt Piano Contest will accept entry submissions by email this year (forms will be on the web site), making it even easier for you to meet the deadlines. The chairmen of the events will not be accepting late submissions this year, so it is very important that we make a note to remind ourselves well ahead so that when our schedules are at their busiest, we don't miss a deadline and not get to enter our students. **SEE THE CALENDAR at the END of the NEWSLETTER FOR COMPLETE DETAILS**

**OF EVENTS AND ENTRY DEADLINES.**



## OPPORTUNITY –

If you would like to help CMTA by taking over the editing and preparation of the CMTA newsletter, please contact Becky Landreth, blandreth @ Houston.rr.com. Your creativity can blossom because the format does not have to look the same month after month. A computer with Word and a basic knowledge of how to use both is all that is required. We, as music teachers, know that we start with the basics and we get better with practice!!!!!!!!!!

## **CMTA HONORED by TMTA**

Data was gathered from the 2005-2006 year to complete a submission form for the TMTA “Best of State” award. The points for this award are based on the % of renewing members, % of members attending the TMTA convention, % of member donating to TMTEF, % of members holding NCTM, % of members donating to MTNA, % of members participating at convention under a steering committee, the number of festivals, competitions, teacher enrichment activities, programs of advocacy or community service, performances, members participating at the State level in various jobs, administrative requirements, and new members. It was truly the participation of all and the extra effort of a number of CMTA members that won the honor from TMTA. A HUGE thank you goes to Sharon Callahan for assisting Becky Landreth in researching and compiling the data for submission. Congratulations to all CMTA members, and to Doris Lum, CMTA President for 2005-2006.

Conroe members,

Congratulations! Conroe MTA has been chosen as TMTA’s “Best of State” Association for 2006-2007. Conroe MTA will be recognized throughout the year and honored at the 2007 TMTA Convention in Grapevine. TMTA will donate \$200 to the Elizabeth Morris Fund in honor of your fine association, and each member of your association will proudly display a “Best of State” ribbon attached to their convention name tag at the 2007 TMTA Convention.

On behalf of TMTA, please accept my sincere congratulations on a job well done! You have set a standard of excellence and achievement for the rest of us to follow. We are so proud of all the wonderful teachers in Conroe MTA!!

Sincerely,

*Heather Rathnau*

Heather Rathnau

TMTA Best of State Chair

**October Pedagogy Page** – submit your suggestions or tips for student/parent interviews for next month. What questions do you ask? How long do you spend with the student/parent? What do you look for in a student/parent? What are some of your evaluation techniques? Etc..... Be sure to read **SEPTEMBER PEDAGOGY PAGE** on Newsletter page 5

**Do you have a music teaching question you would like to have answered? Perhaps you have a practice tip for students you would like to share or a studio idea you are trying differently this year. Did you know your questions and ideas could be shared with MTNA members through the Polyphony column in *AMT* or the teaching tips on the MTNA website? These two MTNA features offer members the opportunity to interact with other teachers from across the country to share their expertise.**

To participate, send MTNA your questions, ideas and tips to MTNA, 441 Vine St., Ste. 505, Cincinnati, OH 45202-2811; fax (513) 421-2503; or e-mail to [amt@mtna.org](mailto:amt@mtna.org).

**NEW  
RELEASE**

Get your copy today of the  
Professionally Produced  
**2006 ENSEMBLE  
CONCERT**

to show to your students, even if you didn't  
have students participate in 2006.

This is a great way for students to understand the  
concept of a piano ensemble and what they sound  
and look like.

Fortunately, a few DVD copies remain at a  
bargain price to teachers of \$15 each.

Available at meetings or contact Doris Lum.

**John Kimura Parker**

Piano

[www.kimura.com](http://www.kimura.com)

**Friday, September 29th - Reception at 7:30 - Concert at 8:00**

Internationally acclaimed concert pianist Jon Kimura (Jackie) Parker is one of the top touring concert pianists performing with most of the major orchestras in the world. In the past few years he has performed concertos with the New York Philharmonic, The Cleveland Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony, the Columbus Symphony, the Dallas Symphony, the Florida Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, Atlanta, Boston, Calgary, Denver, Ottawa, Salt Lake City, San Diego, Tampa, Tokyo, Toronto, Rochester, Warsaw and our Houston Symphony. Jackie is Professor of Piano at The Shepherd School of Music at Rice University and has agreed to perform his "Fantasies" recital consisting of a number of Fantasies for the piano. This is a concert not to be missed.

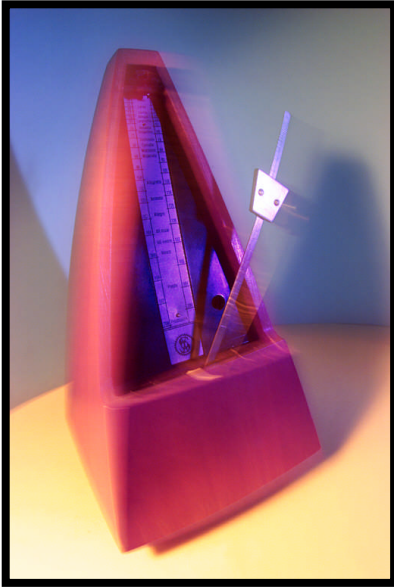
This is going to be a FABULOUS concert – I have heard this artist play before and he is an EXTREMELY talented pianist! I highly encourage as many of you to attend. Be sure to make reservations early as this concert will probably sell out soon. The Salon Series concerts are held in the home of Scott Cutler, a Woodlands resident, and are most enjoyable. It is a concert you will be glad you attended. Visit the Woodlands Salon Series website at [www.woodlandssalonseries.org](http://www.woodlandssalonseries.org). Sharon



Spotted at the TMTA Convention in Dallas on June 9<sup>th</sup>: Karen Barnett, Diane Delk, Sheryl Speelman, Nancy Hall, Alecia Russell, Sharon Callahan, Don Harris and Doris Lum. Others may have been in attendance, but we just missed bumping into each other. If you were in attendance, please share a thought or 2 from the convention with CMTA members by dropping the editor a note.  
Blandreth  
@ Houston.rr.com

# Pedagogy Page

Contributed by Jenny Prochaska



Here is a game for helping children accept and provide constructive criticism. I have had the pleasure of being a beginning-experience teacher for several older children. Understandably, this situation can feel like a threatening experience for children who hold themselves to high standards. Learning to hear, understand, and accept constructive criticism is a skill unto itself. It is a skill that needs to be developed if a teacher and student are to have a productive relationship.

The game works like this: The teacher asks the student to play the passage.

The teacher provides 2 positive statements about the performance.

The teacher then says, "Now it is time to trade places! You be the teacher and I will be the student." (I make a big deal out of vacating my comfy, upholstered teacher chair and moving to the piano bench. I offer the student a footstool. I make sure he feels privileged to sit in the teacher chair. )

Teacher : "I am going to play what you just played in two different ways. One version will be the correct way. The other version will have one mistake. Well, I hope it will only have one mistake. If I happen to make a lot of mistakes you will be a nice teacher, won't you? You won't say anything to make me feel bad, right? You would never call me stupid, would you? Good, because I will play it the best way I can. Even I make mistakes. Your job, as the teacher, is to figure out which version is the best one; AND what the mistake is in the other version."

Teacher : Model relaxed breathing and posture before starting. Model focus. Tell the student the first repetition is version A and the second rep. is called B. Play both passages slowly, exaggerating the error in the incorrect version. Ask the student to identify the correct passage by letter. Ask him to identify the error in the incorrect version. If he is not able to do this, repeat and exaggerate until he can identify the error. Praise his listening skills.

When the error is identified, ask the "teacher" what can be done to correct the error. Often, this answer provides fantastic insight as to the child's thought process while playing. The child may have no idea how to fix the problem; the child may think of the same solution as the teacher; or may have a completely innovative idea. The teacher then tries ALL of the solutions and chooses a favorite. The student then tries all of the solutions, and together, with the teacher, decides on which one to use.

This game works like a charm, because it appears that the student is not on the receiving end of the criticism--the teacher is. This game helps take any defensive posture away from the student and instead brings a collaborative feel to the lesson. The more you ham it up, the more fun it is!

**Congratulations to Dianne Kaldor!!!**

**Dianne received permanent National Certification status as of 2005-2006. Way to go Dianne!!!**



The following motion passed at the TMTA convention board meeting. We need to get the word out to our CMTA students who participate in ensemble that they can receive monetary awards for participating in state ensembles for 9+ years. This will be in effect for 2007.

Ensemble awards:  
Year 9 \$100  
Year 10 \$50  
Year 11 \$50

Year 12 \$300 (Elizabeth Morris award)

Ribbons will be added to convention badges for those who have participated for 5 years.



**Did you know that July 1, 2006, is a very important date for all MTNA members? The new membership year starts and along with that, MTNA is rolling out two new services to support your music teaching.**

**Beginning July 1, MTNA will offer legal consultation services free of charge, exclusively to MTNA members. Assistance in the following areas will be available:**

- Zoning issues
- Bill collection
- Business formation (additional fees may be required for filing in your state)
- Non-compete agreements
- Buying and selling existing studios
- Music purchases and resale to students
- Copyright and ASCAP issues
- Ethics issues
- Liability issues
- Tax issues

**Call the MTNA National Headquarters to discuss your legal questions and issues. After calling the office, you may be directed to an attorney for further consultation.**

**Also, new this year is the MTNA Professional Support Line. Assistance provided by the educational services staff is available for pedagogical and business issues.**

**To use both of these services, contact the MTNA National Headquarters at (888) 512-5278 or [mtnatnet@mtna.org](mailto:mtnatnet@mtna.org).**

**Remember to renew your membership for the 2006–2007 year to continue enjoying all the benefits MTNA offers and take advantage of these two new services.**

**CONROE MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2006-2007**

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENTS, PROGRAMS & DEADLINES	LOCATION
Sept. 1	Friday	9 a.m.	Executive Board Meeting	TBA
Sept. 8	Friday	9 a.m.	<b>General Meeting</b>	Woodlands Public Library
Sept. 15	Friday	8 p.m.	<b>LAST DAY TO SUBMIT:</b> <b>(Entries must be turned in at Gen. Mtg. or in the hands of the chair, not postmark date)</b>	
			✓ <u>Student Affiliate Registration to Marc Layton (\$15)</u>	
			✓ <u>Fall Theory Test Registration to Dianne Kaldor (\$12)</u>	
			✓ <u>Fall Scale-a-Rama Registration to Diane Delk (\$5)</u>	
Sept. 13	Wednesday		<b>Deadline:</b>	
			✓ <u>MTNA/TMTA State Performance Contest to State Coordinator</u>	
October 7	Saturday	TBA	Fall Scale-A-Rama	Various Studios
October 13	Friday	9 a.m.	<b>General Meeting</b>	Conroe Public Library (I-45)
			<b>LAST DAY TO SUBMIT:</b>	
			✓ <u>Holiday/Hymn/Fall Festival Entries to Shannon Strickland (\$10)</u>	
October 28	Saturday	8 a.m.	Fall Theory Test	Woodlands HS 9 <sup>th</sup> Grd. Campus
November 10	Friday	9 a.m.	<b>General Meeting</b>	See Newsletter
			<b>LAST DAY TO SUBMIT:</b>	
			✓ <u>Ensemble Registrations to Doris Lum (\$15)</u>	
			✓ <u>Original Composition contest entries to Kristy Cox</u> (Fee varies – see CMTA Yearbook)	
November 18	Saturday	9 a.m.	Holiday/Hymn/Fall Festival	Faith United Methodist Church
December 1	Saturday		Ensemble Auditions	Various Studios
December 16	Saturday	2:00 p.m.	<b>General Meeting special program</b>	Sheryl Speelman's home
			<b>LAST DAY TO SUBMIT:</b>	
			✓ <u>Spring Theory Test Registration to Dianne Kaldor (\$12)</u>	
			✓ <u>TMTA Chamber Music Entries to Sheryl Speelman (fee varies)</u>	
			✓ <u>TMTA/CMTA Local Performance Contest Entries to Don Harris (fee varies)</u>	
			✓ <u>Laurie Keyser Sonatina/Sonata Tournament Entries to Karen Barnett (\$10)</u>	
January 5	Friday		<b>LAST DAY TO SUBMIT:</b>	
			✓ <u>TMTA Publication Contest Entries and 1<sup>st</sup> draft to Donna Ryan (\$10)</u>	
January 12	Friday	9 a.m.	<b>General Meeting</b>	See Newsletter
January 20	Saturday	8 a.m.	Laurie Keyser Sonatina/Sonata Tournament	TBA
		7 p.m.	Laurie Keyser Sonatina/Sonata Winners Recital	TBA

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2006-2007 (Continued)

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENTS, PROGRAMS & DEADLINES	LOCATION
February 3	Saturday	8 a.m.	Spring Theory Test	Woodlands HS 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Campus
February 9	Friday	9 a.m. 10 p.m.	<b>General Meeting</b> <b><u>LAST DAY TO SUBMIT:</u></b> ✓ World of Music Test Registration to Sharon Callahan (\$8)	See Newsletter
February 11	Sunday	12:30 p.m.	TMTA/CMTA Local Performance Contest	Forshey's Music
March 9	Friday	9 a.m.	<b>General Meeting</b> <b><u>LAST DAY TO SUBMIT:</u></b> ✓ Nominations for Executive Officers at Gen. Meeting ✓ Member-of-the-Year Nominations to Sarah Scott ✓ <u>Spring Festival Entries to Marc Layton (\$10)</u> ✓ <u>Betty Clampitt Piano Contest Entries to Becky Landreth (\$15)</u> ✓ <u>Play-a-Thon Entries to Jenny Prochaska</u> ✓ <u>TMTA-SA enrollment for 2006-2007 (\$16)</u>	See Newsletter
March 31	Saturday	8 a.m. 8 p.m.	Spring Festival World of Music Test	Faith United Methodist Church Sharon Callahan
April 13	Friday	9 a.m.	<b>General Meeting</b> Voting for Member of the year Voting for 2007-2008 Officers <b><u>LAST DAY TO SUBMIT:</u></b> ✓ <u>Summer Camp Scholarship Entries to Sharon Callahan</u> ✓ <u>TMTA/CMTA Senior Award Entries to Sharon Callahan</u> ✓ <u>CMTA Music Studies Senior Award to Stephanie Teed</u>	See Newsletter
April 14	Saturday	8 a.m. 7 p.m.	Betty Clampitt Piano Contest Betty Clampitt Piano Contest Winners Recital	Wildwood UM Church Wildwood United Methodist Church
April 21	Saturday	10 a.m.	Play-a-thon	The Woodlands Mall
May 11	Friday	6:30 p.m.	Performance Contest Winners Recital Dinner <b>General Meeting and Installation of Officers</b>	See Newsletter
May 29 – June 1	Every Day		Ensemble Rehearsals	Music Store
June 4	Monday	TBA	Ensemble Stage Rehearsal	TBA
June 5	Tuesday	7 p.m.	Ensemble Honors Concert (Tickets \$5 each)	TBA
June 7-10	Thurs. – Sun.		TMTA Convention	Grapevine, TX (Hyatt Regency at DFW)

Executive Board meetings will be called as necessary by the President.