



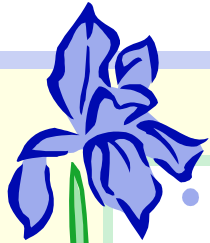
# Conroe Music Teachers Association

## Selected Best of State for 2007 by TMTA

**Newsletter**

**May 2007**

[www.conroemta.org](http://www.conroemta.org)



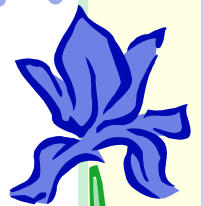
**Conroe Music Teachers Association  
MAY DINNER/MEETING/CONCERT**

**Friday, May 11, 2007**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Faith United Methodist Church  
2403 Rayford Road**

**ALL are welcome for the program and meeting.  
Sorry, but only those who made reservations will be  
able to enjoy the delicious steak dinner which will be  
served promptly at 6:35 p.m.**



**Incoming Executive Board for 2007-2008**

Becky Landreth, President

Beth Fisbeck, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President & SA Chair

Luanne Johns, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President & Membership Chair

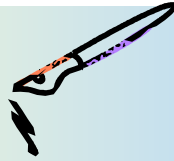
Sheryl Speelman, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President & Programs Chair

Alecia Russell, Recording Secretary

Sharon Callahan, Treasurer

Nancy Hall, Member-at-Large

## *A message from your President*



Thank you for allowing me to serve this year as your President and for entrusting me with this position for another year. Looking back over all that has been accomplished during the past year – the growing number of teachers and student affiliates, the reorganization of events for efficiency, the changes to the bylaws, moving events to new locations to accommodate the growing number of SA entries, etc. – it is breathtaking! This was only made possible by those who volunteered to organize and run events, chair or serve on committees, or serve in other leadership roles. To you we all say, “THANKYOU!!!”

The CMTA board will change this next year in a couple of ways. We, the board, will miss two of our members who have served so capably: Marc Layton, who served as 1<sup>st</sup> VP and SA Chairman, and Stephanie Teed, who has served as Member-at-Large for the past several years. Our MANY THANKS to them for their countless hours of service this past year and for doing such SUPER jobs in their positions!!

The incoming board will have the same faces, just in different capacities. Beth Fisbeck, who served this past year as Parliamentarian, will be taking over the duties of 1<sup>st</sup> VP and SA chairman. THANK YOU, Beth, for stepping into this very important role!! Nancy Hall, who has served as corresponding secretary, will take over the duties of Member-at-Large. This means that you will be seeing emails from Nancy regarding CMTA beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>. Please be certain that her email is approved if you have a spam blocker. THANK YOU, Nancy, for keeping our lines of communication with our members strong!

We welcome all of our new members this year and look forward to working with you. We are going to miss Jenny Prochaska, who is retiring from private lesson teaching, also Megan DePesa who has moved to Florida. They chaired the Play-a-thon together and did a FANTASTIC job!!!

Looking forward to next year, we are beginning the process of filling all of the chairmanships, assistant chairmanships, and other positions necessary to offer our members and SAs quality programs and events. Remember that CMTA is its members! We do not have an office, a staff, an administrative assistant, not even a phone!! WE, the members, ARE CMTA!! Anything that gets done must be done by us. So consider what area you would like to serve in, and give either Beth Fisbeck or me a call or send us an email and we will try to accommodate that request.

All of us are busy, so remember to schedule time to take care of your duties in CMTA and to attend the meetings. We will continue to have them on Friday mornings, though I would like your input on which Friday. There are fewer just-before-a-holiday-weekend Fridays if we move the meeting to the first Friday of the month. What do you think? Also, I need your input on the start time. How about 9:30 a.m.??

Please look over the newly revised bylaws available on the web site at [www.conroemta.org](http://www.conroemta.org). Thanks again for contributing to a great year. I am excited about next year and looking forward to hearing from you.

Becky Landreth  
[blandreth@houston.rr.com](mailto:blandreth@houston.rr.com)

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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>



### 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."

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## PEDAGOGY TIDBIT...

By Becky Landreth

At a recent recital, I listed the following piece and "composer" first on the program:

10-Second Symphony

Micro Chip

I asked all audience members to participate by turning off their electronic devices after 4 counts. The "Symphony" was quite musical as cell phones played little tunes, and the recital had no interruptions from phone calls.

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**PIANO CAMP OPPORTUNITY for students.....**SHSU piano camp, the camp will take place July 15-19, 2007. For more information, please see our website at <http://www.shsu.edu/music/camps/piano.php>

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# MTNA

MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MTNA is continually working to support the development of music teachers across the United States. An important component of that development is membership recruitment and retention. Did you know that there is a way in which you can help the National Headquarters better reach potential members?

It's very likely that you know of teachers in your area who would be good candidates for membership in MTNA. Perhaps someone who has talked about joining, but has never gotten around to it or maybe someone is looking to network with music teaching colleagues. As part of our Membership Recruitment Plan, we would like for your association to submit, by return e-mail, three names and addresses for those individuals. **We are requesting three names as a guideline, but feel free to submit any number you would like. We will then enter their names in our database as prospects and invite them to become members.** We know that all of you are extremely busy, so let us assist you in recruiting new members.

We look forward to working together to bring the benefits of MTNA membership to many new music teachers.

Please share this with your members.

**Recreational Music Making  
RMM Teacher Training Seminars**

**Co-sponsored by MTNA and the National Piano Foundation**

*“I liked that starting piano as an adult is fun and you can still learn how to play.”*

*“I liked that learning in a group was fun and challenging and our teacher was exceptional.”*

*“I liked being with friends who were patient with me and encouraged me.”*

*“I liked the fact that I was able to play and read simple songs so quickly.”*

*“I liked how easy the teacher made reading music because it had always intimidated me before.”*

*“I liked that ‘a-ha’ moment when I could read music – also that sense of achievement when I could play my first piece of music.”*

*“I achieved far more than I ever dreamed possible and I loved our class.”*

*“This became a new avenue or venture for my brain and I want to continue.”*

These are just a few of the comments adult students wrote on a survey after they had taken RMM piano classes in Dallas, TX. Their comments are consistent with those heard from RMM students throughout the U.S. Once these students start RMM classes, they want to keep enrolling.

Demographics suggest that piano teachers can anticipate a huge influx of adult piano students if they are interested in teaching them.

- 10,000 boomers turn 50-years-old every day, and 8,000 turn 60 every day.
- These boomers control 70% of the nation’s net worth.
- Boomers are now more about having experiences than things.
- Learning to play the piano has been a lifelong dream for many of them.
- They are looking for a stress-free environment to learn how to play.
- Many of them can take classes during the day when teachers’ school-age students aren’t available.
- Classes can be taught with as few as two pianos and four to six students in a class.
- They can be taught in teachers’ studios, piano stores, churches, senior centers, assisted living centers, retirement communities, etc.

**RMM Teacher Training Seminars:**

MTNA and the National Piano Foundation are joining forces to offer RMM teacher training seminars in four locations around the country. Attendees will learn:

- How to recruit and retain adult students.
- How to teach them in small groups with group teaching techniques.
- How to create a stress-free environment for students, which also becomes stress-free for the teacher.
- How to prepare lesson plans and choose materials appropriate for RMM classes.

Seminars will begin with registration at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning and will conclude at noon on Sunday. Attendees will be divided into groups around mid-afternoon on Saturday and will work together to prepare and teach an RMM class on Sunday morning. Attendees will be strongly encouraged to recruit and teach one or more RMM groups when they return home.

**Clinicians:**

The three clinicians are experienced RMM teachers who have successful programs and have learned that this kind of teaching has expanded their income as well as their teaching enjoyment.

**Brenda Dillon**

- RMM piano teacher at Plano Senior Center in Plano, TX
- Author of *Piano for Fun and Fulfillment*, a course designed for introductory RMM classes
- Project Director for the National Piano Foundation
- Serves on the Board of Trustees for the Frances Clark Center for Keyboard Pedagogy

**Autumn Keller**

- Creator of *Music and Muffins*, a senior adult piano program (from beginning to advanced levels) in a studio in Billings, MT
- National Teacher Trainer for Musikgarten, an international early childhood music and movement program and consultant for the book, *Musikgarten Adults: Enjoying the Piano Together*
- Clinician for national, regional and local musical and educational conferences
- Master's of Education

**Debra Perez**

- RMM piano teacher at Valley Keyboards in McAllen, TX (20 RMM classes per week at two retail locations)
- Teacher trainer at monthly pedagogy sessions for teachers with a mentorship program for young teachers
- National clinician on topics including group piano pedagogy, the adult hobbyist, and technology and the art of teaching
- Degrees in Piano Performance

**Seminar Locations and Dates:**

- June 30–July 1 Madison, WI
- July 7-8 Harrisburg, PA
- July 14–15 Seattle, WA
- August 11-12 Raleigh-Durham, NC

**Hotel Information:**

After the hotels are confirmed for the four seminars, the details will be posted on the National Piano Foundation website ([www.pianonet.com](http://www.pianonet.com)) under the *Recreational Music Making* tab on the home page.

**Registration:**

To register, send the form below with a \$95.00 check (U.S. funds) payable to the National Piano Foundation and send to NPF, 5960 W. Parker Rd., Suite 278, #233, Plano, TX 75093. The seminar fee will cover materials, lunch and dinner on Saturday, and refreshment breaks.

Deadline for registration is two weeks prior to the seminar you wish to attend. As the number of attendees we can train at each seminar is limited, attendance will be determined by the applicants who register the earliest. No refund will be given after the deadline for registration has passed.

For more information, contact Brenda Dillon ([Brenda@dondillon.com](mailto:Brenda@dondillon.com)) or by telephone at 972/625-6882.

**Seminar Registration Form:**

**Please enroll me for the seminar I have circled:**

June 30-July 1 Madison, WI

July 7-8 Harrisburg, PA

July 14-15 Seattle, WA

Aug. 11-12 Raleigh-Durham, NC

**Please print:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_