



Conroe Music Teachers Association Newsletter

February 2006

CHANGE OF LOCATION for Feb. 10th!!!!

We will not be meeting at the library for this month's CMTA General Meeting. Please plan to join us at the home of Khoren Ouzounian located at 2411 Pebblebrook Circle in Carriage Hills, Conroe, TX, on **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10th**, at 11:00 a.m.

Directions

Travel East on FM1488 from SH242 OR West on FM1488 from I45 to Carriage Hills Boulevard. Turn North onto Carriage Hills Boulevard at the light. Pass through the Stop Sign at the guard house. The second street on the Left is Pebblebrook and 2411 is the 5th house on the right.

Program

Khoren will be presenting a lecture entitled "The Music of J.S. Bach: Understanding the differences between keyboard, vocal and dance works." Khoren has presented workshops/lectures at the World Piano Pedagogy Conference, the Nevada State Music Teachers Association and the Weimar Conference. Please plan to join us after the meeting for this special program.

CMTA & TMTA (and other) DATES TO NOTE

Fri., Feb. 10 CMTA General Meeting 11 a.m. – See above for location and program
World of Music Entries & Fees
Spring Festival Entries & Fees

Tues., Feb. 14 Houston Early Music Concert (see page 5)

Sat., Feb. 19 Patricia and Company Concert (see page 4)

Sat., March 4 TMTA District 2 Performance Contest

Fri., March 10 CMTA General Meeting 11 a.m.
Betty Clampitt Piano Contest Entries & Fees
Play-a-Thon Entries
Musicianship Olympics Entries

Sat., & Sun., March 11 & 12 CMTA Ensemble Meetings (see page 2)

Fri., March 17 Houston Early Music Concert (see page 5)

Sat., April 1 Spring Festival

Sat., April 22 Betty Clampitt Piano Contest (CHANGED DATE – see notice on page 2)



**IMPORTANT
NOTICE
PLEASE
READ**

Due to facility scheduling problems, the CMTA Betty Clampitt Piano Contest has had to be rescheduled to **APRIL 22nd**. Please make this note on your CMTA calendar.

We have made a grand effort to find an alternate location for the original date because we understand this change may cause some problems for teachers and/or students. We apologize for any inconvenience, and hope that you understand. Registrations are still due on Friday, March 10th.

Dear CMTA Teachers;
Due to unfortunate circumstances it is necessary to postpone the ensemble meeting until a later date. I will go ahead and send in the names that I have to the state committee by the first of March. If there are some of you who have not sent in your names please do so immediately so that I can meet the state deadline.

The purpose of the Ensemble meeting is to inform every one about the costumes and other details about the concerts and I don't have all the information needed for this so I am giving a bit more time to give time to everyone who would still like to participate in this fun event.

We will reschedule the meetings as follows: **March 11 and March 12**
Round and Round will meet on Saturday afternoon at 2:00 PM at Montgomery College.
Jazz Toccata will meet on Saturday Afternoon at 3:30 PM at Montgomery College.
Giant Coaster ride will meet on Sunday Afternoon at 2:00 PM at Montgomery College
Parisian Sunrise will meet on Sunday Afternoon at 3:30 Pm at Montgomery College.

If it becomes necessary to make another change I will let you know.

I will be looking for all of you at the meeting this Friday. I will give you more details then.



MTNA
2006 National Conference
March 25-29, 2006

Remember to register for the 2006 MTNA National Conference on or before **February 15**, to receive your discounted registration.

The 2006 Conference will feature all that you've come to expect from an MTNA event, including the Group Teaching and Technology Tracks, the finals of the MTNA Student Performance Competitions, a comprehensive exhibit hall and much more.

Additional highlights include:

- Opening Session keynote address by legendary pianist Van Cliburn
- Free concerts featuring pianist and Van Cliburn Competition gold medalist Stanislav Ioudenitch and Van Cliburn Amateur Competition gold medalist pianist Michael Hawley, in addition to the Amadeus Trio
- *From the Top* radio recording session with host Christopher O'Riley
- National competitions finals and winners concerts in all instruments and levels showcasing the talents of the best young performers nationwide
- Performance of the Distinguished Composer of the Year Michael Djupstrom's piece *Walimai*
- *Just Duet*, four sessions that will give attendees an opportunity to sight read popular duet literature from favorite composers
- Texas MTA Student Affiliate Ensembles will perform duet concerts

Arrive early to the conference to take advantage of three pre-conference sessions—Pedagogy Saturday, Professional Studio Saturday and Collegiate Expo. Pedagogy Saturday, headlined by Robert Duke of The University of Texas at Austin, will focus on the art of teaching, while Professional Studio Saturday, with keynote speaker James Jordan of Westminster Choir College, will encourage music teachers to take a closer look about the time they spend in various areas of the teaching profession. Collegiate members are encouraged to attend the first ever Collegiate Expo. This new, day-long session, will offer students an opportunity to network with colleagues and speak with experts about starting an independent studio, obtaining professional certification, completing auditions, submitting compositions and preparing portfolios and résumés.

To find out more about the conference or to register, visit HYPERLINK "http://www.mtna.org/conference.htm" www.mtna.org/conference.htm. Remember to register by **February 15, 2006 to receive your discount.**



This area is reserved for CMTA teachers to share ideas with other CMTA teachers on various aspects of teaching music.

This month, we have some tips from some of you regarding teaching the World of Music literature and some suggestions for piano Guild.

Next Month's Focus: Open forum – your teaching tips & ideas

Email your ideas/hints/articles to blandreth@houston.rr.com.

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: RECITAL IDEAS

Recital

Tips from Luanne Johns

I like to tell the kids that their recital performance is their gift to their parents, and also God, if you feel free about saying this. They need to be reminded of the ways their parents have supported them, i.e. paying the bill, transportation, time involved, love and tolerance with wrong notes, patience, etc.; and to God because He is the one who gives them their fingers, brain or intelligence to understand notes, theory, an ear for music and the love for it, etc., and the very air that we breathe! This way they get their minds off of themselves and thinking about others.

Also, a few deep breaths neutralize the adrenaline and releases serotonin in the brain, which helps you relax. Tell them to think about how the music is put together (prior teaching about this is necessary), and hum the first few measures in their heads before actually playing it. They could study their music while waiting. Always take a few minutes to set the bench in the correct position for your playing and sit quietly and thoughtfully before diving into the keys. Think of something funny to make you feel lighthearted. Be satisfied with the gift you are giving. It's too late to consider how much preparation you did or didn't do for this performance. Have your parents take you out for a treat afterwards. My father would always take me out for an ice cream after my recitals

Tips from Sharon Callahan

My Christmas recital consists of ONLY Christmas music – lots of solos, several duets with me or sister/sister, mother/son, mother/daughter, father/son, etc. Nothing is memorized so that there's no tension or nervousness. It's a laid-back atmosphere and everyone seems to enjoy themselves. I usually schedule this recital for the Sunday afternoon AFTER school is suspended for the holidays since there are so many other dance recitals, school programs, etc. happening during the month of December.

Halloween recital - I don't personally do one of these in my studio but I know of a teacher in another city who does. She has the kids come dressed up in costume and they play "Halloween – related" pieces for each other. No parents are in attendance – it's just a "costume party" for the teacher and her students. She also conducts a couple of "Halloween" games such as bobbing for apples, etc. and then serves cookies, cake and punch. The students LOVE it!

Thank you for your contributions.

A SPECIAL GIFT OF MUSIC

CMTA member Patricia Winsauer along with some of her students will be performing in a benefit for Habitat for Humanity, Sunday, February 19, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. The performance will take place at Lord of Life Lutheran Church on S. Panther Creek across from McCullough Junior High. The performance will be a free will offering and a reception put on by the church will follow.

The program is titled Patricia and Company and will contain classical songs, opera duets, a medley from Fiddler on the Roof, plus more! Come hear some wonderful music and support this worthy cause.

Congratulations to all the winners of this year's TMTA Local Performance Contest-- You make CMTA proud!

Unranked Winners Selected to Advance to District (Baylor University, March 4): (alphabetized by last name)

Concerto (9-10) - **Ben Donahoo** (Harris) and **Lye-Ching Wong** (Delk)

Piano Solo (7-8) - **Tonya Belosludtsev** (Bakina), **Jordan Dewbre** (Delk), and **Rosemary Wang** (Bakina)

Piano Solo (11-12) - **Kevin Stiles** (Bakina), **Yanira Soria** (Ruiz), and **Marissa Watkins** (Voigt)

Piano Solo (9-10) - **William Lian** (Bakina), **Reed Rathvon** (Harris), and **Elaine Wong** (Delk)

Concerto (Young Artist) - **Chi Wai Liu** (Ruiz)

(will advance directly to state competition to be held on June 10 at TMTA Convention)

THANK YOU

To: Conroe MTA

ON behalf of Texas Music Teachers Association and Texas Music Teachers Educational Foundation, I want to thank you for your generous contribution of \$240 to the Fargason Fund and the Travel 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, Janelle Schlaudt, VPBA



Houston Early Music Concerts



Houston Early Music is a chartered, non-profit, organization whose purpose is to present historically-informed performances of early music from the European traditions and other world cultures in concerts featuring internationally renowned vocal, instrumental, and chamber musicians. Formed in 1965 as a small group that met in people's homes, the organization was officially incorporated in 1969. From this humble beginning it has grown to become an organization that now provides performance opportunities for major early music artists from around the world in an annual concert series. A successful and growing educational outreach program introduces a future generation to a broad range of music.

Some of the future concerts include:

- **02/14/06** Rachel Podger (baroque violin) and Gary Cooper (fortepiano) playing "Mozart Sonatas for Keyboard and Violin"
- **03/17/06** The Terra Nova Consort (recorder, shawm, percussion, vihuela, viol) playing "Music of Renaissance Spain"
- **05/12/06** The King's Noyse (violin band) playing "In May Time"

For more information, visit the website at www.HoustonEarlyMusic.org.

These concerts are wonderful opportunities for teachers and students close to home. Check out the website, and enjoy some wonderful music at one of the concerts.