



# Conroe Music Teachers Association Newsletter

## January 2006

**From Your CMTA President, Doris Lum**

"Happy New Year" to each of you. I am expecting a great year 2006 and hope that everyone will attend all of the meetings for rest of this term. Only through working together can we make things happen.

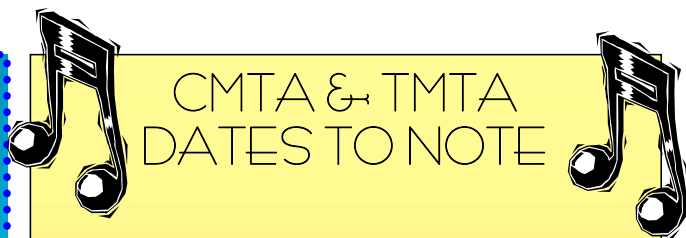
### GENERAL MEETING

**FRIDAY, JAN. 13th**  
**11 a.m.**

**Woodlands Library**  
**Grogan's Mill and Lake Robbins**

#### **Program to follow meeting:**

This month's program will be a round table discussion on the topic of Guild including repertoire selection, preparation and choice of technical elements, etc. Please send any questions or related topics of interest to [kcoxstudio@ev1.net](mailto:kcoxstudio@ev1.net) by Thursday, January 12.



### CMTA & TMTA DATES TO NOTE

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|----------------|--|
| Fri., Jan. 6   | <b>Publications Deadline</b>   |
| Fri., Jan. 13  | <b>Ensemble Entries &amp; Fees</b>   |
| Sat., Jan. 21  | <b>Laurie Keyser Sonatina/Sonata Tournament</b>  |
| Sun., Jan. 29  | <b>Performance Contest (Local)</b>   |
| Fri., Feb. 10  | <b>World of Music Entries &amp; Fees</b><br><b>Spring Festival Entries &amp; Fees</b>  |
| Sat., March 4  | <b>TMTA District 2 Performance Contest</b>   |
| Fri., March 10 | <b>Betty Clampitt Piano Contest</b><br><b>Entires &amp; Fees</b><br><b>Play-a-Thon Entries</b><br><b>Musicianship Olympics Entries</b> |

Be sure to look at the next 4 pages for new members & lots of news!!

## MTNA 2006 National Conference

March 25-29, 2006

#### **Did you know.....**

- The MTNA 2006 National Conference will be in AUSTIN, TEXAS this year?
- That Van Cliburn will be the Keynote Speaker at the opening session, March 25, 7 p.m.?
- That there is a discount for registration on or before February 15<sup>th</sup>?

Visit the MTNA website at [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org) for more information, registration, hotel info, etc.



## YEARBOOK ADDITIONS

Please add the following new, or renewed, members to your yearbook list:



Ruiz, Dr. Sergio Hermosillo Active Piano (936) 439-0589  
105 Willowbend Street [sergioruiz@yahoo.com](mailto:sergioruiz@yahoo.com)  
Huntsville, TX 77320-3009 Fax (936) 294-3765

Hey, Prudy Active Piano/Theory (281) 364-1804  
38 Crocus Petal Street  
The Woodlands, Texas 77382

Bush, Ellen Active Piano 281-374-9303  
11702 Laneview Drive  
Houston, TX 77070

Davis, Gregory R. Active Piano/Trombone/Guitar  
703 Thornwood Drive [gregdavis.music@gmail.com](mailto:gregdavis.music@gmail.com)  
Spring, Texas 77381

Knox, Brooke Active Piano/Theory (281) 362-1520  
16 Wind Trace Court [knoxstudio@people.pc.com](mailto:knoxstudio@people.pc.com)  
The Woodlands, Texas 77381

### **HINT...**

If you ever have difficulty opening the newsletter link, the go to the CMTA website at [www.ConroeMTA.org](http://www.ConroeMTA.org), then click on the current month on the "Newsletters" dropdown menu. Visit the always changing CMTA website for latest news, information, entry forms, and helpful links.

To receive the current newsletter by mail, please send name and address to [blandreth@houston.rr.com](mailto:blandreth@houston.rr.com).

### **UPDATE.....**

Laurie Keyser Tournament Honors Recital  
FRIDAY, January 27 at 7:00 PM (performers to arrive at 6:30) in the Montgomery College Theatre.  
If there are any questions, the can contact either Diane Delk or Sarah Scott

### **GENEROUS OFFER.....** Contact Alecia Russell

My Mother-in-law is moving into assisted living and has a Lowrey organ that she can no longer keep. Please let me know if you can think of anyone who might be interested in it. She would be willing to give it away to a church if they could use it and would pick it up and move it. It is in excellent condition. Following are the specs:

Lowrey Theater Console Organ Model H-25 all-transistor Percussion Organ  
two 61 note keyboards  
25 pedals, self-contained sound system with built-in Leslie speakers, Main  
Chorus, Reverb Rhythm, AOC, Piano, Harpsichord, Tibia, Percussion, Walnut  
Cabinet horseshoe style, excellent condition

### **NEW RELEASE....**

Aleksei Fedorov's CD of his recital at Duncan Hall, Rice University in May of 2005 is now available at Hall's store.  
Elena Bakina



## **PEDAGOGY PAGE**

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: Recital Ideas or other stories, quotes, etc.**

Email your ideas/hints/articles to [blandreth@houston.rr.com](mailto:blandreth@houston.rr.com).

## **JANUARY'S TOPICS: GUILD PREP TIPS AND WORLD OF MUSIC**

### **Tips about Guild preparation**

From Sharon Callahan:

1. Make sure that your students really KNOW their scales (key signature & fingering). This seems to be the one area MOST students seem to feel the most uncomfortable in. All year long, I assign one major and one minor scale to each student (either one or 2 octaves depending on their level). Then, the month before Guild, they should know ALL majors & ALL minors each week – they won't know which ones I'll request they play but should have all of them ready. Another "help" in this area would be the CMTA Musicianship Olympics. See the CMTA yearbook for more info.
2. If a student is preparing a memorized program, have them "perform" it at a local nursing home during mealtime. This helps them make sure they "really" have those pieces memorized BEFORE they get up in front of someone to perform.

From Luanne Johns:

Enroll students to play in the Play-a-thon at The Woodlands Mall. It is a great opportunity for the students, and it's good practice in a public situation for students playing Guild pieces. They can play all of them, hopefully by memory, perhaps several times, depending on how much time their teacher has signed up for.

From Guild Chairmen:

Enroll students in January or February. Earlier is better. You can change a student's number of pieces if you need to do so closer to audition time. Remember, you don't have to have all the pieces decided before you enroll the students.

### **World of Music Suggestions**

From Sharon Callahan:

In your CMTA Dec. newsletter, you asked for tips on teaching WOM lit. One of the things that I do is either copy or loan out CD's to the students related to the pages they have been assigned to read for that particular week(s). Examples: Peer Gynt Suite, Peter & the Wolf, Amahl & the Night Visitors, Copland's Rodeo, Gilbert & Sullivan's operettas, Handel's Water Music Suite, Chopin's waltzes, nocturnes, etc. Obviously, I've built up my classical CD collection over the years, but it was worth it and I was able to deduct those expenses on my taxes. I would recommend that a teacher join a CD club (such as BMG Music or Columbia House) to get good prices – plus they have extensive libraries to choose from.

The TMTA office also has a video lending library that TMTA teachers can "check out" videos and have students watch them at summer camps, group lessons, etc. Some of those titles that are available are: Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, The orchestra, Peter & the Wolf, Amahl & the Night Visitors, and many others.

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### *Reminder*

*Remember to email, call or mail your request for consideration of exemption to Doris Lum for her to present it to the executive board. CMTA members are required to attend a minimum of 4 meetings throughout the year.*

## 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:

- 01/14/06 Paolo Pandolfo on viola da gamba playing "The Labyrinth and Other Stories, Music by Marais"
- 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](http://www.HoustonEarlyMusic.org).



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### SUMMER MUSIC CAMP 2005 at Sam Houston State University



Several CMTA students received CMTA scholarships to attend the 2005 piano/music camp this past summer. These students were able to bond with other musicians from our state and learn valuable tips and techniques that will aid them throughout their musical studies. Here are some thoughts from another one of our campers (see November, 2005 issue for letters from other scholarship recipients):

Dear CMTA,

I apologize for the delay, but I want to thank you for awarding one of the scholarships for the SHSU camp to me. To tell the truth, I would have never been able to go otherwise.

I really benefited from this. I learned from Dr. Ruiz, especially, to not just play the piece, but to let your audience feel the mood for the "story" that is told in the music. It's the way you play the piece that tells the story. You can have a slow, sad piece, for instance, but you can play it to make it feel more "enthusiastic." It is just the way you play it. Just recently, I attended one of Dr. Ruiz's performances. It was great. I especially like Liszt's pieces. But when he played those WWII pieces, you can "hear" the German soldiers as they marched. Dr. Ruiz is very good at playing a piece so well that you can "see" whatever the piece's story is.

Also, I learned what it was like to live in a university. The dorms were simple, but it is up to you to make it feel like home. The pianos were nice, especially the grandes. I also made some friends and had a great time with everyone when I played *Phantom of the Opera*, participated in 10-20 person pillow fights, and battled Dr. Ruiz in games of pool as well as toying around with the arcade games at the Kat Klub. Overall, it was a wonderful experience.

Once again, I'm sorry for the delay. I enjoyed this so much that I want to re-apply again each summer. Thank you once again for your generous gift.

Yours truly,  
Raya Castaneda

**Be sure to encourage YOUR students to attend a week of music camp next summer. The memories will last a long time and the skills learned will be used throughout their musical lives!**



## **A WORD FROM MTNA**

Membership recruitment is the lifeline of any association. Did you know that your contributions as an individual member serve as one of the most important recruiting tools that MTNA has?

The 2005 MTNA Member Survey showed that eight out of ten MTNA members would recommend joining MTNA to their colleagues, and according to other studies new members join because someone close to them encouraged them to join. You, as an MTNA member, have great influence over your colleagues, but you may ask yourself how do I go about inviting someone to join.

Current members often find it difficult to define what exactly it is that makes MTNA such a vital component to their profession. To summarize the benefits of MTNA, it might be helpful to remember the acronym MUSIC.

**M** Mentors  
**U** Unparalleled Resources  
**S** Support  
**I** Interdependence  
**C** Creativity

These descriptive words will then lead to further discussion about the National Conference, *American Music Teacher* magazine, Music for Everyone Programs, Teacher Enrichment Grants and the many additional offerings that MTNA provides its members.

Ready to start recruiting? MTNA will make it easier than ever this year. All we ask is that your local association compile a list of prospective members and send it to the national headquarters including each person's name, mailing address and the local association submitting the names. Send your list via e-mail to [mtnanet@mtna.org](mailto:mtnanet@mtna.org) with the subject line "Membership Recruitment" before January 20, 2006. Once we compile all the names, we'll send a special invitation encouraging your colleagues to discover the professional development opportunities that MTNA and its state and local affiliates provide.

MTNA wants to recognize the recruiting efforts put into this project and will feature the local association who submits the most names in an upcoming issue of *American Music Teacher* magazine.

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*Piano Texas* - INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY & FESTIVAL (formerly The TCU/Cliburn Piano Institute)

Presented by TCU School of Music

June 2-25, 2006

For information, requirements and registration, visit: [www.pianotexas.org](http://www.pianotexas.org)

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