



# Conroe Music Teachers Association

Selected "Best of State for 2006-07" by TMTA

## NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER, 2009

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

### UPCOMING DEADLINES

(Last Day to Submit!!)

#### Friday, Sept. 11

- SA Registrations to Beth Fisbeck, NCTM (Follow email instructions)

#### Friday, Sept. 18

- Fall Theory Test entries to Anna Beth Choate (Follow email instructions)

#### Friday, Sept. 18

- Newsletter articles and information to Don Harris, editor ([donharris@charter.net](mailto:donharris@charter.net))

#### Friday, Oct. 2

- L. K. Sonata/Sonatina Tournament entries to Diane Delk, NCTA
- Fall Festival entries to Luanne Johns, NCTM
- Photo Release Forms to Beth Fisbeck, NCTM
- Chopin Recital Intent Forms to Nancy Hall, NCTM

### UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE

- Fall Theory Test (First Baptist Church Conroe)

## September General Meeting Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 a.m.

## Meeting Location!!!

## Woodlands Public Library

in The Woodlands at  
– 2101 Lake Robbins Dr. –

(Near The Woodlands Mall — at Six Pines/Lake Robbins Dr. Intersection)

### Agenda to Include

- Follow-up Reports and Reports on Upcoming Events –
  - New Yearbooks will be distributed to members present –
- (Complete Agenda included later in this Newsletter)

### PROGRAM

"Overview of the Exciting Year Ahead!" – Alecia Russell, facilitator

**presentations:** Committee Chairmen will give brief overviews of their individual events.

**(A fun and invigorating time is certain for all in attendance!!)**

**Where to Find:**

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Happy New Association  
Year to CMTA!!

Theory Tests

Music Festivals

Piano Contest

Convention Ensemble Performances

Music History Test

Composition Contest

Sonata Tournament

Cash Award Contest

Concerto Contest

Student Scholarships

Chamber Music Ensembles

Publication Contest

Chopin's 200th Birthday Recital

Monthly Programs at Meetings

Member of Year Award

etc. — etc. — etc.

### Conroe Music Teachers Association

Awarded "Best of State" for 2006-2007 by TMTA

# C M T A



**"Welcome back" to all  
previous CMTA members —  
and "welcome aboard" to all  
new CMTA members!!  
We have a very exciting year  
planned for you and your  
students!!**

# C M T A

**Affiliated with MTNA and TMTA**

See Calendar, Calendar-at-a-Glance, and Event Description sheets in our new 2009-2010 Yearbook for many, many exciting and motivating teacher/student opportunities for the new year. Select and plan activities well in advance to avoid losing out on a favorite!

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# CMTA Bulletin Board

Dear Minnie – Thank you so much for your generous donations and leadership for the scholarship in Karen’s memory. Please thank all the teachers who helped out and donated. Karen *definitely* would have been pleased.\)

Karen loved to play the piano and share her music with others. Many times she would share her stories to me about her day’s concert or performance, and how the audience enjoyed it. In most cases it gave people a “ray o sunshine” in their lives.

Likewise, I know that Megan Menteer likes to share her music with others as a result of playing a solo. I wish her the best of luck in her career.

Thanks so much for all calls and cards. I appreciate greatly all the support from Karen’s “fellow teachers family”. All take care!! – Sincerely, Farrar Stockton

Dear CMTA,  
Thank you so much for the numerous music scholarships I received this year. It was a delight to be honored with them after working hard for twelve years; it motivates me to continue to strive for excellence. Your generosity has made a profound impact on my life and I am truly grateful to be the recipient of your scholarships.  
– Noah Voigt.

**A VERY WARM WELCOME** is extended to all new members. We sincerely look forward to your valuable input and friendship—as we jointly strive to make the most of all the exciting and valuable opportunities available through CMTA. Let us know of any questions or problems. We will be there for you!

Thank you CMTA for your very generous and varied financial assistance in helping me attend Harvard University in the fall. All my CMTA stepping stones have definitely helped pave the way.  
Gratefully yours,  
Ben Donahoo

**Our exciting new Yearbooks will be available at the Sept. Meeting!!**

On September 18, Scott McBride Smith will present an exciting workshop on American Popular Piano music.

Time: 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Place: Dowling Music in Houston





# A G E N D A

Conroe Music Teachers Association General Meeting  
September 11, 2009  
Woodlands Public Library  
2101 Lake Robbins Drive

## Call to Order

## Minutes from May 1, 2009 General Meeting

## Reports

### Officer Reports

President – Alecia Russell  
1<sup>st</sup> VP/SA – Beth Fisbeck, NCTM  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP/Membership – Sheryl Speelman  
3<sup>rd</sup> VP/Programs – Nadine Wilkinson  
Treasurer – Sharon Callahan

Yearbooks – Don Harris

Facilities – Stephanie Teed

Theory – Anna Beth Choate

Holiday, Hymn, Fall Festival – Luanne Johns, NCTM

Certification – Dianne Kaldor, NCTM

## New Business

Legacy Concerto Competition – Vote to Postpone to 2010-2011  
November Concerto Program Information – Polly Beaver

TMTA Director Nominations

Bylaws Amendment Recommendations

## Other Business

## Adjournment of Business Meeting and Door Prize Drawing

*(Eligibility for door prize – CMTA members present at 9:30 and adjournment)*

## Program – Overview of the Exciting Year Ahead! – Alecia Russell & Committee Chairmen

### September Dates to Remember

11<sup>th</sup> SA Registrations Due to Beth Fisbeck  
18<sup>th</sup> Fall Theory Entries Due to Anna Beth Choate  
Am. Pop. Piano Wk-shop at Dowling in Houston

### October Dates to Remember

2<sup>nd</sup> General Meeting at LDS Church Conroe – 9:30  
Program by Dr. Lesley Sisterhen McAllister  
“Imagery, Mental Practice, and Relaxation”  
Keyser aSonata Entries Due to Diane Delk  
Fall Festival Entries Due to Luanne Johns  
Photo Release Forms Due to Beth Fisbeck  
Chopin Recital Intents Due to Nancy Hall  
24<sup>th</sup> Fall Theory Test at 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Conroe

## IMPORTANT STUDENT AFFILIATE INFORMATION!!

### Student Affiliate Registrations Due to Beth Fisbeck at Sept. Meeting !!

(September 11, 9:30 a.m.)..

Registration fee is \$15 per student.

TMTA Student Affiliate Registrations need to be in by our first meeting!! New rules from TMTA do not allow an extended deadline for Student Affiliate enrollments this year. If you plan to enter a student in ANY of our fall events, that student needs to be registered as a Student Affiliate member BEFORE they enter the event.

#### HOW TO REGISTER:

##### Teachers Who Have Registered Students in the Past:

If you have registered students in the past, you will receive an enrollment form from TMTA by email with instructions. Follow the instructions and email your completed registration for 2009-2010 to our SA Chairman, Beth Fisbeck, [m.fisbeck@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.fisbeck@sbcglobal.net) on or before September 11, then bring one check for your entire studio made out to CMTA (\$15 per student) to the September 11 meeting – If you cannot attend the first meeting, mail your check to Beth so it will arrive before the deadline – September 11. Beth's address is 173 Maple Branch Street, The Woodlands, Texas 77381.

##### Teachers Who Have Never Registered Students Before:

Registration forms for new teachers may be found at [www.tmta.org](http://www.tmta.org) <<http://www.tmta.org>> . Click on Forms, then Student Affiliate Registration. Email your completed registration form for 2009-2010 to our SA Chairman, Beth Fisbeck at [m.fisbeck@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.fisbeck@sbcglobal.net) on or before September 11, then bring one check for your entire studio made out to CMTA (\$15 per student without SA pins or \$19 per student with SA pins) to the September 11 meeting – If you cannot attend the first meeting, mail your check to Beth so it will arrive before the deadline – September 11.

### From TMTA: Attention All Teachers!!

(Important SA Enrollment News!!!)..

- All associations should use the online forms for Student Affiliate.
- It is important that you enroll students in Student Affiliate BEFORE enrolling them for the theory tests. If students take the test without being enrolled first, there are fees as listed below.

Please note the following SA Enrollment dates and fees:

**Standard enrollment** - due to Local SA Chairman by September 11

**Late enrollment period one:** - postmarked to TMTA by October 10 (Additional \$1)

**Late enrollment period two:** - postmarked by November 16- January 10 (Additional \$1)

**Late enrollment period three:** - postmarked by February 16-March 1 for local SA activities or Young Artist (Additional \$1)

There will be a processing fee of \$25 per teacher if any studio enrollment is beyond the enrollment deadline. An additional \$15 processing fee will be imposed on the teacher if students take a theory test prior to being enrolled. If the fees are not resolved within two weeks the student(s) will not be allowed to test and/or their scores will not be recorded. Student fees will involve existing late fees (\$8.00).

(Continued on next page)

- For more information about Student Affiliate Membership, go to [www.tmta.org](http://www.tmta.org) <<http://www.tmta.org>> , click on membership, then Student Affiliate Membership.

- You may also contact the CMTA SA Chairman, Beth Fisbeck (281-292-8931), or the CMTA President, Alecia Russell (936-788-2896) with questions.

## **Fall Theory Test Entries Due September 18 to Anna Beth Choate!!**

**(\$12 Per State Test – \$5 Per Local Test)**

Registration forms have already been emailed to all members by our President. If you failed to receive them for whatever reason, they are now available on the CMTA website at [www.conroemta.org](http://www.conroemta.org) <<http://www.conroemta.org>> , under forms.

## **Ensemble Composition List 2009-2010**

### **Elementary: *Four Leaf Clover* by Shirley H. Mier**

Director: Diane Delk, NCTM

Elementary is generally grades 1-3

### **Late Elementary/Intermediate: *Terpsichore* by Rameau / Robert Vandall**

Director: Luanne Johns, NCTM

Assistant: Holley King

Late Elementary/Intermediate is generally grades 4 -6

### **Junior High: *Capriccio Chromatico* by Walter and Carol Noona**

Director: TBA

Assistant - Beth Fisbeck, NCTM

Junior High is generally grades 7 and 8

### **High School: *Sonata, Op. 6 – Allegro molto* by Ludwig van Beethoven**

Director: Gena Hughey

High School is grades 9-12

### **Young Artist: *Petite Suite, "Cortege"* by Claude Debussy**

Director: Diane Delk, NCTM

Assistant: Doris Lum, NCTM

Young Artist is anyone who has graduated High School and is not a music teacher.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR CMTA TEACHERS REGISTERING FOR FALL THEORY TEST:

1. **Enroll** your students as CMTA Student Affiliates through Beth Fisbeck (due Sept. 11, 09).
2. **Locate** the correct Theory Test Form on the CMTA website.
  - a. Access your internet browser
  - b. Type [www.conroemta.org](http://www.conroemta.org) in the url
  - c. Locate the link to “Forms” in the blue side bar (4<sup>th</sup> option, under Home)
  - d. Select “State Theory Test” Excel file.
3. **Save** the blank form to your computer in a place where you can locate it again (desktop, CMTA folder, etc.). Double-check that you can open it from your computer.
4. **Open** the blank form on your computer when you have your student lists ready.
5. **Complete** the top portion of the form with your CURRENT contact information. If you have students taking the local test, place a check mark in the column marked “local”.\* **Calculate** the amount you will owe and fill that in (number of tests x 12 for state, x 5 for local).

6. **List** your students in order of **TEST GRADE** first, then by **ALPHABETICAL ORDER**, carefully checking that you are spelling the students’ names exactly as you entered them for Student Affiliate, no nicknames please! Also, please use appropriate capitalization.

Your Studio List: Doe, Jane – 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup> grade test

Moore, Jill – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 1<sup>st</sup> grade test

Smith, Henry – 1<sup>st</sup> grade, 1<sup>st</sup> grade test

Trent, Joe – 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup> grade test

Well, Done – 12<sup>th</sup> grade, 12<sup>th</sup> grade test

Test Level	Student Last Name	Student First Name	School Grade
1	Moore	Jill	2
1	Smith	Henry	1
4	Doe	Jane	4
4	Trent	Joe	5
12	Well	Done	12

\*Students MAY take the theory test below level as a State test, and the grading will be recorded in the state database. If you prefer to grade a test yourself rather than send it to the state for grading, please use the local form. Students who are in 4<sup>th</sup> grade or above may take any grade level test from the 4<sup>th</sup> level up, but may not take a test lower than 4<sup>th</sup> grade. (Exception: 4<sup>th</sup> graders can take the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade test, if they are not ready for 4<sup>th</sup> grade test.) If your students plan to participate in State events, they must pass the State-graded theory test, not the Local test. If a student takes the test below grade level, no medal will be awarded.

7. **Save** your completed theory form in a in a place where you can locate it again (desktop, CMTA folder etc.).

8. **Email** the completed theory form to me as an attachment (Anna Beth Choate, [jerry-annabeth@att.net](mailto:jerry-annabeth@att.net)).

9. **Write** a check to CMTA for the correct amount that you owe for theory tests and submit by mail before Sept. 18 (Anna Beth Choate, 11913 S. Red Cedar Cir., The Woodlands, TX 77380), or bring to the first CMTA meeting on Sept. 11.



**IMTF**

**An Official Salute to the  
Instrument for all Seasons**



**“ I Love the Piano “**

**In this day of high tech, micros, bytes by the gazillions, George Bernard Shaw’s exclamation is still true, “The pianoforte is the most important of all musical instruments. Its invention was to music what the invention of printing was to literature.”**

**Respect the pianoforte! It gives a single person command over something complete. In its ability to go from very soft to very loud in one and the same register, it, (the piano) excels all other instruments. The piano like the trumpets commands the entrance of Kings and Queens, it comforts the mournful like the cello, sings like the birds as the flutes, calls everyone for the hunt as the French Horns, weeps with the mellowness of the viola, consoles as the oboe, delivers the richness of the entire symphonic strings. Ah, the Piano! The most versatile, enchanting, and communicative of all instruments – indeed the instruments of all seasons!**

**The pianoforte can do it all! Its range embraces the highest and lowest practicable notes. From the great pianist and teacher Ferruccio Busoni (1866-1924), the subject of the piano was never a calm or objective subject. The above adaptation of Busoni’s quote reminds us of the passion for the piano – Our Instrument. The baton has been passed to us as teachers and performers to foster the love, adoration, joy, and all absorbing passion of communication through music and specifically the piano.**

**September is National Piano Month as started back in Dallas, Texas by the National Piano Foundation in 1962. The Foundation’s goals have been to “encourage the value of piano study, to support music education in the schools, the development of educational programs and the promote interaction with all segments of the music industry.” I suggest each of our studios make this too our goal as we work with a variety of talents and interest. Every student is unique spurring on another branch to explore and develop.**

**For this upcoming season let us ignite within ourselves and our students the adoration and respect that only the piano can provoke! Oh, how “I Love A Piano!”**

**Enjoy playing and teaching!**

**Polly C. Beaver, IMTF Chairman**

## New Membership Report

It is with much pleasure that we announce our four newest CMTA members: Drew Halgas, Melissa Christaldi, Richard Rector, and Larry Harms. The following biographies should help you get acquainted with them.

**DREW HALGAS** lives in the Woodlands, Panther Creek area. He is a church pianist at Lowes, The Church at Alden Bridge as well as piano teacher. He holds a BA in Music from Houston Baptist University where he studied with John Hendrickson, Dr. Daniel Kraulich and Dr. Mellisa Marse, and played with the HBU Chamber Music Institute. He graduated in 2008, but began his teaching career in Dallas in 1999. Mr. Halgas has played as a hired pianist at many events, including the HBU Faculty Openhouse and Christmas Luncheon and for UIL competitions as an accompanist.

**MELISSA CHRISTALDI** is new to the area and lives in the Woodlands, Creekside Park. She is a piano teacher as well as a substitute teacher for the Woodlands Preparatory Academy. Ms. Christaldi studied at Central Missouri State University from 1991-1992 and received a BME from St. Mary's College in 1995 where she studied with Dr. Jeff Jacobs and Dr. Nancy Monk. She received ORFF Level I Training in Wisconsin in 2000. Melissa has taught Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade Music in California, Illinois and Colorado. She has also taught Music Theater courses.

**RICHARD RECTOR** lives in Tomball in the Creekside Place Subdivision. He is a former student and protégé of Doris Lum. Mr. Rector has been a private piano and theory instructor since 2002. He is also a Licensed Financial Specialist and is currently employed by Wells Fargo Bank at Panther Creek. Mr. Rector studied Music Theory at North Harris College in 2003 and piano with Dr. Clive Swansbourne at Sam Houston State University. He has studied and had extensive experience in various Worship Leadership Roles. Mr. Rector is also a performing pianist playing at Weddings, Funerals and Galas as well as in-studio work.

**LARRY HARMS** holds a Master's Degree, and specializes in the areas of piano, pedagogy, and music education. He lives in Austin, but also works at Houston Piano Co. He gives a lot of programs for musical groups based on pedagogy and utilizing technology in musical training. We were very fortunate to have Larry present a program for CMTA at one of our meetings last year. He has also given presentation at the TMTA Conventions for the for several years now on technology in the studio. Larry holds membership in five different local Texas MTA's. We sincerely hope he will be able to occasionally find time in his busy schedule to fit one or more of our monthly meetings in. He is a very fine addition to our membership.

— Sheryl Speelman, membership chairman

**Welcome new members—we are DELIGHTED to have you with us!!**

September has been blessed with many fine composers through the years. Some of the more significant ones are itemized below.

If any CMTA member was born on the same monthly date as a composer listed below, contact newsletter editor for a free special memoir of the involved composer.

(Itemized by date) – (Four are American composers!)

## Composers who were born in September

09/01/1653-03/03/1706	<b>PACHELBEL</b> , Johann	German
09/04/1824-10/11/1896	<b>BRUCKNER</b> , Anton Josphe	Austrian
09/04/1892-06/22/1974	<b>MILHAUD</b> , Darius	French
09/05/1735-01/01/1782	<b>BACH, Johann Christian</b>	German
09/05/1781-04/08/1858	<b>DIABELLI</b> , Anton	Austrian
09/05/1791-05/02/1864	<b>MEYERBEER</b> , Giacomo	German
09/05/1912-08/12/1992	<b>CAGE</b> , John	American
09/06/1781-04/07/1858	<b>DIABELLI</b> , Anton	Austrian
09/08/1841-05/01/1904	<b>DVORÁK</b> , Antonín	Bohemian
09/09/1583-03/01/1643	<b>FRESCOBALDI</b> , Girolamo	Italian
09/11/1786-03/12/1832	<b>KUHLAU</b> , Friedrich	German
09/12/1818-03/01/1882	<b>KULLAK</b> , Theodor	German
09/13/1819-05/20/1896	<b>SCHUMANN</b> , Clara Wieck	German
09/13/1874-07/13/1951	<b>SCHOENBERG</b> , Arnold Austrian-Amer.?	
09/17/1884-04/08/1920	<b>GRIFFES</b> , Charles	American
09/21/1874-05/25/1934	<b>HOLST</b> , Gustav Theodore	English
09/24/1945-	<b>RUTTER</b> , John	English
09/25/1683-09/12/1764	<b>RAMEAU</b> , Jean-Philippe	French
09/25/1906-08/09/1975	<b>SHOSTAKOVICH</b> , Dimitri	Russian
09/26/1898-07/11/1937	<b>GERSHWIN</b> , George	American
09/27/1879-12/31/1970	<b>SCOTT</b> , Cyril	English

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Sooner or later the  
sun will always come  
shinning through !



We gratefully acknowledge Metro Mini Storage on FM1488 for their support of Musical Study  
and the work of Conroe Music Teachers Association.

3750 FM 1488



936-321-8200



MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Dear member,  
School is starting. Is your professional liability coverage in place?

**Don't leave your personal finances at risk to a work-related lawsuit.** The Educators Professional Liability Plan, sponsored by MTNA, provides \$1,000,000 in liability coverage for just \$99 per year. That's only 28 cents per day!

This plan pays defense costs in addition to liability claims, and it includes valuable job-protection benefits for you at no additional cost.

You can apply for coverage online in minutes at: <http://www.ftj.com/epli2009>

**Not a school employee?** We have professional liability insurance at reasonable rates for private practice educators and independent contractors, as well as student educators. Learn more about these plans at:

<http://www.ftj.com/mtna>

MTNA has partnered with D'Addario & Company and its new education site [theLessonroom.com](http://theLessonroom.com) to provide our members with another valuable resource to improve their music studios. D'Addario, one of the world's top makers of strings for musical instruments and a major producer of musical instrument accessories, recently launched the site, which aims to be a hub for music education resources and valuable content.

[theLessonroom.com](http://theLessonroom.com) has video lessons, scorched lessons, interactive learning games, articles and other resources for both teachers and students of all music genres. In addition, [theLessonroom.com](http://theLessonroom.com) is a community where students and teachers can interact, connect, and collaborate.

The greatest benefit to MTNA members is the free Teacher Directory. Teachers can register for this directory, which allows students to search for teachers by location, instruments taught, country and more. Teachers can create a personalized profile and be able to advertise their studio/lesson program, post and update their teacher profile, provide their location and studio details and add a picture to their profile.

To sign up, visit <http://www.thelessonroom.com/>.

