

February, 2013

**Inside this issue:**

LOUISIANA BASS FEST 1

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT 2

WHY GET CERTIFIED? 3-4

COLLEGIATE CHAPTER NEWS 4

CONVENTION PREVIEW 5-6

# S C O R E



Yung-chiao Wei  
State Strings Chair



## **BASSSSSSSSSSSS!** **SHARING AND CONNECTING PASSION**

LMTA String Chair and LSU double bass professor Yung-Chiao Wei will host the annual Louisiana Bass Fest at LSU (2/16-18). Special guest artists are James VanDe-mark (Professor of Double bass and co-string chair at the Eastman School), David Anderson (Composer and Principal Bassist of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra); 2013 Louisiana Bass Fest Young Artist Yi-jung Su

(1<sup>st</sup> Prize Winner of the International Society of Bassists Solo Competition); 2013 Louisiana Bass fest Composers Matthew Tommasini (Associate Professor at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology), Feng-hsu Lee (1<sup>st</sup> Prize Winner of the 2012 Washington International Competition for Composition); Faculty William Grimes (Professor of Jazz Studies at LSU), Yung-chiao Wei (Associate Professor of Double bass at LSU); Guest Pianist Chao-I Chou (piano professor from Shi-Chien University in Taiwan); Guest Clinicians Aaron Reiley (vice president and luthier from the Guarneri House), Yajung Zhuang (Kong Fu master from Kongfu academy). There will be Young Artists Competition, Young Bassists Competition, bass ensemble rehearsals on 2/16 (Saturday) and more master classes, recitals and rehearsals on 2/17 (Sunday) with a 5 P.M. Bass Fest Concert. Please see [http://www.yungchiao.com/bass\\_festival/lbf\\_poster.htm](http://www.yungchiao.com/bass_festival/lbf_poster.htm) for more detail or follow us on facebook. <http://www.facebook.com/LouisianaBassFest> All events are free and open to the public.

Something new is coming to the LMTA Convention in October.....we are excited to start the Upper Elementary String Audition as part of the Convention and looking forward to a special convention guest artist in strings!



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Judy McGehee



I hope that all of you are enjoying a wonderful semester! In this edition of the SCORE, you will find articles to keep us updated on LMTA happenings.

Remember that our website is a wealth of information! Current and past editions of the SCORE are posted, as well as current and past minutes of board meetings. Our webmaster, Katherine Tobey, does a fantastic job of keeping our website as up to date as possible.

I hope that many of you will be traveling to California for the MTNA National Conference, which will be held March 9 – 13 in Anaheim. Congratulations to our member Pamela Pike, who will be honored at the Awards Brunch. Dr. Pike's article, "Sight-Reading Strategies for the Beginning and Intermediate Piano Student: a Fresh Look at a Familiar Topic", which appeared in the February/March 2012 issue of American Music Teacher Magazine, has been selected as the 2013 American Music Teacher Article of the Year. Pam is Assistant Professor of Piano Pedagogy at LSU and is President of BRMTA. In addition, she serves as Student Composition Competitions Chair for LMTA.

Louisiana is well represented in MTNA presentations. LMTA Past Presidents Katherine Tobey and Donna Toney will be presenting a session in Anaheim on planning for retirement. Pamela Pike is presenting a session on motivating beginning and intermediate students to practice successfully, and Susanna Garcia and Chan Kat Liam will present a showcase entitled "The eNovativePiano: Multimedia Tools For Developing Musicianship Skills".

Our state has two winners in South Central Division Competitions. Congratulations to Elementary Composition Winner Rachel Bush, who is a student of Sue Steck-Turner; and John Wang, Junior Piano Winner. John is a student of Shearon Horton. Alternate Winners are Emily Owens, Senior String, (Andrej Kurti); and Minjeong Kim, Young Artist Piano (Francis Yang). Please check the website for all of the State Winners of the MTNA Competitions: <http://www.lmta.org/state.asp?page=mtnacomps>

The LMTA Board made an important decision concerning Rally at the October meeting. The Board decided that "Any teacher who enters a student in LMTA Rally must be a resident of Louisiana, or must be teaching entirely and physically in the state of Louisiana." This becomes effective with Rally 2014. This decision is now included in the Rally Syllabus. Rally chairmen, please make sure that all teachers in your district know about this new ruling.

Torgrimson-Swanzy Competition will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2013, at Southeastern Louisiana University.

The LMTA Summer Board Meeting will be held at The Wesley Center on Saturday, August 17, 2013. If you serve on the Board please mark your calendar for a day of brainstorming and planning for the future of LMTA.

Louisiana has quite a reputation for hosting the best state conventions anywhere! Our next convention is planned for October 10-12, at McNeese State University in Lake Charles. Be sure to read President-Elect Patti Misita's article for all the exciting details.

I hope to see many of you around the state at our various upcoming events!

Best wishes to all,  
Judy McGehee  
LMTA President

# WHY GET CERTIFIED?

SUE STECK-TURNER  
VP CERTIFICATION



PAGE 3

*How many times have you heard someone pose the question—or maybe you may have posed it yourself, “Why should I get certified?” To all of you, I would like to pose this question, “Why do a lot of things we do?”*



Why wear makeup? It certainly isn't quick and easy to do. It isn't cheap—sometimes it's downright expensive. It doesn't necessarily improve your health; in fact sometimes it might actually be detrimental to your health. It doesn't guarantee that you will be more successful in a career, or get a promotion or a pay raise. Makeup enhances one's appearance. It shows you value how you present yourself—that you care about your appearance and strive to go beyond the ordinary.

*Certification is not quick and easy to do. It's not cheap, and it doesn't guarantee pay increases or more students. Certification enhances a teacher's professional appearance. It shows you value your profession and skills—that you are committed to your teaching and strive to go beyond the ordinary.*



Why show your colors? Why wear team logos or school insignias? Such paraphernalia is often expensive and difficult to obtain, and it really doesn't offer any benefits. It won't make your team or school better. It won't necessarily entice people to take an interest in you or respect your opinions. One wears insignias to show an affiliation with an organization or institution—to show interest and/or pride in its attributes and activities. Logos show that you want to be associated with the ideals, projects, and places about which you care and want to inform others who might feel the same way.

*Certification won't necessarily make you or MTNA better. It might make certain people take an interest in you and respect your ideas—it might not. However, it will show that you are proud to have achieved the level of proficiency deemed appropriate for music teachers by MTNA. It will show that you have an interest in maintaining a high level of teaching competency for yourself and for your colleagues around the nation. The letters NCTM will show that you believe in and promote good music education.*



Why dress for the occasion? Most likely it is not more comfortable or less trouble—actually, probably just the opposite. It definitely takes some forethought and planning—another thing on the to-do list. If you dress appropriately, most likely the majority of the people won't even notice your efforts. However, dressing for the occasion shows your respect for the person or event you are attending. It shows you care enough “to put your best foot forward”, that you value the reason for the celebration.

*Music teaching has been an honored profession for generations. Unlike many other professions, it allows you to live in your love—to spend each day doing what you enjoy and actually earn a living from it. Unlike other professions filled with excessive stress, statistics indicate that most careers in music give you a fuller, healthier, longer life. What more could one ask for in a profession? What better reason to respect our chosen profession and celebrate—to dress for the occasion? Certification is the proper attire for the occasion, for the profession. Certification confirms respect for your profession and yourself.*

CERTIFICATION article continued on page 4



Why certify? Doesn't my college degree say it all? No. A college degree only documents that you attended a certain core of college courses and completed them with a passing score. The letters B.S., B.M., or B.A. or even M.A. and M.M. give no indication of how much you know, how skilled you are, and how capable you are of communicating this knowledge. A college degree does not separate you from your peers who barely passed their courses and are now struggling to make a living with their teaching—or may have abandoned it.

The current certification procedures are thorough and effective. Teachers are required to present both their knowledge and examples of their teaching—they are tested and observed by a commission of experienced, well-respected teachers. Commissioners spend hours evaluating candidates' submissions to ascertain the extent of their knowledge and their ability to impart it at the appropriate level, and watching videos to determine whether these teachers are capable of communicating this knowledge and are effective in dealing with students. Materials are not "rubber stamped". Questionable projects are returned to sender for reconsideration and revision. Requirements are stringently held to a high standard—a standard that confirms the competence of a teacher, both in a core of knowledge and in the ability to communicate the knowledge—a standard that should make every teacher who emerges from the journey as an MTNA Certified Teacher very proud to use their NCTM

## Collegiate Chapter News

### Dr. Christy Vogt-Corley, Chair

Three officers are planning to attend the MTNA National Conference in California this March. Sonya Robinson, President, Neshia Ruffins, Vice President, and Ryan Alexander, Secretary are all making arrangements to travel to Anaheim. LMTA provides two \$500 awards to collegiate officers to attend the national conference.



PATTI MISITA  
PRESIDENT ELECT



Our annual convention will be held on the lovely campus of McNeese State University on October 10-11. Our hosts, Christy Vogt-Corley and the LCPTA, are very excited to welcome us and are already hard at work planning for our arrival. The Shearmann Fine Arts Annex is a beautiful new facility and we are so

grateful to the faculty and administration at McNeese for hosting us.

This year's convention will feature guest artist Alexandre Dossin. Among his many notable accomplishments are:

First Prize and Special Prize at the 2003 Martha Argerich International Piano Competition in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Recording artist for Naxos Classical

Editor and recording artist for the Schirmer Performance Editions, including the works of Liszt, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff.

Comments from critics include "a wonderful pianist," "master of expressiveness" and "a stunning pianist with a symbiotic relationship with the instrument." As a former member of the ULL faculty, Dossin is well known and well loved in Southwest Louisiana. He will present a recital on Thursday evening as well as a masterclass on Friday afternoon. Learn more about Alexandre at

<http://www.dossin.net/alexandredossin/Welcome.html>

Alfred Publishing will be co-sponsoring a showcase by Wynn Anne Rossi. We look forward to hearing music from her new "Musica Latina" series. Visit <http://www.rossi-music.com/> to read a complete biography.

## ESPECIALLY FOR STRING TEACHERS!!

Yung-chiao Wei has some exciting new opportunities for our strings teachers and students. In addition to the variety of string performances and sessions already offered at convention, we are adding the following:

- Upper Elementary Auditions for String Students (go to [lmta.org](http://lmta.org) for details)
- A Special Guest Artist at the convention for string teachers
- Masterclass for string students

Look for more information in the summer SCORE!

CONVENTION PREVIEW continued on page 6

## CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS

Now accepting proposals for sessions (piano and strings) from members who wish to present at the 2013 LMTA Convention, October 10-11 at McNeese State University in Lake Charles.

Session length is 50 minutes. Collegiate members should include the name and contact information for their faculty advisor.

Please submit the following no later than April 1:

- Presentation topic
- Brief (50 word maximum) description of session
- Name and contact information for all presenters (e-mail, phone and mailing address)
- Biography of all presenters (50 word maximum)
- Equipment needs

Send all information to: Patti Misita, LMTA President-elect [pattimisita@gmail.com](mailto:pattimisita@gmail.com)



I hope you enjoy this edition of the SCORE.

Special thanks to our members who continue to contribute articles which challenge and motivate us to be the best music teachers possible!

David Easley  
VP Publicity

