



## From the President

**Katherine Tobey**

Dear LMTA Colleagues,

Did your summer speed by as quickly as mine? I must admit I was not very cheerful as I prepared for the first week of teaching. But when those (mostly) smiling faces appeared in the studio last week, I was really happy to see them. And I think they were actually happy to see me, too! If we can somehow keep the energy and enthusiasm levels high, it will be a year of great musical growth for all of us.

I look forward to the wonderful sessions at our **LMTA Convention (October 23-25 – Centenary College in Shreveport)** as a great source of inspiration, and I truly hope every one of you will be there to benefit as well. Local hosts **Ross Smith, Martha Bordelon** and the **Greater Shreveport MTA** have made wonderful arrangements for our stay in Shreveport, and **President-elect Donna Toney** has put together a dazzling array of sessions. Visit the website Convention page to read Donna's article and to download a registration form and a detailed Convention schedule. Hotel information is also posted on the website. Maps and parking information will be posted soon.

Our first annual **Students Helping Students Playathon** in Hammond was a huge success, and we look forward to this year's Playathon which will be held in Shreveport on Saturday, October 25th. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to share their musical abilities and help other students in our state. Please visit the Playathon page for complete information. If your students can't get to Shreveport, consider having a Playathon closer to home! Several of us in Baton Rouge are planning Playathons for the weekend before Convention. These will also serve as our lessons for the week, so we won't have to do a lot of re-scheduling in order to attend Convention.

**The MTNA Competitions** will also be held at Centenary on Saturday, October 25th. Go to <http://mtna.org/Programs/Competitions/Guidelines/tabid/304/Default.aspx> for guidelines and on-line registration.

Some of the information you are used to finding in the Fall Score will be published instead in the Convention Bulletin. **Bulletin Editor Janet Colbert** has been working overtime to put together a beautiful booklet for us. In addition to the Convention program, presenter biographies, and all that is usually included in the Bulletin, you will find the LMTA membership directory, a list of certified members, Rally and Torgrimson/Swanzy winners, and much more. The Bulletin will be printed for all LMTA members and given out at Convention. Local affiliate presidents will distribute copies to members who are not able to attend.

Information and entry forms for **Upper Elementary Auditions** and the **LMTA Elementary Composition Competition** are just a click away on the website. The

composition entrants will again have a special session, this year with composer Carolyn Setliff. This has become a favorite at our conventions.

Congratulations and a huge "thank you" to **Piano Rally Chair Teresa Thomason** and **VP/Rallies Jeanne Patterson** for a very successful 2008 Torgrimson/Swanzy Competition. We are also grateful to **Judy McGehee** for facilities arrangements and set-up, to **Baton Rouge President Shelley Hays** and **District Rally Chair Robin Ebeyer** for on-site assistance, and to **VP/Publicity David Easley** for the great photo documentation (view the slide-show on our website). The performances were wonderful (congratulations to students and teachers!), and the day ran very smoothly. We thank the many teachers who volunteered to assist and the high school piano students who did such a great job as monitors.

Congratulations also to the new "**LAMTA.**" At their recent meeting, Lafayette (LPTA) members voted to amend their Constitution. They are now LAMTA - Lafayette Area Music Teachers Association.

We are very proud of **Stephanie James Hoffpauir** and **Robin Ebeyer** for attaining their state certification. Well done! All state certification renewals and upgrades will be posted on our website. **VP/Certification Linda Manes** has worked very hard to bring all our certification information up to date and is in the process of revising our Certification Handbook. We really appreciate her efforts.

**Foundation Chair Sarah Roy** encourages all of us to bring our no-longer-wanted music and teaching materials to Shreveport for the **Recycled Music Sale**. Proceeds will go towards funding our next Foundation Fellow. The MTNA Foundation will also be supported by our Silent Auction at the Convention Banquet. This is always great fun! Each local affiliate is asked to provide an item for the Silent Auction (Presidents, Sarah will remind you!) – but anyone is welcome to donate items. If you have something to contribute, email Sarah Roy [Insroy@cox.net](mailto:Insroy@cox.net) for details.

As I mentioned in my July email to you, our Board Meeting/Retreat in Woodworth was very productive. So many wonderful ideas were discussed, and I think every member of LMTA will benefit as a result. The meeting minutes are posted on our website. We all felt that having the time to share our ideas and "hatch" new ones together was so worthwhile. The opportunity to confer with colleagues is truly invaluable, but unfortunately we can't always meet in person as often as we would like. To remedy that, and to provide us all with a wonderful forum for communicating with other teachers, **Webmaster Carla Breaux** has put together a Google Group Discussion Board for us. Carla says, "We want to welcome everyone to our new Discussion Board! This gives us an opportunity to post questions and comments concerning our studios and is a great way to communicate with all the teachers in our great state. To access the discussion board, you will find a link on the LMTA website under "Teachers". Just click on the link and it takes you directly to the site where you can join in the fun!"

Our Google Group Discussion Board expands the wealth of information sources already available to us through our website, and we are pleased to be able to offer it. But there is no substitute for the "real thing." One of the biggest benefits of Convention is the opportunity to talk to so many colleagues in person. I am eagerly anticipating the great Convention sessions, but I am equally anxious to visit with all of you in Shreveport. Remember to register by September 24 – and I hope to see all of you at the opening session on October 23!