

SCORE

SUMMER 2016

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Letter from the President

From: La Wanda Blakeney

Well, didn't we have fun in "ole San Antone"? The weather was perfect, the River Walk beautiful, and the Mexican food excellent. Oh yes, the MTNA presentations, poster sessions, competitions, and concerts were magnificent. There were MANY, MANY highlights. During the Division meeting I proudly reported that with 27% of our members certified, Louisiana leads the nation in teacher certification! (See Michelle's letter.) I was extremely pleased that Dorothy Sahlmann was recognized as Louisiana's Foundation Fellow at the Gala. Emanuel Ax's truly inspiring concert made me want to practice again, and Seymour Bernstein's master class encouraged me to improve my teaching techniques. Best of all, there were lots and lots of convention attendees from Louisiana—members, college students, as well as a few spouses. Hooray for a national convention within driving distance!

As we approach summer, there are a number of events to keep in mind. The first will be the Torgrimson/Swanzy Competition on June 4 at LSU in Baton Rouge. You may recall that Robin Ebeyer, who served as the chair for both VP Rallies and State Piano Rally, is now overseas. While we still miss Robin dearly, I must say that Rebecca Bellelo, the new VP Rallies Chair, and Tamah Goad, the new State Piano Rally, have not missed a "beat" (musical pun intended—get it?). Both have shown initiative and superb organizational abilities, and they have already toiled diligently to ensure that we have a successful T/S Competition. When you see them on the 4th, please thank them for their hard work. If you don't have a chance to speak with them directly, an e-mail will do.

Letter from the President (continued)

Other events include the Composition Competition, the State Chamber Competition, as well as the Upper Elementary Auditions and MTNA Competitions. Updated information about these contests will soon appear on the LMTA website, so be looking for it. Nominations for the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award will be due at the end of the summer, so start now to think of someone for this prestigious award.

The LMTA Board will hold its summer meeting on Saturday, August 13 at Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria. The executive committee will meet at 10:00 a.m., followed by lunch with the full board at noon. Afternoon meetings will begin at 1:00 p.m. All board members, event chairs, and local presidents are invited to attend this important meeting.

Remember to pay your dues by June 30. Over the years I've heard many complaints about the excessive membership fee, but you really get a lot of "bang for your buck." Consider that one payment brings membership in the local, state, as well as the national associations, and there are numerous benefits to membership. (See Chia-Ling's letter.)

On a less than happy "note" (another musical pun—sorry), Ken Boulton has resigned as Chair of Young Artist Competitions/Chamber Music and as Collegiate Advisor for the Southeastern Louisiana University Chapter. (See Ken's letter.) We will miss him, but we wish him well in his new capacity "up North" as the Dean, School of Fine Arts, Northern State University, in Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401. Although Ken's wife held no official position, she faithfully worked many years as the expert organizer of the recycled music sale at the convention. We will miss you, too, Joanne!

And speaking of the convention . . . I want to invite everyone to come "up North" (north Louisiana, that is) to the 2016 LMTA Convention at Centenary College in Shreveport. President-Elect Pam Pike began making plans back in the fall, and they sound wonderful. (See Pam's letter below.)

Happy (and safe) travels during the summer!

64th Annual LMTA Convention

As the teaching year winds down and we ease into summer, fall 2016 may be the last thing on your mind. However, at some point your thoughts will turn to your students and you will make preparations for the fall semester. As you begin planning for the upcoming academic year, I encourage you to build in two days of essential professional development and join us at our LMTA State Convention in Shreveport on October 13 & 14, 2016. The local hosts from the Greater Shreveport Music Teachers Association and Centenary College have lined up wonderful facilities, meals, and hotel accommodations to ensure that our convention is both successful and enjoyable.

LMTA Convention Continued

This year we will have two nationally-recognized pedagogues featured during our convention. Dr. Helen Marlais will present sessions on teaching students how to have productive, self-directed practice and on establishing excellent technique at all levels. These sessions should be of interest to all of us, regardless of level or instrument that we teach. She will also do a showcase for FJH Music (who will be providing goody bags for those in attendance) and a master class for students of various levels. Dr. Marlais is an engaging presenter and her publications are excellent pedagogical tools. Professor Martha Hilley will also be joining us to give sessions on how we can creatively teach the technical skills included in our Rally syllabus and on how we can adapt our teaching to engage millennial students and use technology wisely. Martha is preparing these sessions just for our convention, so we'll look forward to hearing her thoughts and sage advice!

We also have teachers and graduate students from around the state who will be presenting sessions on topics ranging from piano music of Tchaikovsky's Album for the Young and Ernesto Lecuona, cello duos of Jacques Offenbach, integrating improvisation into your teaching routine using simple chord progressions, recreational music making for all ages, and using the Kiersey Temperament Sorter to group students for musical work. Back by popular demand, there will be the LMTA piano teacher ensemble recital, sessions on wellness, certification and preparing students for the theory portion of Rally, lunch meetings where you can meet with colleagues to discuss specific areas of interest, and the used music sale, our banquet and silent auction to raise money for a foundation fellow to be named soon. This year, our pre-dinner recital will feature chamber music by musicians from the Shreveport Baroque Artists.

The convention will be a time to reconnect with colleagues from across the state, hear world-class clinicians, and learn about topics and music that might be useful in your teaching or for your own playing. We work hard to keep the convention affordable so that teachers from across the state can avail of this professional development opportunity. If you haven't attended a state convention in the past, consider joining us this year. If you have attended, you already know how beneficial it is to recharge the teaching battery in October, so please reach out to a member in your local association who has not been in a while and encourage younger members of LMTA to join us in Shreveport. For tips on how to incorporate this professional development activity into your studio schedule visit www.lmta.org click on "events and forums," then "rally" and scroll to the link at the bottom of the page for "suggestions on how to schedule your students for convention week."

Looking forward to seeing you in Shreveport!

Pamela Pike, NCTM
LMTA President-Elect

Teacher of the Year

Congratulations! Chan Kiat Lim, Outstanding Teacher of the Year



MTNA Foundation

Dear LMTA colleagues,

I am writing to remind you that it's about time to renew your LMTA and MTNA membership. Before you finalize your membership payments, please consider making a donation to the MTNA Foundation Fund. All the donations that you give to the Foundation are tax deductible. The Fund supports many wonderful programs, such as the Composer Commissioning Program, MTNA Student Competition Award, Collegiate Chapter of the Year, Teacher Enrichment Grants, State and Local Affiliate of the Year Award, and the MTNA Foundation Fellow Program. Ms. Dorothy Sahlmann was chosen as the LMTA representative for the 2016 MTNA Foundation Fellow. She was honored and awarded at the MTNA Convention in April. Because of your generosity, she was able to participate in the Gala Ceremony. In 2015, Louisiana was third in the nation in the percentage of members who contributed to the MTNA Foundation Fund, but was not in the top 5 for the highest dollar amount contributed. All these funds benefit not only us but also the next generation, so once again, please consider donating to the MTNA Foundation Fund.

Sincerely,
Chia-Ling Lien, NCTM
MTNA Foundation Chair

Congratulations!

Dorothy Sahlmann
MTNA Foundation Fellow



Bon Voyage!

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

These past 13 years in Louisiana and at Southeastern Louisiana University have been enormously gratifying for me, owing in large measure to the countless opportunities I have had to collaborate with you, and in the process create genuine and lasting friendships. I am proud of what we have accomplished and have the highest respect for your talents and dedication.

It is therefore with considerable regret that I inform you of my decision to leave Southeastern at the conclusion of this spring semester. I have accepted an offer to become Dean of the School of Fine Arts at Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD. Northern State is a relatively small public university in northeast South Dakota, but one featuring an extremely effective, cohesive, and dynamic fine arts program (music, art, theatre). It also enjoys amazing support from the state legislature, surrounding region, and university president, a visionary individual whose leadership has resulted in a successful 20 million dollar capital campaign for the arts. New and renovated facilities for each fine and performing arts unit will be completed this summer. I am very excited about this new opportunity, and the chance to work in a more stable, supportive, and positive academic environment.

More than that, however, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the members of LMTA for their continued friendship and support. It has been an honor to serve with such a talented, dedicated, and fun-loving group of educators. You are the best; I will never forget you!

Sincerely,

Ken Boulton

Certification News

Greetings Everyone! I know we are all set to enjoy the summer break. Whether you teach throughout the summer or take a hiatus, the slower pace is most certainly welcome! This is a great time to begin work on your national and state certifications! I wanted to update you on certification for LMTA. Louisiana continues to hold the highest percentage of Nationally Certified members in the country! This is quite an accomplishment. However, we are constantly seeking new certificants! If you have ever thought about pursuing the NCTM credential, NOW is the time! We have several mentorship groups around the state, and we can find a mentor teacher in your area to help guide you through the process. The process utilizes strategies and techniques that you are most likely already employing in your teaching. You can do it!

I encourage you also to seek and renew your state certification. Did you know that it takes less than twenty minutes and only \$20 to complete the paperwork for Standard Certification? I will be reviewing the 2016 rally scores and will be contacting teachers who have qualifying certification scores. Did you know that you only need 3 rally scores to qualify for a Standard Certificate? One student must be at least Level I and the other 2 students may be from Prep B. Have you checked the Certification Handbook to see if you are eligible to upgrade to a Certificate of Experience or Professional Advancement? It is fairly simple to renew and/or upgrade your current certification. You can refer to the certification handbook found at lmta.org. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 985-707-4147 or email me at mgstrain@yahoo.com.

We have two newly state certified teachers. Rebecca Bellelo from Baton Rouge received the Certificate of Experience, and Megan Reilly Shannon also from Baton Rouge received Standard Certification. Congratulations!

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Strain

State Chamber Competition

October, 29, 2016

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

A Huge Thanks to LMTA!

From: Garrison Turner

The MTNA National Convention was such an inspirational and eye opening experience for me, and it would not have been possible without the Louisiana Music Teachers Travel Scholarship. This was my first trip to San Antonio, and I could not have asked for a more perfect venue. I will always remember taking the scenic River Walk from my hotel all the way to the Grand Hyatt each morning. Being my first trip to the MTNA National Convention, I met many important figures that provided me with innovative ideas and different perspectives to my own piano teaching.



While the entire convention was enjoyable, Pedagogy Saturday was my favorite part of the trip. There were several attendees around my age, which was so motivating. Though I attended many sessions that day, two really stuck out to me. The first was by our very own Dr. Pamela Pike with the session title, *Learning and Making Music through Adulthood*. With so much focus on pedagogy, it was eye opening to watch one on andragogy. Interestingly enough, I received my first two adult students in my studio this semester. Being able to understand their psyche and learning processes helped me better help them learn piano.

Attending the University of Louisiana-Lafayette has been one of my favorite experiences in life so far, and I am in love with the culture down here. It is exciting to graduate this December with a Masters of Music in Piano Pedagogy, but with this excitement comes a lot of stress about the future. Thankfully, Edward Neeman's and Stephanie Neeman's session, *What Next?: Planning Your Professional Development After Graduation*, helped put my mind a little at ease. This session provided a guide on how to build resumes, connections, and studios. I will definitely take this advice moving forward.

With evening recitals, master classes, and the exhibitor's room, I have received a wealth of information from so many people. I am so fortunate to have been chosen as one of the presenters at this year's LMTA Convention. Watching so many professionals present has definitely given me new ideas on how to prepare for my presentation in the upcoming months.

I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to LMTA for the opportunity to attend this conference. As a college student, I'm sure you can imagine how financially difficult it can be to attend a conference

without any assistance. I have grown as a researcher, teacher, and pianist by going to this conference. I hope to be of help to the Association in any way in the future. Thanks again!

From: Melissa Quek

I am honored to be one of the recipients for the Louisiana Music Teachers Association's (LMTA) Travel Scholarship this year. With the generous support from the Association, I had the great pleasure to attend the MTNA National Conference held at San Antonio, Texas for the very first time. Throughout the five days, friendship was forged through overcoming challenges. This experience has provided me an opportunity to advance to a higher level in my music study, improve holistically as a music student and an educator, as well as enable me to contribute to my collegiate chapter and the music community!

The lectures at the conference were very inspirational and thought-intriguing. I had the privilege to learn from renowned pedagogues and teachers, to know about the newest teaching technologies and to be exposed to different perspectives that will in time to come, enhance my piano teaching. The lectures on *Teaching ilearners: The various learning styles of Generation Z* by Pete Jutras and *Have you forgotten what is it like to be a child?* by Wendy Stevens highlighted how learning has gradually evolved over the years and provided valuable insights and tools. It serves as a reminder that not only should we make an effort to understand a child's thinking process, but also design teaching methods that aim to hone the child's abilities in absorbing knowledge within the shortest time period. This motivates me to continuously improve my methods and ways to teach my students more effectively.

Apart from the insightful lectures, I was extremely lucky to have the honor to attend the recitals by both the trio- Time for three and Grammy award-winning pianist Emanuel Ax. It was a huge treat for me and I enjoyed it tremendously! As a piano performance major in Northwestern State University, being able to listen to international artists play live on stage as well as hearing them share their stories will definitely play a pivotal role in my growth as a pianist.

Thank you very much LMTA for providing me with this lifetime opportunity to attend a national conference. It was truly an amazing experience especially since there isn't any national conference back in my country. It was a very fulfilling trip and has indefinitely reignited my passion in music teaching. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks once again and would be very happy to provide any form of help or assistance to the Association. Thank you!