

SCORE



SUMMER 2015

Letter from the President

I hope everyone has had a successful year of teaching and is settled into a restful and relaxing summer!

The Torgrimson/Swanzy Competition was held at Emmanuel Baptist Church on Saturday, June 6. Congratulations to all who participated! As you all know a lot of work goes into making this competition run smoothly. Special thanks to Susan Cauley of Emmanuel Baptist for helping us to organize this event in a new venue. Many thanks to Steele Moegle and Francis Yang for assisting with monitors. Thanks to ALL district rally chairs and last but not least, to Robin Ebeyer for the endless hours she devotes to making this event a success!

As many of you know, Robin will be moving overseas this summer to pursue mission work. Robin has served LMTA as VP Rallies for four years and as State Piano Rally Chair for the past two years. She has been a valued member of our organization and we will miss her greatly! We wish all the best to her and her family as they undertake a new chapter in their lives. Tamah Goad will be stepping in as State Rally Chair.

The LMTA Board will hold its summer meeting on Saturday, August 29, 2015 at the Wesley Center in Woodworth. The executive committee will meet at 10:00 am, followed by lunch with the full board at noon. Afternoon meetings will begin at 1:00 pm. All board members, event chairs and local presidents are asked to attend this important meeting.

David Easley, our publicity chair, has resigned for personal reasons. David has faithfully served LMTA under four presidents. On behalf of all members who have worked with David, I want to thank him for the energy and creativity and just plain fun he has brought to the executive committee. The time and effort David has put into the Score have brought it to a level of excellence that we are all proud of. Thank you so much for all you have done for LMTA.

We have a wonderful slate of officers for the 2016-2017 Executive Committee. I thank each of them for their willingness to serve our organization. The election will be held during our state convention, Friday, October 2, at the general session. The nominating committee included Judy McGehee (chair), Teresa Thomason, Robin Ebeyer and Sue Steck-Turner. Many thanks to each of them for working so diligently these past months to put this together.

Nominations for 2016-2017 LMTA Executive committee are:

- President: LaWanda Blakeney (Shreveport)
- President Elect: Pamela Pike (Baton Rouge)
- VP Membership: Gulya Chandler (Shreveport)
- VP Certification: Michelle Strain (Northshore)
- VP Publicity: Lauren Lewandowski (New Orleans)
- VP Rallies: Michelle Parro (Thibodaux)
- Treasurer: Teresa Thomason (Alexandria)
- Secretary: Tamera Zona (Alexandria)
- Historian/Webmaster: Laura Pray (Baton Rouge)
- Members at Large: Chan Kiat Lim (Lafayette) and Christy Corley (Lake Charles)
- Immediate Past President: Patti Misita (Baton Rouge)

I want to invite all of you to join me at our 2015 LMTA Convention, October 1-2 on the University of Louisiana at Lafayette campus. President-elect LaWanda Blakeney along with convention hosts Susie Garcia, Chan Kiat Lim and the Lafayette MTA are hard at work planning a convention you don't want to miss! Our guest artist will be Myrna Setiawan. Featured clinicians will be Glenda Austin and Linda Christensen.

Summer is a great time to reflect on all that LMTA and MTNA have to offer you and your students. Be sure to read through the newsletter for details on all our summer and fall events.

Happy Summer!

Patti Misita



Board Members

Immediate Past President:
Judy McGehee

President:
Patti Misita

President-elect:
LaWanda Blakeney

VP Membership:
Gulya Chandler

VP Certification:
Sue-Steck Turner

VP Rallies:
Robin Ebeyer

VP Publicity:
Vacant

Secretary:
Tamera Zona

Historian/Webmaster:
Laura Pray

Members at Large:
Susanna Garcia
and Lauren Lewandowski

SO YOU TEACH PIANO

IN GROUPS? **THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!**

By **LINDA CHRISTENSEN, PH.D.**

Summary by Teresa Thomason

A couple of the Apps demonstrated:

Whirligig Games

These games are on Keys To Imagination's website. (Keystolmagination.com) They are accessible on any device that can access the Internet. Available games include Rhythm Riot, Legato Lake, and Are We There Yet?

DecideNow (99 cents) or **WheelDecide** (Free)

These are "spin-the-wheel" apps that are customizable. Decide Now is an app; WheelDecide is web-based and free, but there are ads on the page, and you must sign in with FaceBook.

Heads Up!

(Free for the app; 99 cents per customized deck)

This game was developed by Ellen DeGeneres. This is for a phone or tablet. One person holds the phone or tablet on their forehead, and the others try to get that person to say whatever word is on the screen. A lot of fun!

MusicFlashClass Hot Potato Game

(\$3.99 – iPad/iPhone only)

MusicFlashClass is an iPad app. It is a highly configurable flash card application. The element that Linda uses is the Hot Potato game option.

TalkBoard (Free – Ipad/iPhone only)

This is an Online collaborative whiteboard which is great for online teaching. You can set up a whiteboard and invite students to join via link, text or e-mail. Once they have joined, you don't have to do this every time; the board stays available. Everyone can see what everyone else draws on the board!

LOUISIANA PROUD!!!

By **KATHERINE TOBEY, NCTM**

I was definitely "Louisiana proud" at the MTNA Conference in Las Vegas last month and took advantage of every opportunity to brag about Louisiana's standing: highest percentage of nationally certified teachers in the nation! And I was very proud to announce our two newest NCTMs: Ching Song Cuadra and Chia Ling Lien, who both worked so hard to complete the MTNA Teacher Profile Projects.

In addition to attending the Certification Commissioners' meeting and the open certification session, I attended the Independent Music Teachers Forum (IMTF). In this session we broke into small groups. My group's focus was how to attract students and grow a successful music studio. We discussed how becoming an NCTM provides prestige, recognition within a community, and the potential for increased earning. In addition, one of the five MTNA Teacher Profile Projects focuses on professional business management, a tremendous help in creating a successful studio. Other ideas we discussed for attracting new students included networking with other teachers, and doing community work, such as having one's students usher at the symphony or opera, perform at nursing homes, etc. Through such studio activities, a teacher's name becomes known in the community.

My Louisiana pride continued at the MTNA Foundation Gala, when we honored our newest Louisiana Fellow, Regina Walker. It was a festive evening, and we were so proud!

Each state president is asked to provide a "state pride" gift for the MTNA Foundation Fund raffle. Patti Misita selected a beautiful silver bass clef with an etched fleur de lis from Mignon Faget. Everyone admired it, and YES - I was the lucky winner!!! I am showing my Louisiana pride by wear this lovely pendant every chance I get. Thank you, Louisiana!

FUELING THE FLAME: STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTING TEACHER BURNOUT

By **MARTHA FISCHER AND JESSICA JOHNSON**
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Summary by Robin Ebeyer

What is “Burnout”?

We all know what burnout feels like. Those feelings of not being valued, hopelessness, and depression are compounded when you don't feel validated by your work. You have difficulty concentrating, feeling “stuck” in a routine, chronic fatigue, insomnia and emotional dullness. The presenters discussed the Maslach Burnout Inventory from UC Berkley that offers a personal diagnostic test to determine if you are indeed burned out.

Prevention and Cure

Take care of yourself by putting things in perspective, move more (get exercise), eat well, stay hydrated, get together with friends, and pamper yourself intentionally are suggestions. See a professional, if needed. Be gentle with yourself and learn the power of “NO.” And when you say “YES,” think about what you're doing and why you're doing it. Enjoy doing nothing once in a while. Allow yourself to participate in the joy of music.

Mindful Meditation – do things that make you slow down, such as yoga, Bible study, a long walk, or sit outside in the sunshine.

Tame multi-tasking and limit use of technology. Organize your day into project periods and allow time for daydreaming.

Professional Development and Validation

MTNA Conference (and I will add LMTA Convention ☺)

Continually evaluate your philosophy of teaching, who you are as a teacher and what you want to accomplish. Seek certification. Join music organizations. Re-evaluate your studio policy and revisit it often. Your fees should reflect your experience and geographical region. Promote the achievements of your students.

Ways to Keep the Flame Burning Bright

Always remain a student; don't pretend you know everything. Some suggestions were to talk with colleagues, attend music conferences, get involved at local colleges and universities, or read a book or attend a presentation NOT related to music.

Nurture your own musical growth by performing publicly at least one a year, take a lesson or perform for a colleague, expand your teaching repertoire, make music with others, set summer study goals, find a mentor, and diversify your professional responsibilities.

Be an arts advocate. Brainstorm with peers.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Regina Walker
MTNA Foundation
Foundation Fellow

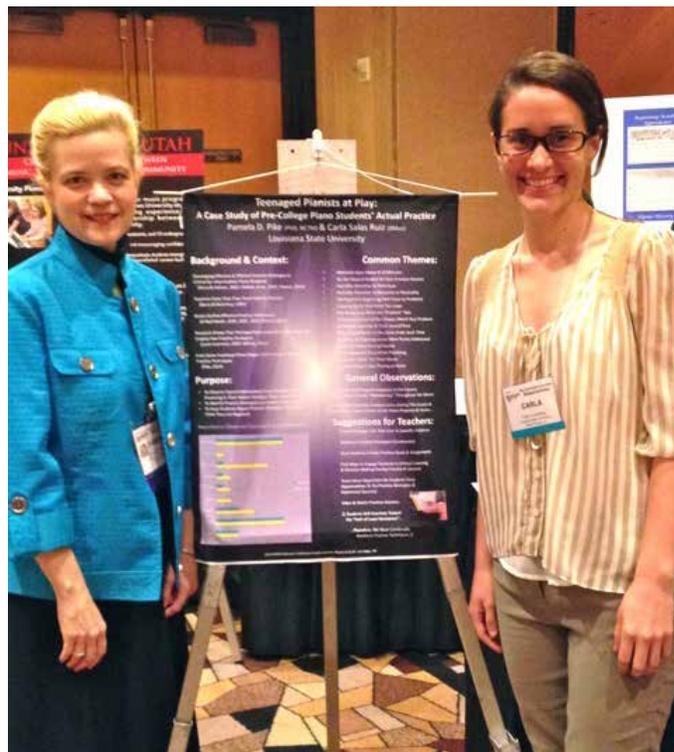
THANK YOU LMTA!

By CARLA SALAS RUIZ

I would like to thank the Louisiana Music Teachers Association for giving me the honor of receiving the LMTA Travel Scholarship. It allowed me to attend the MTNA National Conference held at Las Vegas, Nevada. This experience gave me the opportunity to share with and learn from experienced teachers, and also to get in contact with new ideas, and different perspectives that enriched what I had already learned in my pedagogy degree program. I also participated in the Poster Session with *Teenaged Pianist at Play: A case Study of Pre-college Piano Students' Actual Practice* with my professor Dr. Pamela Pike.

Many lectures at the conference were insightful and really inspirational such as *The Gift of Music: Piano in a Women's Correctional Institution* by Dr. Anna Hamilton. This presentation, which highlighted how Dr. Hamilton teaches piano at a women's prison, showed me how music transforms lives, and it motivates me to create a similar community program in Costa Rica. It also provided me with specific ideas, and tools that I could use in a future program. Another great lecture was given by Dr. Beth Gigante Klingenstein. This session addressed how we can improve our teaching by *Teaching Skills-Not Pieces*. It covered how we can help our students with practice, with memorization, with performance, with pedaling, and technique. It made me think deeply and question if my teaching was truly effective, and how could I improve it right away.

This Spring I will be graduating with a Master of Music in Piano Pedagogy from LSU, and one presentation that was really enlightening was *The Art of Balance: Managing and Finding Joy in Your Professional Music Career* by Dr. Jani Parsons. During this session she enumerated nearly than 35 different employment opportunities that are available to pianists - it definitely expanded my horizons, and gave me different strategies that I can use in my transition from college student to professional piano teacher and musician.



Left to Right: Pam Pike and Carla Ruiz

During the national conference there were recitals each evening. These performances were some of the best that I have ever attended. I have no words to describe the pleasure of hearing Ann Schein's piano recital. It was beyond my expectations, and it truly reaffirmed my commitment to pursue the best for my professional music making, and for my future students. During a keynote session the day before her recital, many times Ann Schein mentioned how thankful she was for her piano teacher. It reminded me of a quote by Henry Adams that says "A teacher effects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops".

Thanks to the support of the Louisiana Music Teachers Association I had the opportunity of to accomplish some of my pressing professional goals, and I had the chance to grow as a person, and as a pianist. I want to express my heartfelt thanks, and I will be available to help the Association in whatever they may need.

ADDING A CHALLENGE TO YOUR STUDIO

By **LAUREN LEWANDOWSKI**

Last month, I decided to mix things up in my studio with an “April Challenge.” I typically use various sticker charts in my studio to motivate students, but I wanted to do something different for a month. I created the challenge to cover different areas of music study such as note naming, sight reading, theory, performance, and practicing. I tried to make the challenge doable for students of all levels, but also put enough on the list to push students beyond their norm.

The challenge was a great success in my studio. Many students worked hard to complete the challenge by the end of April. Students even asked what the challenge would be next month. Each student who completed the challenge received a “goodie bag” of a few prizes. Perhaps adding a “Summer Challenge” in your studio would help give students goals over the summer.

April Challenge

Complete 5 Theory Worksheets.

Play 1 piece memorized for a family member.

Name 24 notes in 1 minute.

Complete 5 sight-reading examples.

Complete 14 practice sessions at home.



2016

FOUNDATION
NOMINEE

Dorothy Swindle Sahlmann, NCTM, joined MTNA in 1968 in Arkansas. Currently a member of the Louisiana MTA, she recently retired after 27 years of independent piano teaching. With degrees in piano performance from the University of Arkansas and post graduate studies in music theory at the University of North Texas she held teaching positions at McNeese State University, Sam Houston University, Arkansas State University and University of Central Arkansas. She served LMTA as Vice-President for Rallies and chaired elementary and high school auditions. LMTA honored her and her husband, Fred Sahlmann, with the 2009 Outstanding Teacher Award. She has performed actively as a soloist and collaborative pianist and is a frequent adjudicator for state and local events.

ATTENTION:

Remember to
Pay Your Dues
by June 30!

I'VE GOT SOME GOOD NEWS AND SOME BAD NEWS

By LA WANDA J. BLAKENEY, PH.D.

First, the good news: Louisiana is NOT at the bottom of the list! Our rate of LMTA membership decline is less than it is in other states. Isn't that wonderful? Not really. Now the bad news: Within the past four years we have "lost" 32 members (9%). The downward trend will become increasingly noticeable as more and more music teachers begin to retire, possibly dropping their LMTA membership.

What can we do? We obviously need to attract new members, but we also need to retain the ones we already have. I'm reminded of the story about the little country church that wanted to increase its membership. Some deacons stood at the front door to welcome visitors in the hopes that they would join the church, while other deacons stood at the back door to prevent any of the members from leaving!

I'm not suggesting that we actually employ the deacons' tactics; however, we should be reminded of the need for attracting prospects AND retaining current members. We should also try to remember some of the advantages that MTNA and LMTA membership offer. Years ago when I moved to Baton Rouge and was setting up a studio for the first time, I benefited greatly through student referrals from other LMTA members. Last March at the MTNA National Convention in Las Vegas, I couldn't help but notice the warm, affectionate greetings among MTNA members who had not seen each other since the last convention. It's obvious that camaraderie, communication, and the sharing of ideas among members are vital for music teachers. Membership also offers countless opportunities for professional growth through conventions, workshops, conferences, lectures, and recitals. While I may not always learn something brand new each time I attend, there is usually information that reinforces my own ideas (or sometimes, reminds me of something that I had learned long ago but forgotten!).

As we approach the time to renew our MTNA/LMTA memberships, I urge you to think about the advantages you have experienced through these organizations. Tell your colleagues about these positive results, and encourage young- and/or non-member music teachers to join MTNA/LMTA!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

DUES REMINDER

Please remember to pay your dues by June 30!

CERTIFICATION RENEWALS

Certification renewals are due by July 1. Visit the LMTA website or contact Sue-Steck Turner (steckturner@hotmail.com) if you need assistance.

LMTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

We all know someone who deserves this award! Now is the time to review the guidelines on the LMTA website and start gathering information.

Deadline: Saturday, August 29

Contact: Linda Manes (Imanes@cox.net)

MTNA 2016 COMPETITION DEADLINE

Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 3 PM eastern

Entry guidelines can be found at:

www.mtna.org/programs/competitions

LMTA PRE-COLLEGE CHAMBER COMPETITION

Date: Saturday, October 31, 2015

Venue: University of Louisiana at Lafayette

General Information:

There will be two categories:

- Category I - Piano duo/duet/trio/quartet
- Category II - Mixed chamber groups

Each category will encompass two age divisions:

- Lower division (Grades 6-8),
- Upper divisions (Grades 9-12)

Ensembles will choose the division based on the average grade of the ensemble, and with the approval of the CMC Chair and Committee

Contact: Chan Kiat Lim (chankiatlim@hotmail.com)