2019-2021

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Questions, suggestions, and comments regarding the SCORE can be emailed to Jill O’Toole, VP Publicity. Her email address is jillotoolemusik@yahoo.com.

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Dear LMTA Colleagues,

It has been almost a year since the Louisiana Stay at Home Order, since we were not able to hold Rally, and since the 2020 MTNA National Conference was suddenly cancelled and moved online months later. Since that period, all the LMTA boards have met via Zoom countless times to do their best to continue providing safe and meaningful musical experiences both virtual and live for all our members and their students.

The 2021 MTNA Virtual Conference which runs from March 13-17 is soon approaching with five days full of sessions, masterclasses, recitals, poster sessions, and showcases. Many of our LMTA colleagues are presenting, performing, and two are receiving an award. Register to take advantage of over 100 sessions and support our friends.

In this issue, President Elect Chan Kiat Lim shares an update from the Executive Board about the 2021 LMTA State Conference. Collegiate Chair, John Price, invites members to attend the LMTA Virtual Collegiate Chapters Symposium to be held on Sunday, March 21 at 4 pm.

While last year most of our live events were suddenly cancelled, the Rally board has been busy securing performing and learning opportunities for our students this spring. Rebecca Bellelo, VP Rallies, writes about how Rally will be conducted around the state. The Keyboard Olympics, a completely online curriculum, is another event our students can participate in, and Pamela Pike, Immediate Past President, and Keyboard Olympics Chair, reports about this. Ellene Owens, Composition Competitions Chair shares some fun composition skills that we can incorporate in our lessons.

Wishing everyone continued bountiful music making for you and your students whether virtual or in person.

Sincerely,

Francis Yang
LMTA President
Dear LMTA Colleagues,

Members of our Board met a couple of weeks ago and we collectively decided that it will be in LMTA's best interest not to hold an in-person conference in Ruston this year.

We have all hoped that by this time in 2021, we would have returned to our lives as we knew it pre-Covid19, but unfortunately, there are still too many risks at stake at the moment. Our concerns included timeline for vaccination (the vaccination process might continue to the end of the year and beyond with booster shots), willingness of clinicians and artist to travel, access of facilities for conference participants to properly socially distance, possible untimely withdrawal and closure of host University, and the possible health risks that our members will have to take to travel and stay in Ruston in order to participate in a group event.

In spite of these challenges, as members of LMTA, we will continue to support each other, and as an organization, we will carry on our mission to advance our profession and serve our members. Our Zoom Happy Hour last year was a success and this year, we intend to build on that to offer a greater variety of events and activities for our attendees. This fall, we will have a dedicate conference day which will be announced soon.

Chan Kiat Lim, NCTM
President-Elect
The LMTA Piano Rally Board held a special meeting in late February to finalize details for our 2021 Rally events. Each district chair has worked very hard to make sure their district event is feasible and safe for students and teachers.

- Each District chairperson was tasked with deciding how to best organize and operate their Rally event. Therefore, some Rallies may be a live, in-person event, while others might be an all-virtual event. As always, students will be allowed to play out of district, as long as they meet the district’s deadlines and communicate with the chairperson. Remember, students who play out of district are not eligible for performance awards, but these students can qualify for medals and the Outstanding Achievement award.

- For a complete list of each district’s Rally schedules and deadlines, please visit the LMTA website. Be sure to check with your chairperson for your district’s exact procedures if you have any questions.

- The Torgrimson/Swanzy Competition is cancelled for 2021.

Remember if you have transfer students to email Carla Breaux [carlabreaux@aol.com] to update your student entries on the Rally database, www.rally-lmta.org. All rules and other information can be found in the Rally syllabus, which is available on the LMTA website.

After having almost no live performances or competitions for an entire year, I think this is an exciting time to reflect on what a service this performance opportunity can be for our students. We hope Rally encourages these young pianists to continue their musical pursuits, and we look forward to hearing their performances soon!

Sincerely,
Rebecca Bellelo, NCTM
VP Rallies
MTNA Performance Competitions, Spring 2021
South Central Division Competitions
Results for Louisiana Competitors, January 2021
Charles Jones, LMTA MTNA Performance Competitions Chair

Junior Composition
Winner - Carter Jackson, Ruston – student of Caroline Anh

Junior Piano
Alternate - Paul Kreamer, Bourg – student of Luciana Soares

Senior Brass
Alternate - Clara Conatser (Horn), Kenner – student of Mollie Pate

Senior Strings
Alternate - Calvin Alexander (Violin), Shreveport – student of Jan Sloman/Laura Crawford

Senior Voice
Alternate - Kate Tomeny, Harahan – student of Megan Dearie

Senior Piano Duet
Alternate - Sarah Li and Jason Lin, Baton Rouge – students of Chia-Ling Lien
Three Fun Activities That Teach Your Student Some Basic Composition Skills

#1 Minor Variation
This works best with pieces that are in C or G Major and use chord shells in the left hand (rather than triads). All you have to do is flat the 3rd in the right hand and voila! Now you have a song in a minor key. The student can rename the piece to fit the minor mood. (i.e. change “Honey Bee March” to “Lost Honeybee” or “Sad Honeybee”.

#2 Switching Melody and Accompaniment
This works best in pieces that have a clear melody in the right hand and a simple accompaniment pattern in the left hand (solid chords or chord shells). The student plays the melody with the left hand and the accompaniment with the right hand.

#3 Finding the Harmony
Once your student can play chord shells or triads, try giving them the opportunity to decide which chords (or chord shells) fit with a simple melody. Start with a tune that only needs I & V7 chords. (It’s great if it is a familiar song.) After they are proficient at playing the melody with their right hand, have them figure out which chords sound best.

These activities offer a practical application of the cadences the student has learned, they engage the ear, and they acclimate the student to doing something that is not on the page.

Ellene Owens
Chair, Student Composition Competitions
LMTA is excited to announce that we will be presenting a Virtual Collegiate Chapters Symposium on:

Sunday, March 21 at 4:00 PM

We have a great lineup of presenters and topics from some of our fantastic collegiate chapters across the state. The scheduled presentations are as follows:

**Helping Students Achieve Flow in Practice and Performance**

This presentation will go over strategies to help promote the state of flow (as described by the psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi) in our applied piano students during practice and performance. The concept of flow will be briefly defined, necessary conditions explored, and strategies to help encourage these conditions for our students will be discussed.

Presenters: David Paz and Hannah Potter, BM students at Northwestern State University.

**Using Performance Cues as a Memorization Strategy with Group Piano Students by Implementing Teacher and Student-Directed Learning Approaches.**

The study will explore the use of Performance Cues as a memorization strategy among undergraduate music students by comparing different learning approaches such as teacher-directed and student-directed. An examination into how the use of Performance Cues with teacher-directed and student-directed approaches will be explored and analyzed.

Presenter: Maria Vieira, PhD candidate at Louisiana State University.

The Zoom Meeting ID is: 998 751 1298, [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9987511298](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9987511298)

We hope you will be able to make it!

John Price, NCTM
LMTA Collegiate Chapters Chair
It has been less than a year since we held our first LMTA Keyboard Olympics event but students and teachers are engaging with this virtual non-traditional curriculum and testing system. We have had entrants from four different districts across the state and several Olympians are close to receiving their first medals. Our standout piano athlete, thus far, has been Morgan Villard (student of Melva Villard) in Alexandria. On March 27th, she earned her medal for level 2 (this is Morgan’s third medal overall)! During the January events, several students commented that performing on their own piano and learning lead lines were their favorite aspects of the Keyboard Olympics.

Remember, the full entry fee covers all events in a level, but students can register for individual events if they would prefer to pay as they go. Students choose to prepare one or multiple events for each testing date and may take a month (or more) off from competing if their schedules become too busy. Upcoming testing dates are March 27 and April 24. A mid- to late-summer date will be announced soon. Please check the LMTA website for updates on the schedule and be sure to download the 2020 Keyboard Olympics Syllabus (updated in October 2020) and Teacher Materials as you prepare your students for their events (available at this link: https://lmtaorg.wpcomstaging.com/keyboard-olympics/keyboard-olympics-files/).

The Keyboard Olympics planning committee is available to do a workshop for your local association that will help you to understand and get started with the curriculum.

Feel free to reach out to Pamela Pike (pdpike@lsu.edu) if you have questions or would like to schedule a workshop.

2021 TEST DATES

March 27      April 24

More dates to be announced.
MTNA is taking virtual to the next level with the 2021 MTNA Virtual Conference. Mark your calendars for March 13–17, 2021, and prepare for an unforgettable experience!

MTNA has curated its most extensive and, without a doubt, its very best conference program ever and will deliver it all to you in the comfort of your own home or studio. In addition to experiencing well over 100 sessions, master classes, keynote addresses and recitals, you will also have multiple opportunities for live interactions with presenters and colleagues from around the nation and the world. And, to top it off, you will be connected to a wide-range of exhibitors to sample and buy their products and services.

MTNA’s commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion plays a prominent role in the Virtual Conference as we celebrate how music teachers and musicians from diverse backgrounds have shaped and are shaping today’s music teaching profession. You will be inspired by the richness of the cultural, musical and ethnic diversity of the conference. Put it all together on a state-of-the-art virtual platform and you have the premier gathering of studio music teachers. You don’t want to miss it!

For more information: MTNA.org

Article Source: MTNA.org
LMTA at the MTNA 2021 Conference

Highlights at the MTNA 2021 Conference of some of our LMTA members!

**The Inspired Group Classroom**

Dr. Nan Richerson, Dr. Emily Book McGree, and Dr. Rebecca Bellelo, share their tips on what you can do to boost your group teaching effectiveness. Using a combination of games, manipulatives, practice packets and more, learn how you can enhance your student’s learning with fun and exciting activities.

Rebecca Bellelo, NCTM, Ph.D
Piano Pathways, Baton Rouge, LA

Nan Baker Richerson, NCTM, Ph.D
Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD;
Wicomico County Public Schools, Salisbury, MD

Emily Book McGree, DMA
Lamont School of Music, University of Denver, CO
Lafayette Piano Academy, Lafayette, CO

**Purposeful Listening: Key to Lasting Musicianship**

Purposeful listening in music is listening with an intention which requires critical thinking and active music listening skills. This presentation will provide an approach on how to develop a musical and communicative performance through purposeful listening. The presenters, Drs. Chan Kiat Lim and Siok Lian Tan, will demonstrate activities to hone critical listening skills that enhance students’ musical understanding, interpretations, and ultimately, their performances.

Chan Kiat Lim, NCTM, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, LA
Siok Lian Tan, NCTM, Miami University, OH

**Group Dynamics and Teaching Strategies: Group Growth**

The session will feature the five stages of group growth that occur when we work with students (of all ages) in group settings. Dr. Pike will explore what to expect during each stage and how to move groups of students into the most productive stages efficiently.

Pamela D. Pike, Ph.D.
Herndon Spillman Professor of Piano Pedagogy
Louisiana State University
Nyaho/Garcia Duo

William Chapman Nyaho and pianist Susanna Garcia create fascinating programs that not only entertain but educate diverse audiences. Meeting at the University of Texas at Austin, Garcia and Nyaho became friends in the 1980s. Their musical partnership, however, began in 1990, while both were teaching at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Their mutual respect embodies both artistic music making and a desire to enrich and expand audiences of two-piano music. Performing throughout the United States, Europe and Africa, their synergistic duo has been described as possessing “one head, one heart, but four hands.”

Well-known to the MTNA membership, Nyaho is of Ghanaian-American descent. He has given numerous presentations highlighting the works of composers of African heritage. Enthusiastically attended and universally praised, Nyaho’s offerings are energetic, positive and entertaining, gently nudging listeners to explore composers’ works that should live on in the musical canon. Nyaho compiled and edited the critically acclaimed five-volume graded anthology Piano Music of Africa and the African Diaspora, published by Oxford University Press. The volumes contain extraordinary music, some familiar, most not.

Susanna Garcia is a South Texas native who has performed in concert across the United States, Canada, Ghana and Europe. With the backing of the Mexican government’s cultural enrichment program, she traveled the country, playing recitals and giving workshops. Garcia is professor of music at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where she has taught since 1990. Garcia holds the Louisiana Board of Regents/Ruth Stodghill Girard Endowed Professorship in Music and in 2001 was named a University of Louisiana Distinguished Professor. Garcia is the co-developer of eNovativePiano: Multimedia Resources for Developing Musicianship Skills.

Photo: Terri Fensel, Article Source: MTNA.org website

Special Awards:

*eNovativePiano* has been selected as the recipient of the 2021 *MTNA-Frances Clark Keyboard Pedagogy Award* by members of the Frances Clark Center Board of Directors and ratified by the MTNA Board of Directors.

This annual award was established in 2001 through a bequest to MTNA by the renowned pedagogue, Frances Clark. It is given to a person or company who has made significant contributions to the field of keyboard pedagogy through the creation and development of products and publications that further the profession. You are joining a distinguished group of pedagogues and companies who have advanced the important field of keyboard pedagogy through their exceptional creative activities. A complete list of past recipients is attached.

*eNovativePiano* will be recognized at the 2021 MTNA Virtual Conference during the online Awards Program. The Awards Program is a live virtual event and is scheduled for Wednesday, March 17 at 10:30 a.m. Eastern Time. During the program, MTNA President Martha Hilley and Frances Clark Center Executive Director Jennifer Snow will make the official presentation.
MTNA Virtual Conference:
March 13-17, 2021

Virtual Collegiate Chapters Symposium:
Sunday, March 21

LMTA Keyboard Olympics Test Dates:
March 27
April 24

LMTA 2021 Conference:
TBA
Spring:
The music of open windows.

Terri Guillemets