

Three Quarter Times

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year! We had a productive year in 2015, thanks to our board members for their outstanding work. NJMTA is very blessed to have a wonderful group of hard-working members who have dedicated so much of their time to serve this great organization.

We had a successful state conference last November at the Rider University. I would like to thank our President-Elect, Ting-Ting Lien, for doing such a good job in running the conference, and the Conference Planning Committee for coming up with innovative ideas. The conference planning committee includes Ting-Ting Lien, who is the chair of the committee, Marianne Lauffer, Chiu-Ling Lin, Christina Xie, Betty Stoloff, Lillian Livingston and Yuhui Chloris Li. Special thanks to our Membership Chairperson, Yuhui Chloris Li, and her student's mother Sue Ni who helped at the registration desk throughout the conference and Christina Xie for providing the transportation for our conference artist.

The conference was highlighted with sessions conducted by our featured

artists: Meng-Chieh Liu's lecture recital with Brahms Piano Works, and his inspiring advanced master class; Wynn-Anne Rossi's magical Intermediate master class focusing on music written after 1970 and her fun presentation on "The Spark of Inspiration: From Creative Composition to Musica Latina"; commissioned composer Ryan Brechmacher's compositions performance at winners recital; our own member Prof. Ingrid Clarfield's presentation on "Teaching Rubato: Bend it, but Don't Break it!!!" that provided in-depth insights we all took to heart; and the Independent Music Teachers Forum's presentation led by our IMTF Chairperson Marianne Lauffer on "Creating a Healthy and Happy Studio – Putting the PLUS in private lessons". It is always an amazing experience to watch the Winners Recitals throughout the conference and witness our future artists in the making.

During the conference, NJMTA also presented a number of awards to recognize those individuals who have contributed and accomplished significantly to the organization and the music teaching profes-

sion. Congratulations go to Dr. Chiu-Ling Lin who is our "Teacher of the Year" recipient for 2015. Dr. Lin is one of our past presidents and she is still actively serving on the board of NJMTA. We want to congratulate Renae Block for receiving the 2015 NJMTA Service Award. Ms. Block has served as NJMTA's recording secretary and the chairperson for Winds, Brass and Percussion competitions and auditions for many years. We appreciate their contributions to NJMTA.

I am also happy to inform you that Chiu-Tze Lin has been chosen to be our 2016 NJMTA Foundation Fellow. This honor is bestowed upon outstanding individuals who have made a significant difference in the music world. Her award will be presented at the MTNA National Conference in San Antonio, Texas, on April 4, 2016. Ms. Lin was NJMTA's Teacher of the Year in 2011. In addition to her outstanding teaching, Ms. Lin also serves as the music director and conductor of Bravura Philharmonic Orchestra. Ms. Lin is much loved and respected by her colleagues and friends. Her contributions

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Special points of interest:

- March 5th & 6th—NJMTA Performathon
- March 13th & April 3rd—NJMTA Spring Piano Festival
- April 3rd, April 10th, April 17th – Annual Recital Auditions: Piano
- April 24th—Annual Recital Auditions: Strings, Winds, Brass, Percussion, Voice, Chinese Instruments

2015 NJMTA State Conference

Dear all music teachers and music lovers,

As the 2015 NJMTA annual conference concluded successfully at the end, I would like to take a moment to share with you some highlights of the conference, as well as giving thanks and acknowledging many important teachers behind the scenes.

This year, our conference committees include our current NJMTA president Hendry Wijaya, immediate past president Christina Xie, as well as Chiu-Ling Lin, Lillian Livingston, Marianne Lauffer, Betty Stoloff, Chloris Li, and myself. I would like to thank each one of them for their complete support and great suggestions throughout the planning process.

It is our honor to have Mr. Meng-Chieh Liu and Ms. Wynn-Anne Rossi as our guest conference artists for the advanced and intermediate levels. In the lecture recital "FreiAberEinsam: Brahms Piano Works", Mr. Liu shed many precious insights and taught us a great deal about Brahms. His great musicianship, artistry and superb pianistic technique are definitely the keynote for this conference. Everyone had really enjoyed the Brahms concert Mr. Liu presented.

Our intermediate artist Ms. Rossi with her partner Ms. Cindy Harrington put up a fun, loving, and most inspiring presentation for all audiences to learn and enjoy in their presentation "The Spark of Inspiration: From Creative Composition to Musica Latina". I personally had learnt that perhaps I should do some dancing while giving piano lessons from now on.

For the other workshops, once again, Ms. Ingrid Clarfield had brought us a beautiful and educational presentation, "Teaching Rubato: Bend it, but Don't Break it!!". Her insightful teaching experience and special knowledge in Rubato playing was shared by a very clear instruction and a beautiful performance played by Ms. Clarfield with her left hand artist Mr. Todd Simmons. All audiences were led into such a romantic era by the stretch of the tempo with which Ms. Clarfield and Mr. Simmons presented.

Ms. Marianne Lauffer's presentation: "Creating a Healthy and Happy Studio- Putting the PLUS in private lessons" also had attracted many teachers from all different fields. This workshop was such a success because it was so well thought and planned. It had suited every teachers' need in hoping to getting new ideas for their teaching in the future, and it is not only for private piano studio, it also goes on to a small music school to a large community music school, as well as the string private studio. Nevertheless, the concerts per-

formed by all competition winners definitely are the sparks of the conference. All the teachers and parents supported and cheered for these talented and beautiful students. Every concert was a success; we had full house one concert after the other. Here, I must also bring up our commissioned composer of the year, Mr. Ryan Brechmacher, who had written us such beautiful works for students to compete and perform in the concert. We were so delighted to have him to be our commissioned composer of the year.

Lastly, I must mention about the banquet on Saturday night that was held at Salt Creek Grille in Forrestal Village in Princeton. We had the most people joined us this year which had brought us much fun. Although everybody was tired by the end of the day, everybody had a great time and really enjoyed the food. It was a great chance to know the conference artists, and most importantly, best time to mingle and get to know each other.

NJMTA would like to thank Rider University for accommodating us the location for the conference of 2015. Their total support had helped tremendously, and it had made much easier to plan for the conference. We also would like to acknowledge Jacobs Music Company for their great support and generosity by lending us two of the beautiful 7' Steinway concert grand pianos to use during the conference.

"Every concert was a success; we had full house one concert after the other."

The 2015 NJMTA Conference was wrapped up in November 15, 2015. It was surely informative, well planned and organized, and most importantly, fruitful to every one who attend. Now, the 2016 NJMTA Conference committee has begun their work planning another great conference for all the teachers in New Jersey. As usual, the conference will be held in November. Please mark your date and reserve your time to join us this year. We look forward to meeting you there!

Ting Ting Lien, NCTM
President Elect of NJMTA

President's Message (Con.)

to the music profession has inspired and will continue to inspire teachers and students everywhere.

NJMTA is very fortunate to have so many wonderful teachers/colleagues on the Board, who have dedicated countless hours to organize many activities. I would like to thank all fall events chairpersons, including Young Musicians Competition – Hwei-Lan Luo (Piano), Ingrid Tang (Strings), Renae Block (Winds, Brass and Percussion), Wennie Nai-Yueh Niu (Voice), Yang Yi (Chinese Instruments); Conference Masterclass Coordinator – Kyu-Jung Rhee; Composer Commission Competition – Emily Lau; High School scholarship Competition – Margaret Knight; MTNA Student Composition Competition – Julia Kovalev, and MTNA Students Performance Competition – Christina Xie. I was very pleased to see so many supportive teachers who entered their talented students to participate in those events.

I would also like to thank Tomoko Harada who is always excellent in finding high quality piano judges for our competitions and auditions, Ikumi Hiraiwa who helped with the printing of certificates for the winners, our former board member Grace Chang who has been very kind to help and work together with Ikumi in showing her how to deal with the certificates and trophies, and Dr. Chiu-Ling Lin for finding and booking the facilities for all of our events.

I am very grateful that one of our

members, Hsin-I Chou, has stepped up to help with the processing of the Spring Recital Audition registrations, which is a tedious work. From now on, all registrations for the Spring Recital Audition for Piano should be sent to Ms. Chou.

Our state MTNA competition went very smoothly last November, thanks to our MTNA competitions coordinators Christina Xie and Amy Tu, who worked very hard in putting everything together. Special thanks go to Deborah Gers for helping out during the entire competition and making sure that everything runs smoothly, since Deborah was our former MTNA Competitions Chairperson before Christina took over the position very recently.

This year, New Jersey had the honor of hosting the MTNA Eastern Division Competitions that were held on January 31, 2016, at the Rowan University. It has been over ten years since New Jersey hosted this event because this competition rotates to a different state every year within the 13 states in the Eastern Division. I am proud that there are several winners from New Jersey who will be representing the Eastern Division at the National Level. The list of winners can be found in this newsletter and on NJMTA website.

After some unexpected delays, our 2016 Yearbook is finally on its way. The yearbooks will be mailed directly from the print shop to your home address. Special thanks to

Megan Hofreiter for the tremendous work and hours she provided in putting together our new 2016 yearbook, to Yvonne Chin's effort in keeping the NJMTA quarterly newsletter published on time, sending out e-mail blasts to all of us and being our web coordinator, and to Victoria Chow's coordination effort on the advertisements for the yearbook and the conference.

Once again, I would like to encourage all of you to attend the next MTNA National Conference, which will be in San Antonio, Texas, from April 2 to 6, 2016. About 2,000 music teachers are expected to be there. Some of our own members will also be giving presentations at the conference. Ena Barton and Phyllis Lehrer will be presenting "The Piano As Chamber Music: Drama And Dialogue in The Piano Duets Of Mozart, Schubert And Debussy", while Ingrid Clarfield will be presenting "Creating Magic In The Unexpected: Same Goals—Different Accents!" Let us show them our support. For more information, please visit MTNA's website at www.mtna.org

I wish all of you a healthy and prosperous new year! The Board of NJMTA is looking forward to work with you. With your support, encouragement, and constructive suggestions, we can all grow and benefit from this wonderful organization.

Best wishes,

Hendry Wijaya
NJMTA President

NJMTA Children Helping Children Performathon Celebrating the 11th Year – March 5th & 6th, 2016!

We are scheduled for Saturday, March 5th and Sunday, March 6, 2016. Once again, we are grateful to Westminster Choir College of Rider University for donating the hall space for this event:

Saturday, March 5th:

1:00pm-9:00pm Bristol Hall

12:30pm- 9:00pm Williamson Hall

Sunday, March 6th:

12:00pm- 8:00pm Hillman Hall

12:30pm-8:30pm Williamson Hall

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Member's News

NSMS Announces Students Playing in Carnegie Hall

Four students from The New School for Music Study will perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City on Saturday, February 20 at 1:00 p.m. These students are winners of the Music Development Program's Tri-State Certificate of Excellence. Each of these four students received the highest marks for their respective exam level in the May 2015 assessments of the Music Development Program. The Royal Conservatory Music Development Program provides a recognized national standard of musical success through an effectively sequenced course of study from beginner to advanced levels.

Henry Banta, a 13-year-old student at Franklin Middle School, has studied the piano for 4.5 years and will perform L'adieu, Op. 100 No. 12, by Johann Friedrich Burgmüller.

Daanial Haris, 11, is a student at the Noor-ul-Iman school in Monmouth Junction and has studied the piano for four years. He will play Midnight Escapade by Melody Bober.

Kristina Khaw, a sophomore at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North, has been studying piano for 10 years and will play Song Without Words Opus 30 No. 1 by Felix Mendelssohn.

In addition to the Tri-State Certificate of Excellence, Nina Austria has been awarded the National Medal for achieving the highest Level 5 score in the country. Thirteen-year-old Nina attends Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart and is in her seventh year of piano study. She will play selected Romanian Dances by Bartok.

The teachers of these four students include Marvin Blickenstaff, Kristin Cahill, Emily Lau, and Denitsa VanPelt. NSMS congratulates these students on their high achievements!

The New School for Music Study is one of the country's leading centers in piano education and provides a variety of programs and classes for piano students. Our school is conveniently located in the Princeton area of central New Jersey, offering piano lessons for stu-

dents Somerset, Middlesex, and Mercer counties. Lessons and classes are held in the historic district of Kingston, NJ.



Competition Information from National League of Performing Arts, Inc.

National Young Musicians Showcase Competition

Postmark Deadline: February 20, 2016

Competition Date: Sunday, March 20, 2016 at Jersey City University

Grand and Gold Winners Concerts: Sunday, April 24, 2016 at Weill Recital Hall. The Showcase Competition is open to all solo instruments ages from 8-21. Entrants are required to perform one piece of 10 minutes or less.

National Young Virtuosi Recital Competition

Postmark Deadline: April 25, 2016

Competition Date: Sunday, May 15, 2016

Winners Concert: Saturday afternoon, June 4, 2016 at Jersey City University. The Virtuosi Recital Competition is open to students who are capable of preparing a high quality recital program. There is no age minimum but a maximum age is 18 years of age.

National Young Artists Chamber Music and Ensemble Competition

Postmark Deadline: April 25, 2016

Competition Date: Sunday, May 15, 2016

Winners Concert: Sunday, June 5, 2016 at Merkin Concert Hall

The Chamber Music and Ensemble competition is open to all students currently enrolled in school including graduate degree programs.

We accept YouTube link entries for all above competitions. For further information, please visit

www.nationalleagueofperformingarts.org

NJMTA Children Helping Children Performathon Celebrating the 11th Year (Con.)

This past winter, the 2015 Performathon raised over \$25,000 for the 3 Ronald McDonald Houses in New Jersey. Thank you Teachers, Students, Families and Friends of NJMTA for sharing your time, energy and talents.

The NJMTA Children Helping Children Performathon continues to include performers of all ages and levels. Performers raise money by seeking sponsors for their participation in the 1 hour concerts scheduled on the weekend of March 5th-March 6th, 2016. Donation Forms and Permission Slips are brought to each concert and a running tally is provided throughout the weekend.

In addition to the glorious music, participants are urged to contribute a visual or written component. Some of the works can reflect on the theme "What Music Means to Me." Other works can be about a particular composer or piece of music.

I look forward to working with all of you on the 2016 Performathon.

Betty Stoloff

NJMTA Arts Advocacy Chair

ASSOCIATED BOARD OF THE ROYAL SCHOOLS OF MUSIC Congratulations

The following students are to be congratulated on receiving the highest marks in their respective grades in the Nov.–Dec. 2015 exams.

PRACTICAL

Grade 1	ANIKA NARAYAN	140 (piano)	Man Kit (Fanny) Hon
Grade 2	JOHN WOO	142 (piano)	Seonmi Rebecca Kim
Grade 3	MICHAEL CHEN	141 (piano)	Hsin-I Chou
Grade 4	AMANDA YANG	141 (piano)	Ieva Carucci
Grade 5	KRISTEN ADAMS	138 (piano)	Yung-Ling Chang
Grade 6	CLARE KUO	143 (piano)	Yiheng Yang
Grade 7	LARKIN XU	141 (piano)	Zen Music Center
Grade 8	BRANDON MATTHEW LI	136 (piano)	Bing Bing Chang

Additional plaque will be awarded to Clare Kuo who received the highest mark in the exam session. Congratulations to the teachers who coached and cajoled their students to reach such a high standard of all-round performance and excellence.

DISTINCTION RECITALS were held on Dec. 6 & 13 2015 at Monmouth Academy of Musical Arts

THEORY

I am happy to announce that 3 students from the Nov. 7 exam received perfect scores. The following students will be receiving plaques in the mail.

Shannon Huang Grade 1 (student of Linda Chan)
Pranav Reddy Grade 4 (student of Christina Kwok)
Jeffrey Tan Grade 5 (student of Lydia J. Lim)



MTNA Eastern Division Winners

Congratulations to the following students and their teachers on their accomplishments this year.

MTNA Eastern Division Winners from New Jersey:

Eastern Elementary Composition

Winner: Aadhitya Raam Ashok
Student of Felicia Ruffman

Eastern Junior Composition

Winner: Louis Josephson
Student of Peter Heckman

Eastern Junior Performance Piano

Winner: Kasey Shao
Student of Chiu-Tze Lin

Eastern Junior Performance Woodwind

Honorable mention: Amanda Kang (Flute)
Student of Joseph Lu

Eastern Senior Performance Woodwind

Alternate: Jodie Chiou (Flute)
Student of Joseph Lu

Eastern Senior Piano Duet

Winners: Irene Koc and Amanda Cheng
Student of Julia Lam

Eastern Young Artist Performance Piano

Alternate: Cristina Loscutova
Student of Veda Zuponcic

Eastern Young Artist Performance Woodwind

Alternate: Thomas Kurtz
Student of Stacy Wilson

MTNA Composition National Winner from New Jersey

3rd Place: Aadhitya Ashok - Elementary Level
Student of Felicia Ruffman



We would like to also congratulate the following teachers on their awards as well:

Dr. Chiu-Ling Lin - 2015 NJMTA Teacher of the Year Award
Rena Block - 2015 NJMTA Service Award
Chiu-Tze Lin - 2016 MTNA & NJMTA Foundation Fellow

Thank you to all for your hard work!



The objective of the NJMTA is to advance the musical knowledge and to promote professional growth among music teachers, and to conduct activities which encourage and support teaching, performance, composition and the appreciation of music. We are a nonprofit organization whose funds are used solely to accomplish these objectives.

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