

# Three Quarter Times

## Inside this issue:

2016 NJMTA State Conference	2
President's Message	3
2016 Composer Commission Competition	
2017 Performathon	4

## Special points of interest:

- September 19th: Conference Master Class Auditions (Piano), Composer Commission Competition, High School Scholarship Competition Deadline
  - September 26th: NJMTA Young Musician's Competitions—Piano, Strings, Winds, Voice, Chinese Instruments Deadline
  - November 19–20th: NJMTA State Conference
- 2017**
- February 25–2th: Performathon

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

I hope all of you are enjoying the summer, wherever you are. I would like to thank everyone for the tremendous support and input I received during the first year of my presidency. I have learned so much from many of you and I am still continuing to learn about our wonderful organization.

We have just completed the 2015-2016 academic year and I am very pleased to see the accomplishments that our teachers and students have achieved. This year, we had 5 Division winners from New Jersey who represented the Eastern Division to compete at the MTNA National Competition, they are Aadhitya Raam Ashok, Elementary Composition, Student of Felicia Ruffman; Louis Josephson, Junior Composition, Student of Peter Heckman; Kasey Shao, Junior Piano, Student of Chiu-Tze Lin; Irene Koc and Amanda Cheng, Senior Piano Duet, Students of Julia Lam. Thanks for all those dedicated teachers and congratulations to both the students and the

teachers. Congratulations to Aadhitya Ashok, who received the 3rd place at the national level for the Elementary Composition.

I had the privilege of attending the MTNA National Conference last April in San Antonio, TX, from April 2nd to the 6th. San Antonio is such a beautiful city. Apparently, it is known as Venice of the United States, because we could travel to most part of the downtown area through the canal on a small boat. It really reminded me of the city of Venice in Italy, with its canals, gondolas, and waterside walkways. While at the conference, I attended some of the best sessions by our own members. I went to Phyllis Lehrer and Ena Barton's session on "The Piano as Chamber Music: Drama and Dialogue in the Piano Duets of Mozart, Schubert and Debussy" which was inspiring and entertaining at the same time because I got to hear samples of their beautiful duet performance of various pieces. I also went to the joint presentation by

Ingrid Clarfield and Peter Mack on "Creating Magic in the Unexpected: Same Goals—Different Accents!" They were such characters...very funny and they made a perfect team. We will get to see and hear Peter Mack at our own state conference in November. Be sure to mark your calendar for November 19 and 20, 2016

Chiu-Tze Lin, who is a former board member of NJMTA for many years, has been chosen as the NJMTA Foundation Fellow for 2016. This honor is bestowed upon outstanding individuals who have made a significant difference in the music world. I was proud to be there at the Conference Gala when she received the award 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

## 2016 NJMTA State Conference

Greetings!

It is that time of year! I am thrilled to invite you all to the 2016 NJMTA Annual State Conference on November 19-20 at the Westminster Choir College of Rider University. This year, our theme is *Repertoire Gems: Adding Sparkle to your Studio*, featuring many esteemed artists and exciting workshops. The conference brochure will be sent out and posted on the website shortly. We welcome all music teachers and students to attend. Again, you do NOT have to be an NJMTA member to join us-

The conference feature many artists this year. PETER MACK, a well known performer, teacher and convention artist, will be presenting a Lecture Recital at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday (11/19). Additionally, on Sunday (11/20), he will teach the Advanced Master Class at 8:45 a.m. and give a presentation at 1:30 p.m. on the topic of "Lower the rear end of the Elephant slowly onto the keys".

Keith Snell, another great artist and well known teacher will be giving presentation on "The Genesis of Piano Music for the Left Hand Alone" on Sunday (11/20), at 11:00am. Mr. Snell will also teach an Intermediate Master Class on Saturday at 9:15 a.m.

The recital of the winners of the Composer Commission Competition, the MTNA Performance Competition, and the Chinese Instrument will be held on Saturday (11/19) at 4:00pm. The Young Musician Competition winner recital will be held on Sunday (11/20) at 3:45pm and 5:30pm. These back-to-back performances will feature piano, voice and wind, and string instruments.

Many other exciting events are also planned for this conference. This year we will be conducting a flute workshops featuring David Digiacobbe

teaching the high school master class, and Lynne Cooksey teaching the middle school master class. This flute workshop will take place on Sunday (11/20) at 9:00am-2:45pm.

The IMTF session will once again bring you the best program to enrich all teachers. IMTF have invited Gary Ingle, the CEO of MTNA to give a talk on "MTNA & Me" on Saturday (11/19) at 4:15. You definitely will not want to miss this great opportunity learning what MTNA can offer. Lastly, there will be a showcase conducted by Ingrid Clarfield and Phyllis Lehrer sharing their newest publication.

On Saturday evening, you are welcome to join us for our conference banquet dinner at Mediterra in downtown Princeton. This banquet is the perfect opportunity to meet our wonderful conference artists, while enjoying a delicious dinner in Princeton!

You won't want to miss out on what we have in store this year! Please encourage anyone who might be interested in attending the conference to register. Thank you for your continued support and I hope to see you all at the conference!

Ting Ting Lien, NCTM

*Chairperson of NJMTA 2016 Conference*

*President Elect of NJMTA*

**"This year, our theme is  
Repertoire Gems: Adding Sparkle to your Studio..."**

## President's Message (Con.)

respected by her colleagues and friends. Her contributions to the music profession has inspired and will continue to inspire teachers and students everywhere. We congratulate you for this award.

I would like to thank all of our Spring Event Chairpersons for their hard work that brought NJMTA to another successful conclusion for the fiscal year of 2016 (the Performathon – Betty Stoloff; the Spring Piano Festival chairpersons – Cyenny Pesik and Shuling Juan; the Recital Auditions chairpersons: Jessica Tsai (piano – Princeton area), Grace Kuo (piano – North Jersey), Ingrid Tang (strings), Renae Block (woodwinds), Wennie Niu (voice), Yang Yi (Chinese instruments); Piano Judging Coordinator – Tomoko Harada; Piano Registration (Recital Audition) – Hsin-I Chou; Award Coordinator – Ikumi Hiraiwa; and Facilities Coordinator – Dr. Chiu-Ling Lin). Over a thousand students participated in our annual Spring events. The magnitude of effort to organize and execute the events was extraordinary. I attended some of the winners recitals and I was very pleased to see the kind of teamwork we have that makes the recitals run smoothly. We also want to thank and congratulate all the volunteer teachers who have contributed

to those events for a job well done!

There are a number of changes on NJMTA board. Incoming board members are: Jason Gallagher – voted in for the Yearbook and Conference Advertising Coordinator; Deborah Gers – voted in for the Anti-Trust Compliance Officer. Outgoing board members are: Victoria Chow – Yearbook and Conference Advertising Coordinator; Jessica Tsai – Spring Recital Audition Chair for Princeton area. On behalf of NJMTA, I would like to express our deep appreciation for their hard work and devotion to the organization. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors and hope they would consider coming back to serve on the board in the future when situation permits.

I am excited to inform you that NJMTA will soon have a new website that will be much easier to navigate, easier for the chairpersons to make immediate changes/updates and will allow online registrations! Special thanks to our board member, Renae Block who will be working on our new website over the summer. We will try to incorporate the online registration one step at a time, beginning with the conference registration as a trial, which will hopefully be in place this fall. I ask for

your patience and support during this transitional period.

In the coming year we have many exciting events planned for all NJMTA members, such as our annual State Conference (which will be at the beautiful Hillman Hall in the new Marion Buckelew Cullen Center of the Westminster Choir College this year), Young Musician Competition, Conference Master Class Audition, and MTNA State level competitions. Please don't forget to check the registration deadline information for these events in your yearbook.

I wish all of you a wonderful summer! I look forward to working with you in the coming fall for all the events that we have planned for the next fiscal year. With your support, encouragement, and constructive suggestions, we can all grow and benefit from this wonderful organization.

Sincerely Yours,

Hendry Wijaya  
**President, NJMTA**

## 2016 Composer Commission Competition

The NJMTA board members have chosen Dr. Ezra Donner as the commissioned composer for our 2016 Composer Commission Composition. His music for the competition is now available for purchase. See the website for samples. Please contact Emily Lau at [emily@emilylaupianostudio.com](mailto:emily@emilylaupianostudio.com) to request the scores.

Solo piano:

A Breezy Day (elementary) \$3

Will-O'-the-Wisp Blues (intermediate) \$4

Underwater City (advanced) \$5

Cello & piano duo:

Vocalise \$6

*Continued on page 4*

## NJMTA Children Helping Children Performathon 2017 – February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

It's not too early to put the Annual NJMTA Children Helping Children Performathon on your calendar.

We have secured **February 25<sup>th</sup> and February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017** for the **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Children Helping Children Performathon**. Once again, we are grateful to Westminster Choir College of Rider University for donating the hall space for this event.

This past March, we raised over \$26,000 for the 3 Ronald McDonald Houses in New Jersey!

Thank you Teachers, Students, Families and Friends of NJMTA for sharing your time and energy and talents for so many.

The NJMTA Children Helping Children Performathon continues to thrive. There were over 60 teachers and over 360 performers involved throughout the March 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 2016 weekend. In all, there were 28 recitals in Bristol Chapel, Hillman Hall and Williamson Hall...on the campus of Westminster Choir College of Rider University.

Along with the glorious piano, voice, winds, strings and organ music, all of us were treated to a display of visual and written works. Students submitted works reflecting on "What Music Means to Me". Other works centered on a particular composer or piece of music.

I look forward to working with all of you on the 2017 Performathon.

Wishing you safe travels throughout the summer.

Betty Stoloff  
*NJMTA Arts Advocacy Chair*

## 2016 Composer Commission Competition (Con.)

Ezra Donner (b. 1986) is an American composer, pianist, conductor, and teacher based in Chicago. His compositions have been performed in Carnegie Hall and throughout the world, and awards and recognition have come from the Respighi Prize Competition, the American Prize Competition, and the Music Teachers' National Association. As a pianist, Ezra has appeared as soloist on recitals in New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia, as well as internationally in Mexico and Canada, and in 2015 was chosen as a prize-winner in the 2nd Annual G. Gershwin International Music Competition. He holds a Doctor of Music from Indiana University and a Bachelor of Music with High Honors from the University of Michigan. [www.EzraDonner.com](http://www.EzraDonner.com)

Emily Lau

*Composer Commission Competition Chair*

## NJMTA Certification News

As of 3/31/16 New Jersey has 42 Nationally Certified Teachers. This is 9.5% of our membership and ranks New Jersey 43rd out of 51 states.

Now is a good time to review the certification process at [mtna.org](http://mtna.org)!

Contact Marcia Yurko [mjyurko@hotmail.com](mailto:mjyurko@hotmail.com) with any questions or concerns.



*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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