



NewsNotes

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President's Message

Dear Fellow Musicians,

I hope you are all having a wonderful, reinvigorating summer vacation. Personally, this is my practicing season. I try to learn everything that's on the schedule for the upcoming year in the hope that I'll have some vague recognition of the works when it's time to perform in the middle of a hectic teaching schedule!

I hope to see all of you at the annual state conference at Converse this year. The beautiful Marriott Hotel just a stone's throw from Converse (if you have a good arm) will be your home for a few days. The conference artist, Robert Weirich, is a truly inspirational pianist and, more than that, really is an exceptional teacher. One of his students won the Van Cliburn Competition a few years ago, and you will remember his touching articles in *Clavier*. Getting personal again, Bob was in the same class with me at Oberlin in the 1960s and 1970's and wowed us all even then! What a sound.

Of course, the works of Dennis Alexander are a staple of pre-college teaching. I am looking forward to his teaching tips for our younger students. We are honored to have such an important pedagogue and composer at our conference.

If you have not done it yet, please renew your membership. It's so easy to do on-line now. At the last board meeting, we created a "carrot" for you to bring someone new into the organization— you'll get half-off your conference dues if you find us a new member. The more the merrier!

Cheers to all,

Melanie Foster Taylor, President

SOUTH CAROLINA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

2009 MTNA Pre-college Auditions

This year's Pre-college Auditions were held April 25, 2009 at the USC School of Music. A link to the listing of all students chosen as recitalists and alternates is at the bottom of the NewsNotes page at scmta.org. A total of 239 students auditioned. Thirteen were selected as recitalists to perform in the Honors Recital, May 24. Congratulations to these exceptional students and their teachers!

2009 SCMTA Conference

This year's conference will be held on the campus of Converse College in Spartanburg, November 5-7. Come hear Robert Weirich, conference artist and clinician, and Dennis Alexander, conference clinician. The conference schedule, campus map and other pertinent information will appear in the September NewsNotes. Much of this information is currently available on scmta.org. Save these dates on your calendar! As in the past, you will be able to register on-line or via mail.

2009-2010 MTNA

Performance & Composition Competitions

MTNA Student Competitions consist of three levels: State Competition, Division Competition and National Finals.

PERFORMANCE COMPETITIONS

The purposes of the Music Teachers National Association Performance competitions are to provide educational experiences for students and teachers and to recognize exceptionally talented young artists and their teachers in their pursuit of musical excellence. The state competitions are considered the primary educational level with the division and national levels showcasing outstanding performance and honoring significant pedagogical achievement.

COMPOSITION COMPETITIONS

The purpose of the Music Teachers National Association composition competition is to encourage creativity and self-expression in student musicians through the art of composing and to recognize their achievements, as well as the significant work of their teachers.

General guidelines for both competitions can be found at mtna.org or in the August/September issue of AMT. **Application deadline is 12:00 midnight on September 15, 2009.**

MTNA Foundation

When you make a contribution to the MTNA Foundation Fund, you are helping us work for a more musical tomorrow through programs that nurture the creation, performance, study and teaching of music. Young students are recognized for their pursuit of excellence in performance and composition through the MTNA Student Competitions. MTNA supports the creation of new music through its Composer Commissioning program. MTNA state-affiliated associations commission a work that is entered into the Distinguished Composer of the Year competition. The winning composition is premiered at the MTNA National Conference.

Individuals who have made significant contributions to the art of music and the profession of music teaching are recognized through the MTNA Achievement Award, the Distinguished Service Award, the Frances Clark Keyboard Pedagogy Award and the MTNA Teacher of the Year Award. Authors are rewarded for their literary contributions with the American Music Teacher Article of the Year Award. The Teacher Enrichment Grant program enables

teachers to apply for grants to fund further musical study and educational or research projects. Teachers entering the profession are encouraged through the Student Achievement Recognition (StAR) award program which grants free one year active national or collegiate memberships to outstanding graduating music students. In addition, these students are eligible to enter the MTNA Studio Teacher Fellowship Award and the Collegiate Chapter of the Year Award. MTNA local-affiliated associations may apply for grants for projects that benefit teachers, their students and their communities.

The Foundation Fund is the repository for all funds from the former MTNA Foundation that was integrated into MTNA on July 1, 2003. It is the fund that receives all tax-deductible contributions to MTNA, and is held and maintained separately from MTNA funds. Since the establishment of the MTNA Foundation in 1989, many thousands of dollars have been provided in grants and awards to students, gifted composers, outstanding teachers and performers and to local associations. By investing in MTNA through your contribution to the MTNA Foundation Fund, you can support MTNA's mission to advance the value of music study and music making to society and to support the professionalism of music teachers, thus helping us work for a more musical tomorrow.

The Foundation Fund is governed by the MTNA Board of Directors with the advice and counsel of the development committee that is appointed by the MTNA president. The Fund includes the MTNA named and general endowment funds and the general fund. A small portion of the general fund is used to cover development costs. You may contribute to the MTNA Foundation by visiting mtna.org and clicking the link in the top-right corner.

Congratulations!

At the 2009 National Conference, MTNA recognized a number of members for their 50 years of service to the music teaching profession. Our own Alice Gingery was among those honored at the Annual Meeting. (June/July 2009 AMT, page 48) Alice served as an SCMTA officer from 1965 to 1968. She also has been a member of Greenville Music Teachers Association since the early 1960s. Having taught on the piano faculty of Bob Jones University until her recent retirement, she and her husband, Dr. Gail Gingery, continue to teach piano and voice from their home studios. We are proud of you!

Support the MTNA Foundation

NewsNotes is published January, May, and September each year. Articles and items of interest to the membership are encouraged. Submissions are accepted by e-mail ONLY to janice@flinte.com. *NewsNotes* deadlines are January 15, May 15, and August 15.