

Wichita Metropolitan Music Teachers Association

FEBRUARY 2009

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT BY NATALIE WICKHAM, NCTM

DATES TO REMEMBER:

February 27—KMEA In-Service Workshop

March 7-8—World Music Festival

March 15—Music Progressions Registration Deadline

April 17—Informal Coffee and Chat

April 24—Board Meeting

May 2-3—Music Progressions

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Dear WMMTA Members~

Do you have time to read this newsletter? Ha! I can hear some of you laughing now. You muse, "There's barely enough time to keep up with the responsibilities of daily life, let alone stop for a few minutes to read a newsletter." There is a house to clean, a studio to organize, a lesson to plan, a dinner to cook, a church service to prepare music for, a family to serve, a festival to send in forms for, a piece of repertoire to practice, a list of people to call, a student to teach, an inbox of e-mails to reply to, a load of laundry to wash, a meeting to attend, a website to update, a letter to write, a flyer to design, a bill to pay, a group class to prepare, a song to arrange... anyone feeling exhausted and overwhelmed?

Is there a key to keeping up with everything, *and* retaining your sanity in the process?

I've been reflecting on this question

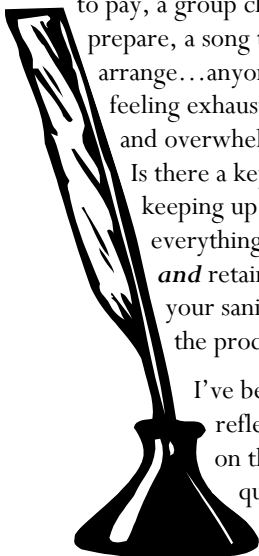
a lot lately because I've been asked to speak at an event on the topic of contentment. Some well-meaning person on the committee decided to dub my talk, "School of Contentment." Little did I know that that meant God was going to take me through this school in preparation for the talk! Since so much of my life is invested in music and teaching, I've naturally wondered how contentment, or a lack thereof, plays out in the life of a music teacher. Sadly, I don't have to think long to come up with examples of discontentment. I look around at other teachers and feel discontent that I don't have the level of knowledge and skill that they do. I listen to their students and feel discontent that my students don't perform as well. I sit in my chair during a student's lesson and grow discontent over their lack of progress. I look at my friends in other professions and feel discontent that I don't make as much money as they do. I breathe in the fresh morning air and feel discontent that I will spend the afternoon in the basement teaching. And the list goes on.

How is it that I can be in one of the best situations in the world and still find myself struggling with feelings of discontentment? The apostle Paul indicates in Philippians 4:11 that he had "learned in whatever situation [he was] to be content." As I pondered this verse and delved further into studying, I was struck by three realizations:

1. **Contentment can be learned.** Even one of the greatest apostles in history had to learn contentment. His school for learning? beatings, shipwreck, imprisonment, hunger, and more. My to-do list is sounding better already! If he could learn it in the midst of such trauma, surely it is not out of grasp for me.

2. **Contentment is necessary in every situation.** Discontentment is not specific to my life, my situation, or my profession. It is something that must be dealt with by every person – healthy and sick, fat and skinny, wealthy and poor, teacher and lawyer. If the grass looks greener on the other side, it's because I'm watering on the wrong side of the fence. If I would put as much energy into

(Continued on page 2)



PRESIDENT'S LETTER, CONTINUED

growing right where I'm planted as I do into wishing that I was someone or somewhere else, I would be enjoying a lush green lawn right now!

Contentment is a state of the heart that transcends one's physical state of being. Paul goes on to say, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Aha! The secret revealed. It is the presence of Jesus Christ within me that is the antidote for a discontented heart. He has promised to sufficiently meet all my needs and to never leave me or forsake me. When I am depending on Him to meet all my needs, I am able to endure difficult situations and keep giving and giving of myself without ever running dry or los-

ing my joy.

I am already noticing a difference in my attitude and teaching the more I reflect on the source and importance of contentment. The many responsibilities that make up my day don't have to pull me in a hundred different directions. Because at the heart of them all is a unified desire to please the Lord and to let every lesson that I teach, every dish that I wash, every letter that I write, every note that I play, be part of the overflow that comes from a heart that has found contentment in Jesus alone. *That* is the source of my hope, my creativity, my energy, and my enthusiasm!

~Natalie Wickham, NCTM

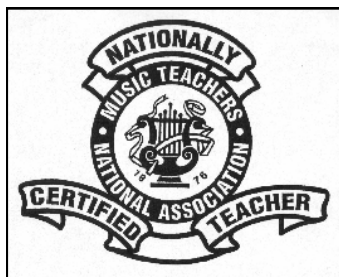


CERTIFICATION CORNER

Dear Nationally Certified Member,

Have you ever gotten the certification renewal notice from headquarters and gone into a panic because you realize that you must very quickly reconstruct five years of activities? You frantically start digging through and organizing boxes of old programs, or you start collecting signatures from people who may or may not remember your attendance at a workshop several years ago?

Unfortunately, each year about 40 percent of our renewing certified members decide that it is just too difficult and choose to not renew! Fortunately, the National Certification Commissioners and the MTNA Board of Directors have agreed to make the renewal



process a great deal easier for you.

1. Following the completion of your current five-year renewal cycle, you will renew yearly. This means that you will only need to keep track of ONE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES! The fees will be prorated for 1/5 of the current, five-year fees—only \$15.00 per year!

2. If you are not full or part time college faculty, following the completion of your current five-year renewal cycle, you will simply renew with the new Documentation of Renewal Activities Form. No more programs to collect, no more boxes to ship.

a. The points on this new form are simply verified by your signature. (No more finding people to sign your form!)

b. The points are prorated, so you fulfill your yearly renewal with a minimum of three points: one point from Standard IV, one point from Standard V and one point from your choice of all the renewal activities.

3. Full- or part-time college faculty will con-

tinue to use the Administrative Verification Form each year.

4. Permanent Professional Certification will be conferred upon the successful completion of your 10th year of renewals. After you reach Permanent Professional Certification status, you will simply fill out an application and pay the certification renewal fee each year.

We are delighted to bring you an easier, more streamlined process for your next renewal!

REMINDER ! - Don't forget that applications for the Piano Technicians Guild scholarship must be postmarked by February 1st!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Johnson, NCTM

Chair, National Certification Commission

WMMTA MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 16, 2009

Natalie called the WMMTA Board meeting to order at 10:10, Friday, January 16, 2009. Those attending were: Joanne Ehrlich, Sally Buxton, Megan Desmarais, Laura Vollen, Margaret Dietz, Sylvia Coates, Natalie Wickham, & Karen Wagner.

Treasurer-Laura gave us each a copy of the treasurer's report which has a balance of \$3,230.42.

Programs-Joanne reported that teachers involved with the Christmas Recital at Newman U. enjoyed it very much. Next on the calendar is Regional KSHSAA Sat., Feb. 7. A collaborative meeting with WAPTLL will be on Sun., Feb. 15 at Rockwell Public Library, 5936 E. 9th St., with Paul Reed discussing his memoirs about 50 years of teaching. Sat., Feb. 21, KSHSAA State Piano Festival is scheduled. Fri. & Sat., Feb. 27-28, KMEA/KMTA in-service workshop will be held at Century II. Sylvia Coates will be on a panel at 2:45 discussing the topic, "Preparing Students to Become Music Majors." The KMTA events can be attended without the fee, but the exhibits are not accessible without paying. The World Music Festival event will be held at the Museum of World Treasures in Old Towne on Sat. and Sun., March 7 & 8. Please see Megan's report. Other programs are as listed in the yearbook.

Membership-Christy Williams could not be here. She and DeeAnn Brown are with students at MTNA Regional Auditions.

Publicity-Carol Denning is absent.

Past-President-Wendy Stevens is absent but sent a report that the nominating committee is Wendy, Christy Williams, and Julie Brown. Natalie announced that she will not continue a 3rd year, so they are ardently looking for a President for the following year. If anyone desires a board position, please contact one of these ladies.

Festival-Megan Decker reported that plans are coming along well for the World Music Festival "Making a Difference in the World One Student at a Time" event on Sat. and Sun., March 7 & 8. People are still needed to play world music demonstrations. If anyone knows someone who plays an instrument from another country using that culture's music, please let Megan know. She has someone offering Irish Music, so far. Natalie asked about income and expenses for the festival. Megan reported that spending for decorations and materials will be minimal. Senseney agreed to let us use a piano but we need to pay for delivery. Laura asked what the original budget total is for the festival. Megan reported that she has a \$500.00 grant, but the space costs \$1100.00. This is for two days, and they are letting us set up a day in advance and giving us a \$2.00 admission to the museum. Natalie suggested offering \$25.00 compensation to World Music performers. Judith Fear suggested a colleague from the Farrow Islands who sings and plays guitar. Sylvia suggested that we send an honorarium to the performers, giving us time to budget and come to a decision about proper compensation. Several board members are making activities for the booths. So far we have Iceland, Italy, Germany, Ireland, and China. Teachers are making the table-top booths and volunteers are running them.

Music Progressions-Julie Brown sent the registration form for Progressions to the Newsletter.

Continuing Education-Sylvia shared a letter with all of us about MTNA Certification renewals. Since it has been challenging to renew after 5 years have lapsed, renewal will now be done yearly. They are trying to make it easier and more desirable to stay renewed. Sylvia would like to honor those receiving certification with a pin (\$7.00 cost), retroactive for the past three years. Sylvia's motion was seconded by Joanne, and passed by unanimous vote. Sylvia also asked about the possibility of providing scholarship assistance for certification. In a survey, many states do award \$100.00 reimbursement to candidates who apply for certification. Natalie shared how valuable the certification process was to her teaching, and that anything we can do to support teachers who choose to do this is worthwhile. Sylvia shared that fall semester students prepared Standards 2 & 3 and graduate students prepared Standard 4. They are ready to go as soon as they teach 2 years. They are aware of the need to network with other teachers. Natalie expressed the thought that offering financial help for certification would add value to WMMTA membership. Sally thought we should have a liaison for Sylvia's WSU students, and we could tap into students' research when developing programs. Natalie moved to use her \$600.00 travel fund (which she is not using) to use as a seed fund for reimbursement to those pursuing certification. Sally seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sylvia will work on guidelines and developing a form for members desiring to apply for this reimbursement.

Referrals-Margaret said referrals are slow right now. However, there are still families looking for a teacher to come to their home.

Library-Sally has the materials for check-out now. "Piano Shop on the Left Bank" was a recommended book to read.

Historian-Paige had no report.

Newsletter-Kara needs items by Friday, January 23.

Old Business

Natalie contacted Lori Supini about welcome packets for teachers coming in June to the KMTA Conference at Senseney Music. Lori is excited about having us spearhead this effort. Natalie will contact Wendy to see if she is still interested in heading this up.

New Business

Carl Stronach of Musicalessons.com would like a corporate partnership with WMMTA that would allow them to have a link on our website. Should we develop a policy for corporate membership? We don't currently have corporate membership. Do we have rates for ads in our newsletter? AGO paid \$100.00 for 3-4 ads in the WMMTA newsletter. We could consider a discounted rate for a year or \$25.00 for one. We send four newsletters a year. We will table this discussion until our next board meeting. Natalie will call MTNA and KMTA to get information on policies.

We received an e-mail ad from Andrew at Jubilation Events offering a ballroom downtown for use to have meetings or recitals. This used to be the Wichita Club. They are willing to work with our group.

Natalie handed out worksheets to use at our 1:00 planning meeting. Sally thanked everyone for being here. Laura moved to adjourn, Sally seconded it, motion passed. We adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Wagner

VISION MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 16, 2009

The WMMTA 2009 Vision Meeting was called to order by Natalie on Friday, January 16, 2009, 12:15 p.m., Senseney Music. Those attending were: Laura Vollen, Margaret Dietz, Sylvia Coates, Marleen Halstrom, Judy Harrison, Natalie Wickham, Kori Staab, Kathy Fehrman, Paige Cress, Sally Buxton, Joanne Ehrlich, and Karen Wagner. Natalie cited our goal: To increase our effectiveness in strong areas and weed out ineffective areas. Using a worksheet she developed we evaluated each area in importance and effectiveness.

Advertising – MTW and Symphony are expensive. Judy suggested doing a general ad instead of listing individual names. It would be less expensive but still get our organization known. Sally suggested listing a few activities we do in the ad. Our advertising person is Carol Denning. The Phone Book ad is free. We do have flyers in Wichita Public Schools and Margaret reports that they are used, since she receives calls from parents who have used these from school bulletin boards. We might look at Maize and Andover Districts to expand. Laura suggested an ad in the Wichita Wind Ensemble's concert programs. Natalie wondered if reciprocal advertising would be desirable. Joanne also suggested NPR. Sally and Joanne volunteered to be on a task force for Publicity and possibly compile a list of publicity steps to further publicize our organization and events.

Recruitment – Mentoring with WSU students is important. Marlene suggested that our website could also fall under recruitment. Natalie mentioned that we could have a WMMTA blog with a number of teachers contributing to it. The Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Convention Bureau were other suggestions to include with information about our organization. KMTA on June 6-7, 2009 at Senseney should include an ad for AGO. The AGO convention is June 15-18, 2009.

Member Relations/Needs – The yearbook person gives Welcome Packets to new members. Workshops and programs need to involve more people. The more people are involved, the more people will come. Perhaps once a month meetings are too often. We could opt for a big fall and spring event. We should make the SMTA luncheon an annual event.

Newsletter – We could save costs by e-mailing and change to a monthly newsletter. We could increase our advertising.

Lending Library – VHS tapes need to be disposed. When DeeAnn Brown reviewed books in the newsletter it was a boost for the Library. We could sell off our Library items since they are not well used. Marlene mentioned a Music Garage Sale by AGO. At recap we could donate items that don't sell to Pedagogy or Downtown Library. We could have a Silent Auction.

Continuing Ed for Teachers – We should have more intentional things designed for certification. Include these in our two larger events, perhaps one Standard for certification. This gives a framework for teachers much like Progressions does for students. We need to coordinate with Program chairperson to consider Standards in Certification when planning programs.

Student Offerings – Fall Auditions Recital at Newman had only 3 to 4 teachers involved, but it is a performance opportunity and those involved think it is important. The MTNA Competition Audition serves a small population. Sally organizes it because it is important to her. The Christmas Recital served only 5 to 6 teachers, but it also is valuable to those participating. We are fortunate to have Carole Pracht at Newman as our liaison.

Themed Festivals – Sally suggested Piano's 300th Anniversary – 2010 Birthday of Piano. Venues for festivals, recitals, meetings are:

Center for the Arts, Art Museum, Wilbur M.S., Hyde, 20th Century Club, and Orpheum Theatre.

Festivals:

2010 – Birthday of the Piano (joint with PTG)

2011 – Zoo Festival

2012 – Art and Music Festival

2013 – Botanica

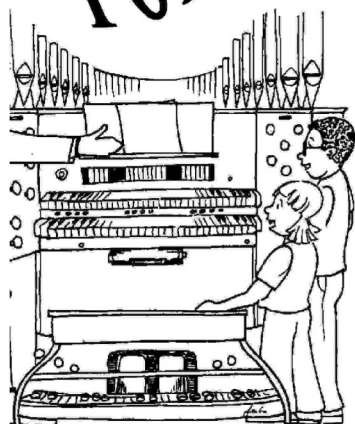
2014 – Friendship Festival (duets, ensembles)

Natalie motioned to adjourn, Margaret seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 2:10.

Respectfully Submitted, Karen Wagner



POPs for KIDS



The Children's
Pipe Organ Project

and the Wichita Chapter
American Guild of Organists

present

Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza!

Saturday, February 28, 2009
10:00 am to 1:00 pm

*An opportunity for kids 10–15
(and older) to **Meet the Pipe Organ!***

Church of the Magdalen, 12626 E. 21st St. N.

Young persons are invited to bring music to try out on the organ.

Please R.S.V.P. at 722-2226 or amjeter@sbcglobal.net.

Other *POPs* for KIDS & Wichita AGO events coming up

- Wednesday, April 22: **Young People's Organ Concert**
10:30–11:30 am, Lynne Davis, Organist
Wiedemann Hall, Wichita State University
- Friday, May 1: Last Day to Submit Entries in the **POPs Pipe Organ Art Contest**, for **KIDS'** grades 1-3, 4-6, & 7-12.
Further Information at www.pipesontheplains09.org.
- Sunday, May 17: **AGO Organ Scholarship Auditions**
For information & application form, call 316–264–8756.
- Sunday, June 14, 2–5 pm: **Family Pipe Organ Fair**
Prelude to the 10-state AGO Regional Convention in Wichita

PIPES ON THE PLAINS 2009

Looking to the Future – Vision Meeting Report

Thank you so much to everyone who took time out of their schedules to attend our Vision Meeting on January 16! Our time was so productive, and I am confident that our organization will continue to improve in efficiency and effectiveness as we implement the ideas and changes we discussed. We are making two formal recommendations to the board at the next board meeting, and will proceed accordingly at that time.

Recommendation One: Elimination of the Lending Library.

Rationale: The Lending Library is almost never used, and it is unlikely that this pattern will change in the future. We would like to make all the materials available for purchase by WMMTA members at the June Recap Meeting. Any materials remaining after that time will be donated to the WSU Pedagogy Library or the Wichita Public Library.

Recommendation Two: Increase the frequency of the newsletter to a monthly newsletter sent via e-mail rather than a printed newsletter sent quarterly. A limited number of hard copies will be sent to those without e-mail access.

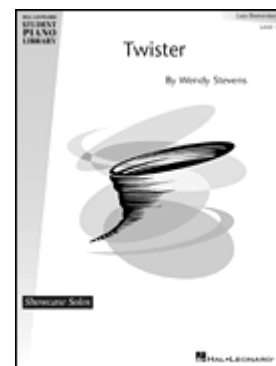
Rationale: A more frequent newsletter will allow members to stay better informed of WMMTA events and opportunities. This will make the newsletter chairperson job more manageable, enable broader distribution, increase the potential for selling advertising, and greatly reduce the expense involved in publishing a printed newsletter. The monies saved from this change can be used to increase our effectiveness in other areas of importance.

Our meeting included lots of other great discussion and ideas that will be implemented in the individual board positions. If you were unable to attend the meeting, but have any input you would like to share, please feel free to contact me (natalie@nataliespianostudio.com or 207-3134). I value your thoughts on ways that we can continue to improve and strengthen WMMTA for years to come!

~Natalie Wickham, NCTM

New Piece by Local Composer

Hal Leonard has just published Twister, a Level 3 Showcase Solos Sheet by Wendy Stevens. Hal Leonard describes the solo in this way: "This dizzying piece is sure to be a dazzler at the recital! The C minor 5-finger patterns and exciting hand-over-hand arpeggios make it an impressive piece that is easy to perform with flair." The piece is available from Senseney for \$2.99.



EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Informal Coffee and Chat

When: Friday, April 17, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Where: Laura Vollen's Studio – 1324 N Valleyview in Wichita

Come enjoy this wonderfully relaxing morning with your music teaching colleagues as we munch on goodies and discuss whatever we want!



Local Students Win Duet Competition

The Duet team of Serena Liu and Abby Lingg, students of WMMTA members DeeAnn Brown and Christy Williams, won the MTNA Senior level Duet competition at West Central Division. The West Central contest was held January 16 – 18, 2009, at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN.

Serena and Abby will compete at the MTNA National Conference on March 29th with a thirty minute program of Mozart, Mendelssohn, Rachmaninoff and Gavrilin.

To view a complete listing of all National Finalists and their teachers, go to the MTNA website, click on "National Finalists" on the left column.

Yearbook Addition

Angela Addis

7650 E. 32nd St. N. #309

Wichita, KS 67226

316-706-5424

pianoandhorn@yahoo.com

New Certification Assistance Scholarship Available to WMMTA Members

WMMTA is now pleased to offer financial assistance to members who pursue and achieve national certification through MTNA. The assistance will come in the form of a reimbursement for those who successfully complete the requirements outlined by MTNA and are awarded national certification. We are in the process of developing a scholarship form that applicants may fill out to request financial assistance. This will be made available to all members as soon as it is ready.

Be sure to check out the MTNA Certification website (<http://mtnacertification.org>) for more information about pursuing national certification, or contact our Continuing Ed Chairperson, Sylvia Coats (sylvia.coats@wichita.edu).

KMEA In-Service Workshop

WMMTA members are invited to attend the KMTA-sponsored sessions at the KMEA Conference at the Century II Convention Center on Friday, February 27, 2009

Charlene Zundel of TCW Resources will be presenting two lively workshops:

Connecting With Your Students - Note Reading and Staff Games (8:30-9:30 a.m. in Room 101 Pear)

Connecting With Your Students - Rhythm Games and Theory (9:45-10:45 a.m. in Room 101 Pear)

The KMTA Honors Recital will be from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Room 101 Pear

A panel including Dr. Sylvia Coats, Karen McClelland, and Joseph Levin on *What Music Professors Wished Every Music Major Would Know Before Coming to College* will be held from 2:45-3:45 p.m. in Room 101 Pear.

Be sure to check out the KMEA website (<http://www.ksmea.org/>) for more information about the conference.



C/O Kara Alumbaugh
2316 Fairchild
Wichita, KS 67219

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.WMMTA.ORG

If you have a new e-mail address or are not receiving WMMTA e-mail updates, please send your e-mail address to Natalie at natalie@nataliespianostudio.com Thanks!

CODA

TEACHERS NEEDED

Teachers - Please continue to inform me if you have openings for new students.

Margaret Dietz, Referral
Chairperson

whd9@juno.com

NEEDED: Volunteer to design and distribute May newsletter

No writing required; simply collect articles, place in Microsoft Publisher template, print and mail by May 8.

If interested, contact Kara
Alumbaugh,
elanorkja@gmail.com

