

# Wichita Metropolitan Music Teachers Association

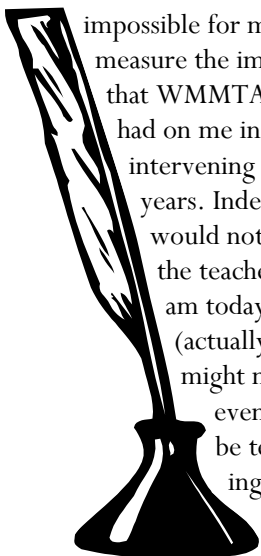
MAY 2009

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT BY NATALIE WICKHAM, NCTM

DATE TO REMEMBER:

June 9—Recap Meeting

The little walkway led to a side door of the house. Entering there, I found myself in an entryway sporting a collection of books and an Uncle Sam sign demanding "I Want YOU to Practice!" I turned the corner into DeeAnn Brown's beautiful piano studio and was greeted by a roomful of strangers. The friend who had invited me to this Music Progressions meeting was one of DeeAnn's former students and was now a teacher herself. I had no idea what Music Progressions was, but I had decided to come along anyway. It's been ten years since that introduction to this organization and it would be impossible for me to measure the impact that WMMTA has had on me in the intervening years. Indeed, I would not be the teacher I am today (actually, I might not even still be teaching today!)



if it wasn't for the investment that so many others have made in my life since the days of my fledgling studio when I didn't have a clue what I was doing!

If I had to encapsulate in three points the things I've learned from WMMTA members about teaching over the past ten years, this is what I would conclude:

**Be Creative** – If you've spent any time around *Judy Harrison* you know that she is always learning something new, researching, and planning creative opportunities for her students. Her booth at the recent World Music Festival was a testament to this! Two display boards full of information about Jazz music and polyrhythms, accompanied by a collection of ethnic instruments and a CD she recorded for the occasion, gave a glimpse into the hours of time she invested to provide a fun and educational experience for the participating students. Creativity stems from a mind that continually seeks to learn new things and transmit that knowledge to

others in a memorable way. This necessarily involves a great deal of thoughtful planning, something I've learned that I have to intentionally make time for or it never happens! The month of August is devoted to this purpose in my studio. I take off the whole month and all of my studio families know that I'm working hard to develop and prepare new ideas for the following year. The process begins by taking into consideration areas in which I would like to see significant progress in all my students. I use their Music Progressions evaluations, Year-End Questionnaires completed by the students and parents, and my own observations to come up with specific areas that need improvement. This becomes the basis for an overarching studio theme the following year – something my students eagerly anticipate! And something that keeps my own creativity and enthusiasm alive from year to year.

**Be Involved** – Aptly described by another board

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER, CONTINUED

member as the "Energizer Bunny," *Sally Buxton* amazes me with her never-ending willingness to serve and be a part of every aspect of our organization! Her contributions have impacted the lives of countless teachers and students in more ways than I'm sure any of us are fully aware. Through her inspiration and encouragement, I have stepped into varying roles in WMMTA, and in each instance have learned new skills and been able to provide greater opportunities for my students. There really is no better way to learn the ins and outs of organizing recitals, planning festivals, designing newsletters, implementing marketing strategies, etc. than to just do it! And it is as a result of all these experiences that I have been inspired to try fresh ideas and continually strive toward excellence as a teacher.

**Be Professional** – No one in

WMMTA has reprimanded me more than *Laurel Tiger*. And I am so grateful for every bit of it! Laurel has always been so good at asking me questions about my studio, challenging various policies, encouraging me to charge what I'm worth, and sharing from her wealth of experience about what works and what doesn't. I don't deal with nearly the frustrations that I did in my first several years of teaching because I have learned to apply effective business strategies in my studio while also maintaining a friendly and personal environment. This has decreased my stress levels considerably and allowed me to channel my time and energy into teaching instead. Laurel could probably also attest to the fact that most of my students bombed Music Progressions the first year we participated. But thanks to one of her brilliant ideas, Music Progressions has become an invaluable teaching tool for

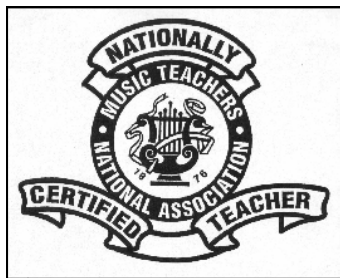
me. After all of my students have been evaluated and I receive their grades, I enter them into a spreadsheet so that I can quickly see how each student fared in each area and what the composite scores are. This helps me evaluate if there are weak areas across the board in my studio where I need to focus more attention or utilize different teaching strategies. Every year, I gain new insights and am propelled to become a better teacher as a result of this.

If space allowed, I could easily share many more things I've learned from each active member of WMMTA. But alas, to do so would turn this article into a book! Isn't it true, though, that the greatest impact in each of our lives usually comes as the result of the personal influence of another person?

It has truly been a privilege to serve as the WMMTA President these past two years, and I am excited to pass the baton to Laura Vollen, another colleague who has been an inspiration to me through her discipline, dedication, and servant's heart. I look forward to continued involvement with WMMTA and hope that each one of us will remember the profound influence we can have on the lives of others – yes, our students to be sure, but also on each other!

~Natalie Wickham, NCTM

## CERTIFICATION CORNER



Megan Desmarais, Laura Vollen, and Natalie Wickham will be honored at the Recapitulation meeting with the official NCTM pin for their achievement of national certification. The WMMTA board voted to honor new NCTMs and those from the past three years with the pin.

Members who receive national certification may apply for a partial to full application fee reimbursement, which presently is \$200. The application form may

be downloaded from the website, [www.wmmta.org](http://www.wmmta.org).

MTNA has dramatically reduced the steps you take to be certified. All applications submitted on or after January 1, 2010 will use the new process. Read about the new plan in the April/May issue of *The American Music Teacher*.

~Dr. Sylvia Coats, NCTM



## WMMTA MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 24, 2009

The Wichita Metropolitan Music Teachers Association board met on Friday, April 24, 2009, 12:00 p.m. at Senseney Music Co. Those present were: Natalie Wickham, Laura Vollen, Wendy Stevens, Sylvia Coats, Margaret Dietz, Sally Buxton, Megan Desmarais, Joanne Ehrlich and Karen Wagner. Natalie called the meeting to order at 12:05.

**Treasurer**-Laura gave us each a copy of the General Ledger with a Festival balance of \$1,140.33 and the main balance of \$6,602.65. However, Laura pointed out that this balance will reduce considerably with Music Progression expenditures. Wendy asked with what amount we started the year for the Festival account. Laura said with the grant it was over \$2,000. Megan clarified that part of the museum fee was included in the registration fee, causing the amount paid to the museum to be a higher number than just the cost of the facility rental.

**Programs**-Joanne reported a successful Studio Crawl January 17, and a very interesting sharing by Paul Reed on Feb. 15. Carol Denning was a great asset with public relations for this meeting with wonderful pictures submitted to the newspaper. Feb. 22-28 Sylvia was a faculty participant of a workshop at KMEA-KMTA In-service., March 7-8 Megan Desmarais headed a wonderful World Music Festival at the World Museum of Treasures. Laura Vollen's Coffee and Chat, April 17, offered "music" conversation and lots of great food. May 2-3 will be Music Progressions at WSU, and June 9 the Recapitulation meeting will be a potluck at the home of Karen Wagner, 11308 E. Osie (Harry & Greenwich). WMMTA will offer resources from our library for sale at this meeting. We are also checking into the possibility of having DeeAnn and Christy's prize-winning students perform an encore selection for us.

**Membership**-Christy Williams had no report.

**Publicity**-Carol Denning had no report.

**Past-President**-Wendy reported that she, Christy Williams, and Julie Brown have worked as the nominating committee and offer new nominees: President-Laura Vollen, and Treasurer-Marlene Hallstrom. All other officers remain the same and the Secretary announcement will be forthcoming.

**Festivals**-Megan reported that the festival went really well. The extra musicians' performances were very well received by the students. Natalie asked Megan to include a report on how many students participated and other details in the newsletter. Sally suggested that we should record information about all our festivals for others to use, since they vary from the usual adjudicated events.

**Music Progressions**-Julie reported that almost 200 students have signed up to participate. She has had the facilitator training meeting which went well.

**Continuing Ed**-Sylvia gave us each an MTNA Certification Fee Reimbursement Application Form which she made to follow up on our motion to help financially those who are applying for MTNA certification. Wendy suggested specifying that it is for application fee reimbursement. Laura assured there would be a new line for this item in next year's budget, and suggested we amend the form to read partial to full reimbursement. Also, at our last meeting we moved to award pins to those who have completed their MTNA Certification within the last 3 years. We have 3 people who fall into this category and 8 within this decade. We will make the presentation at the Recapitulation Dinner. The recipients will be Megan, Laura, and Natalie.

**Referrals**-Margaret reported that Lorraine Moon, a past WAPTL member, passed away. We have received some inquiries from people looking for last minute accompanists. We discussed putting a plea in our newsletter for any willing accompanists and making a list of accompanists available on the website and it could be sent to teachers. Sylvia offered that many WSU students are interested in accompanying. Sally suggested a standard policy for fees including the rehearsals and performance that all accompanists could use. Margaret noted that Kathy Fehrmann said Senseney Music offers summer lessons to students. Wendy will also provide a composition class this summer to any interested students.

**Library**-Sally had no report.

**Newsletter**-Kara is getting married and moving to Australia! We'll miss her. We do not have a replacement yet. Please consider.

**New Business**: Two motions were recommended from the Vision Meeting: 1. Elimination of the lending library. Natalie moved, Joanne seconded. Motion carried. 2. Monthly e-mail Newsletter replacing the mailed copy, mailing only to those who do not have e-mail. After some discussion on the pros and cons of having a monthly communication, Natalie moved, Joanne seconded and the motion carried. We want to encourage members to include their e-mail if it is not listed in our directory. Also the newsletter would be available on our website.

**Old Business**: Lori Supinie, President of Senseney, joined us and gave us each a beautiful KMTA brochure which will be mailed today, announcing the programs for June 5-6 which will take place at Senseney Music. The recital by Dr. Robert Weirich of UMKC will take place Friday evening at 7:30. He will perform Aaron Copland's music. After the recital, WMMTA will host an Afterglow Reception with desserts, wine, and coffee. The recital will be open to the public. Earlier on Friday at 3:00, Dr. Weirich will work with late intermediate-early advanced students. Please tell Lori if you have a student in mind. Natalie reminded us of our decision to make welcome packets for out-of-town guests. Wendy suggested the Chamber of Commerce as a resource. Publicity may handle this. Natalie also said she checked with KMTA and MTNA about corporate membership. We decided that WMMTA could draft our own advertising policy and we can handle local advertisers more directly and economically. At 1:30 p.m. Natalie moved to adjourn, Joanne seconded, and the motion carried.

## WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL REPORT

The World Music Festival was a huge success! 140 students from 19 studios participated in this year's WMMTA festival. Students had the opportunity to perform music from around the world, hear authentic world music performed by guest musicians and participate in world music activities. Guest performers were Jack Korbel singing Irish music, Lisa Dali singing in Faroese, Ying Wang performing Chinese piano music, Steve Green playing the Irish tin whistle and Daniel Mau playing a Chinese Er Hu. Students received a world music passport as they arrived and had it stamped by visiting country booths. To receive the Ireland stamp they danced a jig, for the Iceland stamp they sang an Icelandic folksong, and at the China booth they improvised using the pentatonic scale. A German composer matching game was featured at the Germany booth, while Italy's booth displayed a scrapbook of famous Italians in music. Polyrythms were the theme of a Jazz booth called, "Where in the World". Thanks to all WMMTA teachers who volunteered their time and allowed their students to participate.

~Megan Desmarais



## MUSIC PROGRESSIONS 2009

Music Progressions was held at Wichita State University on May 2nd and 3rd with 190 students and 20 teachers participating. Congratulations to those students completing Level 10 this year: Jenna Miller (student of Sally Buxton), Abby Lingg (student of Christy Williams) and Susan Hansen (student of DeeAnn Brown). Our fabulous adjudicators included Annetta Smith, Nancy Hampton, Debra Alexander, Sally Buxton, Debbie Black, Laura Vollen, Megan Desmarais, Judy Harrison, Laurel Tiger, Wendy Stevens, Marlene Hallstrom, DeeAnn Brown, Christy Williams and Natalie Wickham. A special thank you to those working to prepare for the event: Sally Buxton, Wendy Stevens, Laura Vollen, Kerry Woodward, Christy Williams, and Judy Plagge. Thanks to all of the above plus Megan Desmarais, Margaret Dietz, Peg Mahoney, Carol Denning, Kay Roskam, Judy Harrison, DeeAnn Brown, Marlene Hallstrom, Sonia Tsai, Cindy Franson and Sylvia Coats for their work during the weekend.

For more information on participating next year, please contact Julie Brown or Sally Buxton.

## BOARD NOMINATIONS

The WMMTA nominating committee, Wendy Stevens, Julie Brown, and Christy Williams have nominated the following WMMTA members for the Executive Board:

**President:** Laura Vollen

**Treasurer:** Marlene Hallstrom

**Secretary:** Megan Desmarais

**1st Vice President/Programs:** Joanne Ehrlich

**2nd Vice President/Membership:** Christy Williams

**3rd Vice President/Publicity:** Carol Denning

Thank you to these members for being willing to serve as officers! We will be voting on this slate of officers at the Recap meeting, June 9th.

## WMMTA RECAP EVENT

Can you believe that another teaching year has come and gone?! Join your colleagues for an evening of relaxation and reflection on **Tuesday, June 9, at 7:00 p.m.** as we discuss what worked well for us this year in our studios while munching on scrumptious goodies and listening to some special guest musicians. We will also have on display and available for purchase all of the materials from the WMMTA Lending Library, as per the Board's decision to eliminate the library. Bring your favorite finger foods to share and come prepared for a great time! Please note the change in location to Karen Wagner's beautiful home and garden: 11308 E. Osie (Harry & Greenwich) in Wichita.

## KANSAS DUET TEAM PLACES 3RD AT NATIONAL COMPETITION

The Senior level Duet team of Serena Liu and Abby Lingg placed 3rd at the MTNA National competition in Atlanta, GA. The duo performed works of Mozart, Mendelssohn, Rachmaninoff and Gavrilin for their thirty minute program.

Serena and Abby are coached by DeeAnn Brown and Christy Williams. They began working towards this goal last summer and were rewarded by first being named Kansas representatives, then winning West Central Division and finally, receiving the "bronze" at Nationals.

You may view a list of National winners by going to the MTNA website; click on National Winners, then senior level.





C/O Kara Alumbaugh  
2316 Fairchild  
Wichita, KS 67219

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.WMMTA.ORG](http://WWW.WMMTA.ORG)

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## CODA

### TEACHERS NEEDED

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

Margaret Dietz, Referral  
Chairperson

[whd9@juno.com](mailto:whd9@juno.com)

### Looking for Accompanists

WMMTA periodically gets requests from individuals looking for accompanists. In order to provide better services for both those needing and those providing such services, we are compiling a contact list of members who provide accompanying services. This list will be placed on the website and made available to the public through various venues. If you would like to be included on this list, please send your name and contact information to Natalie Wickham at [natalie@nataliespianostudio.com](mailto:natalie@nataliespianostudio.com).

### WMMTA Newsletter Goes Digital!

In an effort to use our resources wisely and communicate more effectively, the WMMTA Board has voted to adopt a monthly e-newsletter platform in lieu of a quarterly printed newsletter. This change will take effect beginning with the August, 2009 edition of the newsletter. All issues of the e-newsletter will continue to be archived on the website for easy access at any time. If you are not currently receiving regular WMMTA E-mail updates, please send your contact information to [natalie@nataliespianostudio.com](mailto:natalie@nataliespianostudio.com). Also, if you do not have e-mail access and would like to receive a printed copy of the newsletter, please call Natalie at (316) 207-3134 so that your name can be included on the mailing list. We are excited about the possibilities that this new e-format will offer our organization and welcome any input and contributions that you would like to have included in the newsletter.

