

District 9 President's Report
FSMTA Executive Board Meeting
June 11, 2011

District Officers: Becky Barlar, President
Betty Chester, Vice-President
Theo Boylan, Secretary
Ana Bravo, Treasurer

Local Associations: Mid-State MTA – Theo Boylan, President – 41 members
Upper Pinellas MTA – Angela Baptiste, President – 33 members
Ridge MTA – Virginia James, President – 26 members
Greater St. Petersburg MTA – Susan Uibel, President – 23 members
Tampa MTA – Ruth Johanboeke, President – 18 members

Upper Pinellas MTA celebrated their 40th anniversary with a dinner at Bascom's Chop House in Clearwater on May 14, 2011. President Talia Dillahey welcomed the guests. After dinner a letter of congratulations from FSMTA President Marc Hebda was read to the group, and I was present to extend congratulations from District 9. A *Lifetime Achievement Award* was presented to Carol Alexander, the only current member who was a charter member of the association. A *Yearbook Sponsor Award* was presented to piano technician John Phillips and a *Corporate Community Service Award* was presented to Charlie Hunt on behalf of the Music Gallery. After the *President's Award* was given to Talia Dillahey, new officers were installed.

The 2011 District 9 Conference was held on Saturday, January 22, at Roberts Music Center of Eckerd College in St. Petersburg. Approximately 30 members and guests were in attendance. After the business meeting, District 9 celebrated MTNA's Day of Collaborative Music with a Workshop/Recital entitled *Double for Your Trouble: The Magic of Collaborative Music-Making* presented by the Duo Turgeon, members of the keyboard faculty and ensemble-in-residence at Florida Atlantic University.

The 2011 District IX Concerto Competition, chaired by Theo Boylan, was held on Saturday, March 19, 2011 in the Performing Arts Center of Hillsborough Community College, Ybor City, Tampa. A total of 47 students, representing 17 teachers, competed for the titles of Winner, Alternate and Honorable Mention. Of the 47 entrants, 12 were string players, representing 5 teachers, and 35 were pianists, representing 12 teachers. String Judges were Aaron Krosnick, Libor Ondras and Merilee Walbrunn. Piano Judges were Judith Alstadter, Mary Lou Krosnick and Ray Luck. The results were:

Elementary Strings: No Competitors

Junior Strings: Winner – Daniel Park (teacher: Yan Lu); Alternate – Nadia Azzi (teacher: Lei Liu); Honorable Mention – Madison Eckelman (teacher: Julia Ruby)

Intermediate Strings: Winner – Soosha Meaders (teacher: Julia Ruby); Alternate – Carson Bohner (teacher: Lei Liu); Honorable Mention – Alyssa Jouret (teacher: Suyeun Jung-Yuen)

Senior Strings: Winner – Queenie Edwards (teacher: Yan Lu); Alternate – Cameron MacMillan (teacher: Carlos Audi); Honorable Mention – David Shim (teacher: Lei Liu)

Elementary Piano: Winner – Bofei Wang (teacher: Stella Gaukhshteyn); Alternate – Sophia Chen (teacher: Olga Glick); Honorable Mention – Julie Zhang (teacher: Olga Glick), Michael Yao (teacher: Olga Glick), Sean Rent (teacher: Karen Pasquarello), Shaila Ghanekar (teacher: Kinuyo Engelbrecht)
Junior Piano: Winner – Nadia Azzi (teacher: Leonidas Lipovetsky); Alternate – Claire Chen (teacher: Olga Glick), Honorable Mention – Celine Wang (teacher: Vladimir Khokhlov), Jennifer Luo (teacher: Olga Glick)
Intermediate Piano: Winner – Justin Ma (teacher: Vladimir Khokhlov); Alternate – Raymond Chen (teacher: Vladimir Khokhlov); Honorable Mention – Kayla Ming (teacher: Kinuyo Engelbrecht)
Senior Piano: Winner – Jennifer Yu (teacher: Vladimir Khokhlov); Alternate – Austin Shin (teacher: Vladimir Khokhlov); Honorable Mention – Aaron Lehrian (teacher: Duncan MacMillan), Daniel Zhang (teacher: Ken Hanks), Kun Cao (teacher: Vladimir Khokhlov)

Each winner received a cash award. In addition, all competitors were presented with the judges' comment sheets, an FSMTA certificate and a piece of frameable artwork about the power of music. To conclude the 2011 Competition, we initiated the appearance of a "Mystery Guest Artist." Concert pianist Dr. Grigorios Zamparas presented the awards to Intermediate and Senior Pianists at the Second Awards Ceremony and performed one number, a Liszt Hungarian Rhapsody.

The State Conference is being co-hosted this year by Districts 9 and 5. Theo Boylan, Betty Chester and Debbie Stassin are the District 9 representatives serving on the conference committee. Theo Boylan designed the conference logo and banner. Sharon White is designing the registration form and setting up a PayPal account. Debbie Stassin will serve as the conference registrar as well as being in charge of obtaining prizes for raffles and door prizes. Our district is also responsible for manning the registration desk and helping supply monitors wherever needed.

The 2012 District 9 Conference will be held on Saturday, January 21, at Puckett Auditorium on the campus of Florida College in Temple Terrace. Dr. Helen Marlais will be coming to present three pedagogical sessions for this event:

Workshop on *Essentials for Success: When Students Practice and Are Motivated*
Intermediate Master Class featuring a student from each local association in the district
Publishers' Showcase featuring Helen's new method books, *Succeeding at the Piano*

As well as being the Director of Keyboard Publications for The FJH Music Company, Helen is an Associate Professor of Music at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she teaches piano majors, directs the piano pedagogy program, and coordinates all of the group piano programs including the young beginner program. FJH Music Company is helping sponsor this event and providing complimentary music for the participants. Members from other districts are invited to join us for this event. Look for more information in the October FSMTA newsletter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Barlar, President