



The Florida State Music Teacher

affiliated with Music Teachers National Association October/November 2008



President's Message

by Paulette Kilts

By now all of us are back to the "business"

of teaching and enjoying working with students and their parents. It is amazing to me how the "business" of teaching is constantly changing! How fortunate as MTNA/FSMTA/Local Association or Collegiate Chapter members we are to have so many networks and resources available to us. For example:

The Mid-State Music Teachers Association first meeting of the year (September) featured a program entitled "Musicians Making Money: How to Keep Your Studio Professional and Profitable." Their speaker was a CPA/MBA from the University of South Florida Small Business Development Center.

In the June/July 2008 issue of The American Music Teacher "Forum Focus: Local Associations - The Value of MTNA Membership" (page 80) article you can find writer Phyllis I. Pieffer, NCTM reminding us of the dollar value our membership dues really provide us. After listing various Local Association activities and conservatively estimating networking and education opportunities, she quotes a value between \$1300 and \$2600 without the additional value of state and national membership.

The June 2008 State Conference featured a panel discussion on "Incorporating an Independent Music School" with presenters Rebecca Micha (Gainesville), Dr. Jay B. Hess (Miami) and Martha Stubbs (Tallahassee). They provided informative details to attendees. Also at the Conference presenters Dr. Sandra Stewart and Denise Homsley presented a workshop on "Summer Camps, Summer Fun!"

highlighting their experiences with student learning opportunities during the summer months which also provide extra income for teachers during this season.

Ongoing articles in The American Music Teacher Professional Resource section called "It's All (None of) Your Business" regularly features advice to independent music teachers. The April/May 2008 issue (pages 62-64) includes an article by Karen Thickstun with suggestions for viable alternatives for independent teaching that do not require investing in a home studio. These alternatives are teaching at a music store, teaching at a private music academy, teaching in student's homes and teaching via web cam.

Have you reviewed the new insurance

options offered to MTNA members through the Trust for Insuring Educators and Forest T. Jones & Company? Our teacher members can now have access to a variety of personal and professional insurance products. Find out more by phoning (800)821-7303 or visiting www.ftj.com.

Have you read about an offer of 40% off the usual premiums on musical instrument insurance that Clarion Associates offers to MTNA members? For details contact 1-800-Vivaldi or visit www.clarionins.com.

Have you ever had parents ask if you accept credit card payment for lesson tuition? You might consider contacting Nova Network at merchantinquiry@novinfo.com or phoning

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DATES AND DEADLINES

October 17	Collegiate Convocation Registration Deadline*
October 24	Executive Board Meeting - Ybor City (Tampa)
October 24-25	MTNA Competitions - Hillsborough Community College - Ybor City (Tampa)
October 25-26	Collegiate Chapter Event - Hillsborough Community College*
November 10	Newsletter deadline
January 16-19	Southern Division Competitions Virginia State Univ
January 30-31	Winter Executive Board Meeting - Gainesville
March 28	Deadline for applications for FSMTA Competitive Events
March 28-April 1	MTNA National Convention - Atlanta
May 8-9	FSMTA Competitive Events - Florida Atlantic University*
June 10-13	FSMTA Conference - Tallahassee *

*See article in this issue

Get ready to party!

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2009 Annual Conference

June 10 - 13, 2009

Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center
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Your hosts: Districts 1 and 2

President's Message... *Continued from page 1*

800-546-1831 for information on how to establish this service. Mention promotion code 82039. MTNA established this discounted rate for individual teachers, local or state associations.

The Convocation for Collegiate Chapters to be held in conjunction with the MTNA competitions Saturday - Sunday, October 25-26 will offer our student members an opportunity to learn more about their future in the music profession. This first time event will be held at Hillsborough Community College, Ybor City and will feature a Saturday evening recital, workshops and closing luncheon with a special speaker on Sunday. Read further about this event in this newsletter and watch for more information at our website www.fmta.org.

As you go about the "business" of teaching - preparing students for: MTNA competitions (October 24-25, 2008 Hillsborough Community College, Ybor City), studio Halloween or Holiday recitals, Local Association recitals, District Student Day events or State Competitive events (May 8-9, 2009 Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton) don't forget to utilize the resources available to you through your MTNA/FSMTA/Local Association membership.

I wonder what we can learn together at next year's MTNA National Conference in Atlanta, March 28 - April 1 or the 75th annual FSMTA State Conference June 10-13 in Tallahassee? I look forward to seeing you at these and other events as we continue to advance music education in the state of Florida!

Keeping The Arts Alive

by Sonja Rozier, Arts & Advocacy Chair

Every day we hear more and more news about the economic slump Americans are facing. We are also hearing that the population of Florida is declining. State and local governments are being forced to make some very difficult decisions about programs and services. The Arts, whether in our communities or our schools, have been hard hit.

Many long-standing programs have been forced to close their doors, while the dream of new programs is dashed. School administrators have had to make tough decisions on personnel and class offerings for their students. Many arts programs were told that they were going on "hiatus". While this was meant to offer hope for next year, in reality it is very expensive to re-start programs, so most commonly, they never return.

One bright note, the Florida Supreme Court has just ordered the removal of Amendments 5, 7, and 9 from the November ballot. This action may prevent more drastic cuts in government and school funding. Grass-root networks of arts organizations are keeping the arts alive through volunteer actions and creative funding. We can only hope that the dedication of all these hard working individuals will get us through this difficult time.

CERTIFICATION NEWS

Helen Dingus, Certification Chairman

Attention all certified members:

Please log on to the FSMTA website to determine if you are properly listed. If you feel any correction should be made, please let me know. It is the intent of all concerned that our list be current and correct. THANKS!

An announcement from Rebecca Johnson, Ph.D., NCTM, and MTNA Certification Chairman informs us that the requirements for the Teaching Verification Form of the MTNA certification application have been revised. Due to privacy issues, the information that was previously required (student lists, tax records, etc.) has been removed. The new Teaching Verification Form simply requires a signature by the teacher certifying two years of teaching experience.

Dr. Johnson added that the MTNA year end figures show 125 new certifications - up almost 39% from last year.

Robin Engelman, NCTM, MTNA Southern Division Certification Chairman has shared some responses she received from Georgia certified teachers as to why they had "bothered" to become certified. Here is one of those responses.

"I am a retired teacher with college certification. I receive requests frequently from students requesting a teacher from the certified list on the Internet.

I am a firm believer in upgrading all professions. A look at public school teachers, the medical profession, and financial planners - to name a few - shows that certification of some kind gives validity to the person. As a member of the American Guild of Organists, I taught free certification classes for 35 years, helping organists obtain various levels.

My surgeon, who operated on my knees, is a fellow in his field of surgery, as is my podiatrist. My car mechanic has a certification hanging on his wall - Don Larson, NCTM"

Ms. Engelman added all of the responses she quoted used the word "profession" or "professional." She added that we do not need to pursue certification so we will be recognized as "professionals," but because we are "professionals."

Would you, as a certified teacher, like to share your reasons for "bothering" to become certified? I will be glad to hear from many of you on this subject. Thanks!.

To all non-certified members:

Have you carefully considered becoming certified? There is help waiting for you. Let us know how we can assist you in this worthwhile endeavor.

FSMTA 2008 State Concerto Competition Winner Update

Last month this newsletter featured the winners of the Concerto Competition held in Orlando at the University of Central Florida campus on May 9 - 10. We now have what we need to complete our congratulations.

Winner of the Piano, Intermediate Division: Christina Lai
Teacher: Maria Gomez



Christina Lai
Concerto Winner

Christina Lai is 15 years old, and she is an incoming 10th grade honors student at Nova High School. She has studied piano with Maria Gomez since she was 6 years old.

During her years of piano study, Christina has won numerous awards for her musicality and solid performances. On many occasions, she has won 1st place at the FFMC State competitions in the solo, duet, trio, and patriotic song events. She has won first place for the last 2 years in the concerto event. In the Pompano piano competition, she has won 1st place in the Elementary III, Intermediate I and II, as well as the Advanced I and Advanced II divisions.

Christina won 1st place in the BCMTA Intermediate A competition as a 5th grader, and in the Intermediate B competition as a 6th grader. In June 2006, while in the 7th grade, she won 1st place in the Messingschlager High School competition. In the 9th grade, she won 1st place in the Steinway High School competition.

In October, 2007, Christina received honorable mention in the MTNA Florida State Piano Competition, Junior Division. Earlier this year, she also won 1st place in the Intermediate division of both the District and the State FSMTA Concerto Competitions.

Florida Fellow Fund

by Marc Hebda, President Elect

Thank you to Michelle Snow for her contribution to the MTNA Foundation Fund! Michelle's contribution will be applied to the "Florida Fellow" fund that is currently seeking more donations in order to bestow an honor one of our peers. As of yet, we do not have the \$1,000.00 required to name a "Florida Fellow". Donations are tax-deductible and every donation will get us closer to having a "Florida Fellow" named and honored at the 2009 MTNA Conference in Atlanta which is close enough to allow a new Fellow from Florida to be recognized in person. This is a wonderful way to meaningfully honor a deserving individual from FSMTA, as well as demonstrating how proud FSMTA is of its members when Fellows are named at the MTNA Foundation Gala at next year's conference.

Donations may be made by individuals, local associations, or district associations. Checks should be made payable to "MTNA Fund" and in the memo line note that it is a contribution to the "Florida Fellow". This will ensure that your contribution will be applied toward a "Florida Fellow" rather than a contribution to the general MTNA Foundation Fund. Your checks should be mailed to Marc Hebda, 7801 McClure Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32312

Please help us reach our goal of naming a new MTNA Fellow from Florida in Atlanta in March, 2009! Thank you.

Greenspan Memorial Community Service Award goes to flutist Nora Hansen

By Mark Repasky, Community Service Awards Chairman



Nora Hansen
Greenspan Winner

The 2008 winner of the LeRoy Greenspan Memorial Community Service Award was announced Saturday June 21 at the General Session of the FSMTA Conference in Gainesville. We congratulate Nora Hansen! She is a recent graduate of Bay

High School in Panama City and has been a flute student of Ernie K. Brock for over 6 years.

Musical service activities Nora listed include church pianist during her last three years in high school. She played flute in her community orchestra and also occasionally at her church. Performances as flute soloist or part of a flute ensemble were held at Community Shopping Mall, St. Matheson Retirement Center, and Sims Veterans Nursing Home and at a Kaleidoscope Theater fund raising event, among others.

A long list of community service activities (not involving music) plus strong recommendations by her high school band director and private teacher rounded out her impressive application.

We commend Nora for using her musical talents to enhance the quality of life in her community. Through our influence as musicians and especially as music teachers, most of us do likewise within our own communities. Ah, the power of music!

Now is the time to encourage your students to consider applying for the LeRoy Greenspan Memorial Community Service Award (for 12th graders) and the Local Presidents Community Service Award (for 9th graders). The cash award for the LeRoy Greenspan is \$500.00 and for the Presidents Award, \$200.00. Several changes have been made to the application process in the last few years, so discard any old applications and get new ones at our website at fmta.org.



FSMTA Website News

Submitted by Amy Turon, Webmaster

- **We need your correct contact information:**

Please be sure that the Webmaster or Becky Barlar, VP of Membership, is notified of any change in your address, phone number or email address. The Membership Directory is being updated

monthly on line. In order for members to contact you, this information needs to be current.

- **Procedures Manual updated:**

The office copy of the Procedures Manual has now been updated and posted on the website. Go to the "Membership" page to find a link for the Procedures Manual.

- **Photo permission forms:**

If you would like to publish your winning student's photos in the FSMTA newsletter or online, please remember that we need to have a signed permission form from the family. These forms are available for download on the website under the "Student Activities" tab.



FSMTA Competitive Events

by Mary Griffin Seal

Vice President of FSMTA Competitive Events

I am pleased to announce that the next annual FSMTA Competitive Events will be held at Florida Atlantic University on May 8th and 9th, 2009. These events include the State Concerto Competition, the Gray Perry Young Collegiate Artist Piano Competition, the Byrd Piano Ensemble Competition, and the Pre-College Chamber Music Competition. The instructions and entry forms for each event will be updated by November 1st and posted on the FSMTA web-site, along with directions to the FAU campus. The deadline will be March 28th, 2009 for all applications. Click on Student Activities or Upcoming Events and then Competitive Events to bring up the forms.

While we have had good participation in the past, I would like to encourage even more teachers to consider entering students into the various competitions. Auditions are open to the public, and all members and their students are welcome to attend. Please direct questions to me at maryseal@gmail.com.

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Congratulations to FGCU piano students Faith Lanctot Sam, Hyae-jin Hwang, and Satoko Hayami on their first prize wins in the Florida State Music Teachers Association Grey Perry Competition, Byrd Piano Competition, and the MTNA Young Artist Competition.

Admission and Scholarship

Audition Dates:

November 1, 2008
February 21, 2009
March 14, 2009

For more information:
mbaron@fgcu.edu
239-590-7209

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FIRST-EVER COLLEGIATE CONVOCATION TO BE HELD THIS OCTOBER!

The first-ever FSMTA Collegiate Convocation will be held on October 25-26, 2008 in Ybor City. Held in conjunction with the state level of the MTNA Competitions, the convocation has been planned to give our collegiate student members an opportunity to observe and assist with the competitions, as well as providing a number of events specifically geared for students. A Saturday evening recital will showcase their performing abilities, as well as featuring college faculty artists and a commissioned composition for solo guitar and guitar ensemble by Rex Willis, with solo guitarist Rene Gonzalez. Sunday morning activities will include several sessions specifically designed with students in mind, and the convocation will conclude with a luncheon banquet early Sunday afternoon.

All collegiate student members are invited to attend the convocation—both those who belong to a collegiate chapter and those who hold individual membership. Our student members are our future, and we hope that this type of event will help our students build a bridge to their professional careers as music educators. Registration for the convocation may be made online at fmta.org; deadline is October 17, 2008. Contact Dr. Megan Walsh at m.walsh3@umiami.edu for more details.

Collegiate Convocation - Rex Willis

Rex Willis, a native Floridian, is a faculty member at Manatee Community College, where he teaches guitar, composition and music theory. He received the master of music degree in composition from Florida State University, and attended composition master class/lectures with Aaron Copland. He has studied with world-renowned guitarists Bruce Holzman, Pepe Romero and Christopher Parkening. In addition to faculty work with the Stetson Guitar Workshop (Stetson University, Deland, Florida), Willis has taught at New College in Sarasota, Florida.



Rex Willis

Willis' original compositions have been called "haunting and high-energized . . . fun . . ."

(Sound Board Magazine), "accessible . . . skillful . . . and brilliant" (Les Cahieve De La Guitare, France), and "very powerful", (Classical Guitar).

Willis has been commissioned by universities, professional music organizations, and performing artists. This includes two commissions by Stetson University for guitar orchestra that received world premiere performances. He was a featured lecturer, conductor and teacher at the International Guitar Festival Brno 2004 (Czech Republic).

Guitar students of Rex Willis have won first place in the Florida Community College Music Symposium and moved on to graduate work and professional careers in music.

World-famous classical guitarists are commissioning, playing and recording Willis' original works. Recent performances of Willis' compositions are world-wide: Prague and Brno (Czech Republic), Dallas, San Antonio, Miami, Green Bay, Washington, D.C., London, Tokyo and Peru are some of the cities his music has been heard.

In addition to composing and teaching, Willis created and has hosted since 2003, "Guitar Unplugged", a weekly TV show on Channel 21, METV in Manatee County.

Willis' music is published by Tuscany Publications of Tampa, Florida.

Collegiate Convocation Rene Gonzalez

Rene Gonzalez, Associate Professor (Classical Guitar), received B.M., M.M., and D.M.A. degrees from the University of Miami. Gonzalez presents lectures and recitals in public schools and performs for educational and chamber music groups, including duo recitals with Juan Mercadal. He has appeared throughout the southeastern United States and Puerto Rico, and has accompanied classical singer Victoria De Los Angeles. Gonzalez is also the founder of the professional classical guitar ensemble, The Ruck Ensemble



Rene Gonzalez

Membership Update

by Becky Barlar, Vice-President for Membership

The membership directory on the FSMTA website is updated regularly, so the most accurate contact information for all members is available on-line at www.fmta.org. To protect your privacy, this information is password-protected, so you will need your MTNA member number to attain access.

Please note: Even when you renew on-line, it takes the MTNA membership department a few days to process your renewal. MTNA sends me renewal updates at the end of every month. I must process each of these renewals before sending them on to the FSMTA webmaster who then puts the new information onto the website. So, it may take several weeks after you renew for your name to appear on the FSMTA membership list on the website. To make sure that you are always on the latest membership list, please renew as early as possible.

Since the previous newsletter, FSMTA is pleased to welcome the following new members:

Local	Name
GVMTA	Dr. Elizabeth Adams
PBCMTA	Lisa Ayoub-Lumaban
VCMTA	David Bjella
CFMTA	Susan Davison
MCCMTA	Thomas James Durante
BCMTA	Serena Ferraguti
PBCMTA	Lili Galiteri Fest
GSPMTA	Bill Grimmett
PMTA	Mary Holway
PBCMTA	Jill Klein
CFMTA	Heidi R. Larson
MSMTA	Angela Miller
PBCMTA	Joanne Elizabeth Nelson
MCCMTA	Andrew John Prudente
PBCMTA	Dr. Yang Shen
CFMTA	Dr. Cheryl Tschanz
MIMTA	Silvia E. Vargas
JMTA	Scott Watkins

The following people were previously members of FSMTA who have reinstated their membership:

VCMTA	Dr. Shawn Hundley
PBCMTA	Dr. Bonnie Jacobi
CFMTA	Victoria Schultz
MIMTA	Dr. Maria Valdes
MCMTA	Rex Willis

Please send any address or contact information changes to Becky Barlar, Vice-President for Membership, at 11406 West Queensway Drive, Temple Terrace, FL 33617 or e-mail her at barlarb@floridacollege.edu. If you are willing to save the association money by viewing your newsletter on-line, e-mail this request to Becky Barlar at the e-mail address above.

Do you believe that everyone should be given the opportunity to nurture his or her musical potential to its full extent?

Are you currently teaching a student at a reduced lesson rate (half or less of normal fee)?

Are you interested in reaching out to a promising student in need through music lessons?

JOIN MUSICLINK

The MusicLink Foundation is a national non-profit organization that works with music teachers across the country to help provide musical training for promising students in financial need. Nominated students who meet MusicLink eligibility criteria are linked with professional music teachers in their community who provide partial to full scholarship lessons for as long as the child wishes to learn.

The MusicLink Foundation offers:

- Free & discounted music from major publishers
- Assistance in getting students practice instruments
- Summer Music Camp & other scholarship opportunities
- Reimbursement for music & materials
- Grants for starting local programs
- National recognition & support for students & teachers

Volunteer or register a student online at www.musiclinkfoundation.org

For more information:
info@musiclinkfoundation.org
703-534-9490

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