



WMTA NEWSLETTER

August 2014

In this issue

New WMTA Website [P.6](#)

Annual Conference [P.6-9](#)

President Elect Election [P.11](#)

2015 Badger Keyboard Competition [P.16](#)

District Audition News [P.17](#)

Non-Keyboard Results [P.18-20](#)

Collegiate Competition Report [P.21](#)

Administrative Meeting Minutes [P.22-23](#)



Calendar of Events

- **October 17 –18, 2014**
High School Virtuoso Competition
UW Whitewater
- **October 17 –18, 2014**
MTNA Competitions, UW Whitewater
- **October 23, 2014**
Executive Board Meeting, 8:00pm
Stevens Point
- **October 24 –25, 2014**
WMTA Annual Conference, Stevens Point
- **October 25, 2014**
Election for State President Elect
(Part of State Conference)
- **November 15, 2014**
December Newsletter Deadline
- **January 16-17, 2015**
East Central Division MTNA Competitions at
Lawrence University
- **February 2015, Date TBD**
Executive Board Meeting via
Teleconference
- **May 9, 2015 (Tentative)**
Badger Non-Keyboard, UW Stevens Point
- **May 16, 2015**
Badger Keyboard Competition
Northeastern Region: UW Oshkosh
Northwestern Region: UW-Eau Claire
Southern Region: Place & Date TBD
- **June 5, 2015**
WMTA Executive Board and Administrative
Council Meetings, Waunakee



Wisconsin Music Teachers Association Part of MTNA

Executive Board

PRESIDENT: Catherine Walby, NCTM catherine.walby@lawrence.edu

PAST-PRESIDENT: Gail Heywood, NCTM gailheywood0@gmail.com

1ST VP-CONFERENCE: Gail Heywood, NCTM gailheywood0@gmail.com

2ND VP-MEMBERSHIP: Arlyss Troge etroge@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER: Rachel Fritz rachelfritz@yahoo.com

BADGER COLLEGIATE COMPETITION: Drea Wagner, NCTM drea.e.wagner@gmail.com

BADGER KEYBOARD: Kayme Henkel, NCTM kaymehenkel@yahoo.com

BADGER NON-KEYBOARD: Nancy Burman, NCTM music_mommy@hotmail.com

ARTS AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY: Bethany Hartlaub bjhartlaub@ghartlaub.com

COLLEGE FACULTY REP: Owen Lovell, NCTM lovelloc@uwec.edu

DISTRICT AUDITIONS: Rita Schuman, NCTM tschoo@centurytel.net

INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHERS FORUM: Sandy Ryan sandy@sussexmusiclessons.com

HIGH SCHOOL VIRTUOSO COMPETITION: Mary Tollefson, NCTM tollefso.mary@uwlax.edu

LOCAL ASSOCIATION/MENTORING: Dorie Petersen, NCTM dppnotchr@gmail.com

Administrative Council

ARCHIVIST: Monica Scholz mscholz@wi.rr.com

MTNA CERTIFICATION: Vacant

MTNA FOUNDATION: Laura Swenson, NCTM mrsswen@wi.rr.com

COMPOSITION: Peggy Otwell otwellpmusic@gmail.com

MTNA COMPOSER COMMISSIONING: Nicholas Phillips phillins@uwec.edu

MTNA YOUNG ARTIST/CHAMBER MUSIC: Mary Tollefson, NCTM tollefso.mary@uwlax.edu

MTNA JR. & SR. PERFORMANCE COMPETITION: Christine Groth, NCTM caba@charter.net

THEORY: Diane Wilson Swnewlondon@aol.com

TECHNOLOGY: Luke Talen luketalen@me.com

TEACHER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE: Drea Wagner, NCTM drea.e.wagner@gmail.com

WEBMASTER: Elisabeth Daniels webmaster@wmta.net



Have You Moved?

Membership Changes including renewals and address changes should be made on the MTNA website by updating your member profile. **www.MTNA.org**

President's Message

Welcome to our August WMTA newsletter! The Executive Board voted to distribute our August newsletter each year via hard copy rather than just online. We hope that you enjoy the contents. Our goal is to provide a resource for the year that you can have handy in your studio. Be sure to provide feedback on what information would be helpful each year so that we can continue to share relevant information with you. For those of you who are new to WMTA, welcome! Please know that we are here to serve you. Get connected to teachers in your area and search out ways to become involved in the association. You now have access to a wealth of knowledge with experienced teachers of all ages and backgrounds.

August is a time of conflict for me each year. I know that summer is more than half gone and I wish that I had done more. What about that to-do list that looks almost the same as it did in early June? And all those people I meant to visit? And yet I look forward to returning to the school year routine, seeing each one of my students on a weekly basis and watching their progress. How do I combat the conflict?

Plan a couple more special outings with friends and family. August isn't complete without a visit to my sister's organic vegetable farm in Minnesota where I eat fresh meals, play with my niece and nephew, do some weeding and harvesting and come home with a carload of fresh veggies ready for eating and preserving. I also have the pleasure of gathering with Academy colleagues for fun in Door County and northern Wisconsin. We spend time in the water and hunt for new waterfalls while filling the air with conversation and laughter.

Plan for the upcoming school year. I keep a file on each of my students and August is the time when I clean out records from the previous year and plan a curriculum for the next year. I drag my feet on this every year but once started, the process helps me get mentally ready for what is to come. New repertoire ideas and goals for each student fuel my desire to return to full-time teaching hours. Wondering how group classes will be put together and determining a studio theme for the year helps my creative juices flow again.

How do you prepare for the return to routine in September? I hope that you do some fun activities as well as have some focused planning time. Consider getting together with other teachers from your local association or area for a brainstorming session. Perhaps you could plan some events for several studios or your entire local association. The initial conversations will whet your appetite for more.

Thank you for continuing in WMTA and being a resource for all musicians throughout the state. We are blessed, as a profession, to have a job that is both a job and a vocation.

Happy playing and planning!

Catherine S. Walby

Catherine Walby, NCTM
WMTA President



About Our Organization

Since 1910, Wisconsin Music Teachers Association has continued in its goal to develop, maintain, and recognize high standards of music instruction and performance in Wisconsin.

We accomplish this by supporting students and educators with events, resources and a powerful network of likeminded individuals.

By providing structure and activities at local, state, divisional, and national levels, we work together to accomplish goals which couldn't be achieved by working alone.

The first official meeting of the WMTA was held on June 22, 1910 in Appleton Wisconsin under the direction of the first president, Dean William Harper.

Our state now has 12 active local associations which provide regular meetings, student programs, teacher development, membership networking and so much more.

As an affiliate of Music Teachers National Association, we share common objectives and values with musicians and musical educators in all 50 states.

MTNA was founded in 1876 and is the oldest professional nonprofit music teachers association in the United States.

Our mission is to advance the value of music study and music making to society and to support the professionalism of music teachers.

We actively endorse the MTNA mission "to advance the value of music study and music making to society and to support the professionalism of music teachers".

Welcome to Our Newest WMTA Members

Daniel Rislove from Chippewa Falls

Morgan Hansen from Oshkosh*

Janice Wilde from Oconomowoc

Zack Schimenz from Brown Deer*

Marilla McKay from Rhinelander*

*Indicates Collegiate Members

Carol Leybourn from Appleton

Nicole Tranberg from West Allis

Welcome!

Badger Non-Keyboard will probably be the 2nd Saturday in May at UW-Stevens Point in 2015. Plan NOW to enter students in the state track, and prepare them for the theory tests and performance levels. This is a great opportunity for our students. From Nancy Burman.

East Central Division Competitions

Wisconsin will be hosting the East Central Division (ECD) competitions this year. They take place on January 16 and 17, 2015 at Lawrence University in Appleton.

Competition categories include students in the junior division (ages 11-14), senior division (ages 15-18) and young artist division (ages 19-26).

A wide variety of instruments will be represented including piano, strings, woodwinds and brass and students will be coming from Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and Wisconsin.

All competitions are free and open to the public so please attend yourself and consider inviting your students. The performance level is very high so it is an event well worth attending. If you have questions about schedule, contact Catherine Walby (catherine.walby@lawrence.edu) after January 1. WMTA may also be able to post the schedule on our website after January 1 so stay tuned.



Be sure to find
and “like”
the Wisconsin Music
Teachers Association
on Facebook!

2015 MTNA Foundation Fellow

Do you know what the MTNA Foundation is? Have you heard of an MTNA Foundation Fellow?

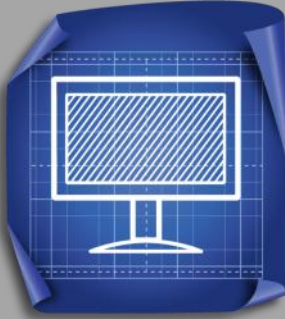
The MTNA Foundation supports programs, grants, and awards in 32 named endowment funds. An example is the Fox Valley MTA winning \$1000 from the Local Association of the Year grant in 2012. Before the MTNA Benevolence Fund was established, the Foundation was also used to give financial support to music teachers affected by natural disasters helping them to rebuild their studios.

Each state looks for ways to support the Foundation Fund through individual donations. State organizations are also eligible to nominate a yearly Foundation Fellow with a \$1000 contribution to the Foundation Fund in that teacher's name. The 2015 teacher to be given this honor is Joan Davies. She joins the Wisconsin Fellows list along with Carol Winborne, James Norden, Joyce Grill, Carmen Shaw, Terry Weber, Laura Swenson, Gail Heywood, and Carol Klose.

Joan Davies will be honored with a plaque at the MTNA National Conference in Las Vegas next March.

The following is taken from the MTNA website: “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.”

Look for the donation basket at WMTA State Conference in October – you can help this MTNA mission.



New WMTA Website!

We are very pleased to announce that WMTA is currently developing a brand new website. Many aspects of the new site are already available and continued information and features will be added during the next several months. The old website will become unavailable by the end of the year. Be sure to stop by and check it out!

www.WisconsinMusicTeachers.com

Participating at Conference

This year's conference will also offer an 'exhibit hall preview' for exhibitors to provide our conference attendees with a brief sample of what is available. If you are interested in exhibitor, sponsorship or advertising opportunities, please view the new WMTA website at www.WisconsinMusicTeachers.com or contact the WMTA Administrative Specialist, Katie Butler, at wisconsinmta@gmail.com.

We would like to welcome our current WMTA Conference exhibitors:

- **Keys to Imagination**
- **JW Pepper Music**
- **Usborne Books and More**
- **Frey Music Studio**
- **Tumbling Key Signatures**



**Featured Guest Artist
Dr. Tammie Walker**



Sue Walby



**Varshavsky-Shapiro
Piano Duo**



Martha Thomas



2014 WMTA Conference October 24-25, 2014

Holiday Inn &
Conference Center
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Registration is now open!

The 2014 annual conference “Music’s Past~Music’s Future” for the Wisconsin Music Teachers Association will take place the weekend of **October 24-25** at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center, 1001 Amber Avenue in Stevens Point. It is directly off highway 10 and accessible to I-39. Overnight room rates are \$70.00 (double occupancy) and includes free Wi-Fi, fitness center, and indoor pool facilities. That is the lowest rate WMTA has had in several years. We also have an affordable exhibitor rate, with the hall placement directly in the middle of the large Expo room. This year’s conference is JAM PACKED with activities and breakout sessions! There’s a wide variety of topics that will energize your teaching. In addition, we’re hosting a judging workshop, so for those members and non-members who may be interested in supplementing their income by judging for WMTA, be sure to attend the Friday workshop. Included in your registration are two recitals and the premier of the WMTA Commissioned Composer’s work! Friday evening banquet and awards ceremony will also have entertainment provided by the Aber Suzuki Center students.

We will have TWO student master classes included in this year’s conference—one will be a composition master class conducted by Chris Goldston. Conference guest artist will be Dr. **Tammie Walker**, Professor of Piano at Western Illinois University, received the B.M. degree in Piano Performance, *summa cum laude*, from the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire, where she studied with Penelope Cecchini, and the M.M. and D.M.A. degrees in Piano Performance and Literature from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she studied with Ian Hobson and was a winner of the University of Illinois Concerto Competition. An active solo and collaborative pianist, Dr. Walker has concertized throughout the continental U.S., Hawaii, and western Europe, having given over 300 performances since her hire at WIU. Recent performance highlights include solo recitals and lecture-recitals in Pennsylvania, Indiana, Georgia and West Virginia and concerto performances of Shostakovich *Concerto No. 1*, Grieg *Concerto* and Rachmaninoff *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. She is currently preparing for a recital and master class tour in Seoul, South Korea in November, 2014.



Chris Goldston



Michelle Sisler



Bonnie Blanchard



Christos Tsitsaros



CONFERENCE PREVIEW

1. **IMTF Session, Bonnie Blanchard “Earn What Your Worth” and “Transform Your Teaching”.** Bonnie Blanchard is a nationally certified teacher of music from University of Washington. She has taught flute for over thirty years. Bonnie is the author of the Music for Life series, *Making Music and Enriching Lives: A Guide for All Music Teachers* and *Making Music and Having a Blast! A Guide for All Music Students*, published by Indiana University Press.

2. **Dr. Martha Thomas, “Forgotten Romantic: Max Reger’s Intermediate Piano Repertoire”.** Dr. Martha Thomas, has been on the piano faculty of the University of Georgia School of Music since 1986. A native Texan, she holds degrees through the doctorate in piano performance from the Universities of Texas and Wisconsin. Her major piano professors include William Race, Danielle Martin, and Howard Karp. Dr. Thomas has appeared in master classes with nationally renowned pianists Leon Fleisher, John Perry, and Ronald Turini, and has coached with such acclaimed pianists and pedagogues as Marylene Dosse, Lee Luvisi, and Jack Radunsky. She began her teaching career in 1977 at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

3. **Technology—Michelle Sisler, Keys to Imagination “iPad Apps for Teachers”.** Michelle enjoys being creative in her teaching, making lessons interesting and fun for all students; her use of technology and creative teaching materials have gained her national recognition. Michelle has presented sessions at The National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, Music Teachers National Association conference, and various state conferences and local groups. She has written technology articles for *Keyboard Companion*, a series of technology articles in *Clavier*, and reviews in *American Music Teacher*. Michelle has co-authored *Studio Make-over*, *Technology “Addition”®*, *Double Click Curriculum®*, *Are We There Yet? A Musical Journey Around the Globe®*, *Sebastian Sharp and the Case of the Missing Manuscript*, *Road Trip: America the Beautiful* and more.
4. **Christos Tsitsaros (Hal Leonard Publishing Company) “Musical and Technical Incentives for the Advancing Student”.** At the age of 13, Tsitsaros won first prize in the National Competition of the Conservatory of Athens. Upon graduating from high school, he moved to Poland where he studied at the Frédéric Chopin Academy of Warsaw. Two years later, as a result of winning the Gina Bachauer Institution Competition in Athens (1981), he continued his musical studies in Paris and graduated from the Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris, obtaining the Diplôme Supérieur d’Exécution with distinction. A scholarship from the A. G. Leventis Foundation enabled him to pursue further development at the School of Music of Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, where he received an Artist Diploma and a Master in Music degree (1989). Subsequently, he entered the School of Music of the University of Illinois where he attained a Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance (1993). Christos Tsitsaros is currently Professor of Piano Pedagogy at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. He also serves as Piano Chair for the Illinois State Music Teachers Association.
5. **Composition—Chris Goldston (FJH Music Company), “Yes, You Can Teach Composition”.** Christopher Goldston, Nationally Certified Teacher of Music, holds a Master of Music degree in piano performance and pedagogy from Northwestern University, and a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. He teaches at Columbia College Chicago, and Sherwood Community Music School at Columbia College Chicago, and Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. In 1991, Mr. Goldston received the National Federation of Music Clubs Lynn Freeman Olson Composition Award for his first composition, *Night Train*. Since then he has written numerous pieces for piano, voice, and chamber ensemble, including his Thesis for Wind Quintet which won the 1993 MTNA Composition Contest for North Carolina. Mr. Goldston has compositions published by Alfred Publishing Company and is an exclusive author for the FJH Music Company. Mr. Goldston is the National Coordinator for the Music Teachers National Association Composition Competition.

6. **College Faculty & Student Chapter Forum: “Current Trends and Research in Piano Pedagogy”**

- LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY: Ms. Mary Van De Loo and student, Casey Kadlubowski: "Exploring the Use of Teaching Space and its Effect on Student Success."
- UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EAU CLAIRE: Dr. Nicholas Phillips and student, Daniel Mockenhaupt: "Developing a Piano Literature Workbook for Use by Pre-college Piano Students."
- UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LA CROSSE: Dr. Mary Tollefson and student, Allistair McCrady: "Systematic Observation and Evaluation of a Pedagogy Student's Teaching: What's Going on in There?"
- UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MADISON: Dr. Jessica Johnson and students, Evan Engelstad and Cody Goetz: "Healthful Biomechanics and the Small-Handed Pianist."
- VITERBO UNIVERSITY: Dr. Mary Ellen Hauptert and student, Alexa Gruber: "Neoclassic Piano Pedagogy: Re-integrating Music Composition in Private Piano Instruction."

7. **“Teaching Hymn Playing to Young Pianists”** by Sue Walby. Walby is a graduate of Lawrence University where she majored in piano pedagogy and music theory. She maintains a private piano teaching studio at her home in Viroqua, Wisconsin. She currently serves as Dean of the Riverland Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Her piano teachers included James Ming and Clyde Duncan. Her organ studies were with Miriam Duncan, John Turnbull, Robert Scoggin and Russell Saunders, at the Eastman School of Music. She teaches piano in the Viroqua-Westby area and has taught hundreds of students, many of whom went on to study music in college. She presently serves as Director of Music/Organist at First Presbyterian Church, La Crosse.

8. **“The Rite of Spring Revival: Bringing Century Old Score to Concert Stage”** by Diana Shapiro and Stanislava Varshavski. Since 1998, when Stanislava Varshavski and Diana Shapiro started to play together, their duo became one of the most renowned contemporary piano duos. Varshavski and Shapiro were laureates of numerous prestigious national and international awards. Duo Varshavski-Shapiro made numerous **recordings** for Bavarian Radio, Radio 4 of Hong Kong, Wisconsin Public Radio and Israeli National Radio and TV. Moreover, number of duo's performances was broadcast live on **radio** throughout the world. Dr. Varshavski and Dr. Shapiro received DMA degrees from University of Wisconsin-Madison. Their principal teachers include legendary Israeli duo Alexander Tamir – Bracha Eden and famous American pianists Victor Rosenbaum and Martha Fischer.

Conference registration is currently open and underway!! Be sure to sign up early to take advantage of the early bird savings discount. Non-members (spouses/guests) are also welcome—and there is also a discounted student rate. So, with so many terrific sessions, recitals and events—there’s no reason not to attend this year’s conference!

Looking ahead—I am negotiating with conference venues for 2015, with the location to be either the Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan or the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel in Oshkosh. Final decision will be based on affordability and accommodations. Date for the 2015 conference will be October 23-24—I appreciate any feedback or suggestions and am accepting session proposals for our 2015 conference (email me at gailheywood0@gmail.com).

Looking forward to seeing all of you at this year’s conference in Stevens Point!

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Heywood, NCTM
Vice-President, Conferences

Federal Trade Commission Investigation

As most of you know, MTNA has been investigated by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) because of our Code of Ethics. One portion of the code advised against seeking students who are already studying with another teacher. This was seen as being anti-trust and has now been removed from our Code of Ethics. As part of a settlement, all state and local associations have been asked to sign a compliance certification form no later than August 28, 2014 OR they need to file for an extension by the same date.

Each local association needs to take time and review information at the link below. A summary of everything that has happened with the investigation and settlement is included as well as many specific guidelines of what we can and can't do legally as MTNA members. If you have any further questions, contact your local association president, the state president or someone in the MTNA office. <http://www.mtna.org/about-mtna/code-of-ethics/>

Here are some topics that we cannot discuss as an association:

- Current prices or hourly rates;
- Current billing policies and procedures;
- What constitutes fair profit margins;
- Plans to increase or decrease prices or hourly rates;
- Agreements to allocate or divide territories or clients;
- Policies regarding vacation time and missed lessons;
- Terms and conditions of sales such as late charges, prompt payment discounts, credit terms;
- Recommendations to members to implement unlawful tying arrangements such as requiring students to purchase sheet music exclusively from the teacher;
- Salaries of music studio employees;
- Complaints about or problems presented by other competitors or suppliers;
- Encouraging others to take retaliatory actions against competitors or suppliers, such as a boycott against a supplier that decided to offer music instructions in competition with members; and
- Efforts to influence suppliers' prices.

Here are topics that we can discuss as an association:

- Data on past pricing levels that are compiled by the Affiliate to identify average prices; on the general economic trends in the profession;
- Discussions on how members can become more profitable by acquiring better knowledge of their costs;
- Discussing advances or problems in teaching methods and instruction;
- Education regarding various aspects of management and responding to student issues; and
- Discussions on improvements of services and educational methods.

Election for WMTA State President

This fall, at the state WMTA conference in Stevens Point, the membership will have a very important job:

voting on our next WMTA president!



We are very fortunate to have two WMTA members that are interested in taking over the reins when Catherine Walby, our current WMTA president, finishes her term in 2015. At the annual business meeting that will take place during the Saturday luncheon at the conference, all members who are present will have the opportunity to vote for either Dr. Nicholas Phillips or Dr. Arthur Johnson.

Read about Dr. Phillips and Dr. Johnson on pages 12 and 13.

Please mark your calendars for the conference – be sure to attend!

Regards,
Rita Schuman, NCTM
WMTA Nominating Committee Chair

Treasurer Report

June 30, 2014

Our current assets are \$172,149.32 \$131,485.87 is in a CD, \$37,066.32 is in a Money Market account; the remainder, \$3,597.13 is in Checking. Our final balance for the year is \$-15,740.40.

Please let me know if you have question and I will do my best to assist.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Fritz



Dear Wisconsin Music Teacher Association Members,

I would like to share with you my vision for WMTA and highlights from my background that have prepared me for the position of WMTA President-Elect. The first major thing I plan to do to move WMTA forward is increase the size of its membership. Many musicians within Wisconsin are teaching without the advantage of membership in a professional association. But, when teachers actively participate in WMTA and its local affiliates, they become better teachers. Conversely, when WMTA gains more members, the association leads and acts with a constituency comprised of greater breadth and depth in skills and experience. I see WMTA expanding to counties outside of its current local associations' geographic boundaries, and I see opportunities for attracting and developing music majors and recent college graduates. Also, I see local leadership empowered by state mentorship to welcome and recruit non-member teachers in their regions.

With growth comes a need to focus vision. The second major thing I plan to do is develop a stronger sense of direction and purpose for WMTA. Central to this goal will be the creation of a mission statement. A mission statement will provide a positive and focused framework for the work we do in WMTA. The mission statement will govern and target the types of projects we bring forward and will speak to prioritization and process.

Since graduating with a DMA at UW-Madison in 2002, I have been teaching at Lakeland College. During this time I have remained active professionally as a musician and teacher outside of my role as a college professor, and it has been my habit to serve my profession and reach out to music teachers within and without WMTA. I served two years in WMTA as the MTNA Competitions Chair, and six years on the Administrative Council. For Michibago Music Teachers Association (MMTA), I served as vice president, chair of the Growth and Development Committee, chair and co-chair of numerous festivals, and most recently for the past four years president of the association. During my tenure as president, MMTA started a website and a Facebook page, adopted a logo, amended/updated its constitution and bylaws, attained 501(c)3 non-profit status, established and maintained a flourishing awards fund, and developed an annual budget.

My pre-college students have been prize winners in numerous competitions, including first place in the Fox Valley Concerto Competition, first place in the Polish Fest Chopin Piano Competition, first place in the WMTA Badger Keyboard Competition, and first place in the WMTA High School Virtuoso Competition. Notable performances of my own include soloing with the Lakeshore Wind Ensemble (Liszt Piano Concerto No. 1) and the Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra (Beethoven Choral Fantasy) and a lecture recital with cellist Matt Turner and pianist Drea Wagner entitled, "History of Improvisation in Western Classical Music: Bach to Schoenberg and Beyond." Over the past ten years I have adjudicated and/or given presentations or master classes for the College Music Society, the Wisconsin Music Teachers Association, the South Dakota Music Teachers Association, Wisconsin local associations, the Festival for Creative Pianists in Colorado, and the Utah Music Teachers Association.

I sincerely hope I receive the opportunity to serve you and our teaching profession as president of Wisconsin Music Teachers Association. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming state conference this fall!

Arthur Johnson
Associate Professor of Music



Dear Wisconsin Music Teacher Association Members,

When first asked if I would consider being nominated for President of WMTA, my initial reaction was: “Why me? No way! I’m too busy! Besides, I’m sure there are many interested people that would do a much better job than me!” By the time that conversation was over, though, I had promised to think seriously about it. After some reflection, I felt confident I could make a positive contribution to WMTA through this position, so I accepted the nomination and am excited about the possibility of serving the group in this capacity, should I be elected.

I have been a member of WMTA since moving to Wisconsin in 2007, and have served on the Administrative Council since then; first as Chair of Composition Competitions and now solely as Chair of Composer Commissioning. I have also been active at the State Conferences, having attended each one, given two lecture-recitals and one presentation, participated in panel discussions, and premiered four piano pieces that

were written for WMTA. I’ve enjoyed meeting many teachers from around the state, and have made many new friends in the process. If elected President, I would continue to work with the Executive Board and Administrative Council on programs and issues important to WMTA members, and to represent Wisconsin nationally at MTNA events.

Biography

Nicholas Phillips is Associate Professor of Piano at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. He is extremely active as a soloist and collaborative artist, having performed across the United States. His most recent season included solo recitals in New York, Chicago, Baltimore, Alabama, Ohio, Michigan, Montana, Rhode Island, Texas, and Wisconsin. Recent international appearances include a solo recital in Korea sponsored by the U.S. Embassy, and a solo recital in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Described by the New York Times as an “able and persuasive advocate” and a “talented, entrepreneurial pianist,” his playing has been praised for its “bejeweled accuracy” (Fanfare) and as “razor-sharp yet wonderfully spirited” (American Records Guide). In 2011 he released two CDs on Albany Records: *Portals and Passages*, featuring piano music by American composer Ethan Wickman, and *Boris Papandopulo: Piano Music*, featuring solo piano music by the famous 20th-century Croatian composer. His most recent CD project, *American Vernacular: New Music for Solo Piano* (New Focus Recordings), features works written for him by 10 American composers.

Phillips has given lecture-recitals and presentations at a number of international, national, and state conferences, including: the College Music Society International Conferences in Zagreb (2009), Seoul (2011), and Buenos Aires (2013), the Minnesota (2010) and Wisconsin (2008, 2009, 2011) Music Teachers Association State Conferences, and the Seventh Biennial Conference on Music in Nineteenth-Century Britain in Bristol, UK (2009). He has also presented to local WMTA chapters, is an active adjudicator around the state, and has submitted his application for MTNA certification. Phillips holds degrees from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music (DMA), Indiana University (MM), and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (BM). More information can be found at www.nicholasphillips.net.

Nicholas Phillips
Associate Professor of Piano

(Photo credit, Rachel Schimelman, R|S Design)

Why MTNA Professional Certification?

Many teachers ask this question all the time. The following will clarify the importance of MTNA Professional Certification. This was taken directly from the MTNA website.

For MTNA

- Fosters excellence in music education through the development of criteria, standards, and guidelines for assessing educational competencies in performance, music theory, music history/literature, and pedagogy/teacher education.
- Assures the educational community, the general public, and other agencies or organizations that the MTNA Professional Certification Program for applied music teachers has been clearly defined with appropriate objectives.
- Provides a national forum for the discussion and consideration of concerns relevant to the preservation and advancement of standards in the field of music and music education.
- Develops a national unity and strength for the purpose of maintaining the position of music study in the family of fine arts and humanities and providing qualified teachers to guide that study.
- Sets a uniform national minimum standard of achievement without restricting the development of new ideas, experimentation, or the expansion of personal standards.

For the Music Teacher

- Offers a process by which teachers may examine and update their libraries, teaching methods, business practices and philosophies.
- Encourages improvement in teaching through continuous self-study and planning.
- Raises the likelihood for a higher level of teacher competency and effectiveness.
- Provides a goal for personal professional achievement for music teachers.
- Increases the potential for earning power for music teachers.
- Improves the level of professionalism within the field of music teaching.
- Identifies for the public competent music teachers.

If you have questions don't hesitate to seek further information from the website, call me, or send me an e-mail.

Laura A. Swenson, NCTM
East Central Commissioner for Certification
e-mail: mrsswen@wi.rr.com
Phone: 262-385-7304



MTNA Foundation Fund Silent Auction

SATURDAY, OCT. 25, 2014
AT WMTA STATE CONFERENCE



As in previous years, WMTA will be hosting a silent auction in support of the MTNA Foundation. All local associations are asked to donate a gift basket for this event. However, individual members of WMTA may also donate a gift basket as well. The gift baskets must be at the conference on Friday, Oct. 24th at the beginning of the conference. Please list the items in each basket and also a starting bid price. See the article below for information about the MTNA Foundation Fund. It is definitely money well spent and a tax deduction too!

Thanks in advance!

Laura Swenson, WMTA Foundation Fund State Chair

What is the MTNA Foundation Fund?

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. The Studio Teacher Fellowship is given to an independent music teacher to assist in developing and enhancing a newly established studio. The Collegiate Chapter of the Year Award recognizes an outstanding collegiate chapter, its advisor and members for showing an exceptional level and depth of activities. MTNA local-affiliated associations may apply for grants for projects that benefit teachers, their students and their communities.



2015 Badger Keyboard Competition

All sites will hopefully be on Saturday, May 16th, please watch the newsletters for confirmation of this date. Northwest region will be at UW- Eau Claire, this site is definite! Northeast will be at UW-Oshkosh (still working out details, so watch for confirmation), Southern should be at UW-Whitewater (again watch for confirmation).

As we are preparing students for competitions, here are a few ideas for planning and some thoughts to keep in mind:

1. Choose competitions which fit with your pedagogical goals for students rather than setting goals based on competitions. As teachers we want to always be aiding musicians on a journey which we hope will last them a lifetime. This means our goals should be based on long-term development (long term meaning YEARS rather than MONTHS). Our curriculum should be helping students develop the skills needed to learn WITHOUT a teacher – music reading, knowledge of style, score analysis, self-evaluation. With our pedagogical purpose in mind we will at times decide that a student does not need to compete, or that a competition will not aid in teaching the skills we are trying to develop in the student.
2. Teach your students to love music, not winning competitions. Ideally every student should love playing their instrument because they love the experience of creating sound, shaping the ideas as they play and expressing their unique thoughts. Winning competitions is fun, but winning only lasts a short while. Getting to make music can be enjoyed for a lifetime.
3. Use competitions to expose students to other musicians (also could be phrased as – teach them that going to the winners' recital helps us appreciate our colleagues). Many students hear only themselves and then a few times a year they hear their studio mates. Competitions can be a wonderful way for a student to see what other students his/her age have accomplished.
4. Teach parents to encourage their children whether or not they win. If parents are focused solely on winning, it is really difficult to encourage students to play for the love of playing. Many times our role as teacher is to teach the parents how to help their child perform well. We need to always show an example of positive comments and praise mixed with helpful criticism.
5. Teach that getting to participate in competitions is a wonderful opportunity. They should have a positive attitude throughout the whole journey. Getting to perform at any competition is an accomplishment. It means that they have already put forth a substantial effort to learn their pieces. Performing these pieces is an opportunity to share something special for a judge who wants to hear lovely performances.
6. Be proud of your students who compete and make sure you share their achievements in your local newspaper, studio newsletters, and with their school administrators. They deserve recognition for their hard work no matter what the outcome.

Best wishes to all teachers as you plan out your coming year. Hopefully I will see some of you throughout the process of District Auditions and the Badger Competition. Most importantly, enjoy making music with all your students with or without competitions.

Submitted by Kayme Henkel, NCTM, Badger Keyboard Chair

WMTA District Auditions News – Summer 2014

If you're in a hurry, glance at the underlined text to get a glimpse of each subject I'm addressing in this report.

- For 2015, all districts will be using the “**Ovations**” **online registration program**. There will be an informative session about using Ovations at the fall WMTA conference held in Stevens Point.
- District Auditions **dates for spring 2015** should be confirmed and available by the time the fall conference rolls around in October 2014.
- There will be a **Judging Information session** for WMTA events presented at the fall conference. This session is for both new judges and seasoned judges who would like new ideas. This will also be helpful for teachers who are interested in what judges might be looking for while hearing student performances. The session will include suggestions for writing specific and effective comments that support the rating given, creating a positive learning experience for every student and a summary about specific entry “tracks” and requirements for WMTA events.
- I continue to keep a **file of comments received about judges** after WMTA events updated each summer. This file is available to district chairs to assist in setting up judges for their next year's auditions.
- I keep a **file of judge's contact information** for anyone who has expressed an interest in being a judge or has already been judging WMTA events. ***IF YOU ARE A JUDGE*** and want to update or verify the information that I have on file, feel free to email me anytime. tschoo@centurytel.net
- Hello and thank you to **Elena Petrova**, who will be taking over for Suzanne Fauser as the **Milwaukee/Waukesha district chair**. Many thanks to Suzanne for her many hours of dedication to the new “Ovations” online project! And welcome Elena!
- Watch for the **new WMTA website** that will be coming this fall – there will be a whole section of the website dedicated to “Student Events” where you will find everything you need to know about district auditions and other WMTA student performance opportunities.
- A reminder about **auditions repertoire**: please make sure the pieces you choose for students have **at least 16 measures**! This was a widespread issue throughout the state this year. It's easy to miss on occasion, but it's also a very simple rule. Please make a point to think about that when selecting repertoire next season.
- For students that enter state track auditions in piano and another area (such as piano and voice, or piano and violin), there is a **rule change regarding theory test requirements**. Students may take two theory tests to accommodate the different minimum levels that are required for each area. In the past, students in this situation were required to take the test based on their level for piano only (meaning the student had to take the harder exam even if their instrument or voice requirement was an easier test level.) This may sound confusing, but for those teachers who have had students in this situation, you are aware of how this works. For anyone else with questions on this matter, send me an email and I can explain it further. tschoo@centurytel.net.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Schuman, NCTM, District Auditions State Chair and La Crosse District Chair

tschoo@centurytel.net

2014 Badger Non-Keyboard Report

Badger Non-Keyboard Competition was held at UW-Stevens Point again this year, with Mary Hofer as site chair. We used 3 rooms; it was requested we not use the choir room in the future due to noise in the air ducts. Flutes were in this room:

Statistics:

15 strings in 3 divisions	5 teachers
20 vocals in 3 divisions	7 teachers
3 flutes in 1 division	3 teachers
<u>1 guitar</u>	<u>1 teacher</u>
39 students	16 teachers/ 7 districts

We are again, down in numbers of students, but up in teachers, due to some new ones. The judges were very good; wrote a lot & were very encouraging to our students, so I think it was a very valuable experience for everyone. And I know, personally, the students really look forward to this competition. We lost 2 active teachers this year; 1 moved out of state, another had surgery & could not have students participate. They have both sent numerous students to Badger NK, so our participation numbers were down just from them.

Having the judging forms on-line for each teacher to print & fill out their own worked very well. There was some confusion from districts where teachers did not get the correct summery form to fill out, and did not follow the directions that were on that form. There are, again, questions being raised; but we will be revising the handbook, and that should solve the problems.

We again had 1 student working as door monitor for the vocal room; string teachers run their own room and have no problems doing this. Jenny Burton did all the recording, and David Burman(my son), with Opala Bilhorn, registered all the students and took their pictures. I would suggest that when we are using the college campuses, why not ask for music students to help door monitor? It would help involve future possible members, and teach the students about our organization, also.

Competition was from 8:00AM – 1:30PM. Snacks and beverages were provided by the participating teachers, which was plenty. There were 3 judges; 1 string, 1 vocal and 1 guitar. It was suggested that we put the 1 guitar in with the strings, which was done at district. But I hesitate to compare them at the state level. I prefer keeping them separate; it also gives students more chances for awards.

We had one major ‘glitch’: the flute judge never showed up. That ended up being a major miscommunication between myself & the judge. We have cleared that up. So the 2 flute teachers in attendance (Sue Christian & Norma Kretzschmar, both from the same district!) listened & critiqued the 3 students. They went over the performances with a ‘fine tooth comb’ & awarded all 3 students accordingly. Everyone was pleased with the way it worked out. The teachers scored each piece, and the students were only 1 point apart for awards. Thus = some very fine performances and teaching!

Overall this year’s Badger NK was a great experience for students and teachers. I’m looking forward to another great year in 2013. All teachers were most helpful and great to work with.

A HUGE THANK YOU to Mary Hofer for her work in securing and helping set up all the sites.

Happily submitted to you, Nancy Burman, NCTM, Badger Non-Keyboard Chairperson

2014 Badger Non-Keyboard Awards



BEGINNING VOICE

WINNER: Lydia Ensminger, Student of Mary Hofer

RUNNER-UP: Ava Shively, Student of Kim Shively

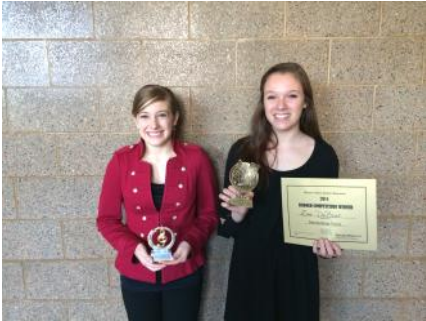
HONORABLE MENTION:

Abri Hegle (Opala Bilhorn)

Emma Dorshorst (Mary Hofer)

Karsyn Garber (Nancy Burman)

Roshini Traynor (Mary Hofer)



INTERMEDIATE VOICE

WINNER: Zoe DeBoer, Student of Kim Shively

RUNNER-UP: Victoria Tillotson, Student of Mary Hofer



INTERMEDIATE VOICE

HONORABLE MENTION:

Zsanna Boder (Mary Hofer)

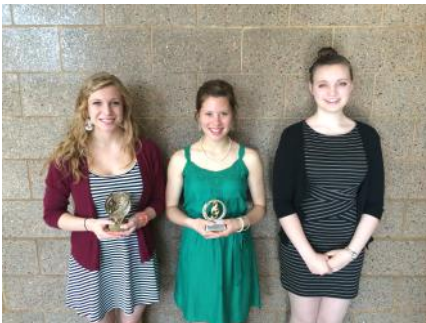
Mary McDonald (Mary Hofer)

Michael Treder (Mary Hofer)

Afton Eisch (Nancy Burman)

Lindsey Bundgaard (Nancy Burman)

Charlotte Hanson (Nancy Burman)



ADVANCED VOICE

WINNER: Audrey DeKock, Student of Nancy Burman

RUNNER-UP: Ali Hegle, Student of Opala Bilhorn

HONORABLE MENTION:

Lynsie Schmitt (Louise White-Roach)

2014 Badger Non-Keyboards Awards



BEGINNING STRING

WINNER: Lucia Stephani, Student of Jenny Burton

RUNNER-UP: Anna Hahn, Student of Jenny Burton

HONORABLE MENTION:

Lin-Lan Holzman-Crass (Robert Schubert)

Kailyn Walukas (Teresa Wilkinson)

Chloe Huelsbeck (Teresa Wilkinson)



ADVANCED BEGINNER STRING

WINNER: Max Malek, Student of Jenny Burton

RUNNER-UP: William Hahn, Student of Jenny Burton

HONORABLE MENTION:

Shilpa Maddikunta (Jennifer Wilkinson)



ADVANCED/INTERMEDIATE STRING

WINNER: Yao Yao Chen, Student of Wen-Lei Gu

RUNNER-UP: Thomas Meronek, Student of Jenny Burton

HONORABLE MENTION:

Faith Kluck (Jenny Burton)

Meghan OIselka (Robert Schubert)



GUITAR (Pictured Left)

RUNNER-UP: Joshua Lindner (Gail Heywood)



FLUTE (Pictured Right)

WINNER:

Rachel Kubiawicz, Student of Laurie Lau

RUNNER-UP:

Brianna Lindahl, Student of Norma Kretschmar

HONORABLE MENTION:

MacKenzie Farrell (Sue Christian)

2014 Collegiate Performance Competition

Congratulations to the winner of this year's Badger Collegiate Performance Competition: Jon Hanrahan, student of Michael Mizrahi, and to runner up Daniel Kuzuhara, student of Anthony Padilla. Both are students at Lawrence University.

The 2015, the Badger Collegiate Performance Competition will be held earlier than usual, probably sometime in March. Please check the WMTA website for further details this fall.

The Badger Collegiate Performance Competition is open to pianists, instrumentalists, and vocalists. The winner receives \$200 from WMTA. If you are a WMTA member with college students, please consider entering them in this wonderful competition. More information will be available on the WMTA website.

Please contact me with
any questions!

Drea Wagner, NCTM
Badger Collegiate Performance
Competition chair
Drea.e.wagner@gmail.com

**Badger Collegiate
Performance Competition
Participants**

(Photo on Right)



IMPORTANT NOTE: To view the May 2014 Badger Keyboard Competition photos, please visit the new website at **[www. WisconsinMusicTeacherAssociation.com](http://www.WisconsinMusicTeacherAssociation.com)**.

Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

Wisconsin Center for Music Education, Waunakee, Wisconsin,

June 6th, 2014, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

In attendance: Julie Hildebrandt, Madison McCarney, Lisa Lawrence, Sue Seeger, Betsy Hegwood, Nick Phillips, Marlene Wondergem, Carmen Shaw, Emily Schultz, Sandra Statz, Rita Schuman, Kayme Henkel, Rachel Fritz, Dorie Petersen, Catherine Walby, Arlyss Troge, Gail Heywood, Elisabeth Daniels, Sandy Ryan, Mary Tollefson, Drea Wagner, Arthur Johnson, Joan Davies and Katie Butler. **Regrets:** Monica Scholz, Bethany Hartlaub, Peggy Otwell, Laura Swenson, Christine Groth, Nancy Burman, Cynthia Penker, Patricia Callahan-Schmidt, Lisa Freedlund, Gigi Plautz, Luke Talen, Mary Anne Olvera, Roberta Grube, Kristine Koppela, Deanna Roen, Mary Hofer, Ann Marie Novak, Beverly Mark, Mona Grote and Diane Wilson.

Call to Order 2:00pm by President, Catherine Walby/Welcome and Introductions.

Adoption of the Agenda – Dorie Petersen motioned to approve, Sandra Statz seconded.

Approval of the Minutes– Approved by consensus.

Officer Reports

- President – Catherine Walby, NCTM – Several officer positions have changed. Emily Luker, VP membership, Jeri-Mae Astolfi, College Faculty Rep, and Cynthia Penker, Certification have resigned. Arlyss Troge has accepted the position as VP Membership, Drea Wagner has accepted as Badger Collegiate and Bethany Hartlaub has accepted the position as Arts Awareness.
- Immediate Past President – Gail Heywood, NCTM – No Report.
- 1st VP-Conference – Gail Heywood, NCTM – This year's Annual Conference will be on October 24th-25th. Everything is on track and we are looking forward to several exciting, new and updated events. There will be a recital on Friday night by Tammie Walker that was omitted from the brochure. An important change from past years, the lunch fees for Local Association Meetings and District Chair meetings will be collected along with registration, not during conference. Conference dates for 2015 will be October 23th and 24th.
- 2nd VP-Membership – Arlyss Troge – As the exiting VP of Membership, Emily Luker reported that WMTA had 472 members as of the last day of March 2014. We have 215 renewing members as of May 28. Arlyss Troge has accepted the position and will continue working toward new member orientation and regular membership retention.
- Treasurer – Rachel Fritz – Our current assets are \$175,083.22, \$131,485.87 is in a CD, \$37,064.75 is in a Money Market account; the remainder, \$6,532.60 is in Checking. Our current balance for the year is -\$12,806.50. We are still in process of adopting new policies based on the audit, including the distribution of "For Deposit Only" stamps and the adoption of an operating budget.

Program Chair Reports

- Archivist – Monica Scholz – Not Present, No Report.
- Arts Awareness and Advocacy – Bethany Hartlaub – Not Present. Bethany reported that she has signed up on the Wisconsin State Legislature Notification System to receive updates regarding music education and the arts as addressed by our state government. She has also distributed a survey to get a sense of needs around the state in the area of advocacy.
- Award of Excellence – Drea Wagner, NCTM – 29 awards were given out in 2013. Points for

2014 will be distributed at the WMTA 2014 Conference this coming fall. All teachers who have accumulated points are encouraged to submit information to Drea by September 15, 2014. Her email is drea.e.wagner@gmail.com.

- Badger Collegiate Competition – Drea Wagner, NCTM – Badger Collegiate Performance Competition was held on May 17th, 2014 in UW-Stevens Point. Nine students from two colleges enrolled and six of these students attended and competed. This competition was held at the same time and place as the Badger Keyboard Competition which saved on the overall facility costs and labor. The council agreed that it was a worthwhile event, but the time may need to be adjusted to better suit the schedules of the students and teachers who participate. The council discussed the possibility of piggybacking this event with the district events in March so it has better timing for the students.
- Badger Instrumental/Vocal Competition – Nancy Burman, NCTM –Not Present. The competition is down to less than half of what it has been the past, but is still bringing in new teachers and is well appreciated by those who attend. The judges were very good and wrote a lot of encouraging notes.
- Badger Keyboard Competition – Kayme Henkel, NCTM – Many parents and students contacted Kayme and/or the central office asking about address information or results from the Competition. Teachers need to remember that they are responsible for communicating this information to their students. Next year's competitions will likely be on May 16, 2015.
- College Faculty Representative – Jeri-Mae Astolfi, NCTM – Not Present. Before exiting the position, Jeri-Mae helped organize the Collegiate Conference panel session for the state conference.
- Composer Commissioning – Nicholas Phillips – Dr. Christos Tsitsaros has been selected for the 2014 WMTA Commissioned Composer. He wrote Three Preludes, which will be given their premiere performance by Nicholas Phillips at the 2014 Conference in Stevens Point.
- Composition Competition – Peggy Otwell – Not Present. No Report.
- District Auditions – Rita Schuman, NCTM – As a reminder to teachers, audition pieces need to have at least 16 measures. Rita has been working diligently on organizing and compiling all the district information for the new website. The new Ovation system was running on a limited basis this past season and should be fully up and running by this fall. There will be a judging workshop at Conference with core principles used when judging auditions. The council also discussed many current issues including the way compositions are currently categorized and how that will affect the new Ovation software and the definition and use of “Avant Garde” as is listed in the handbook.
- High School Virtuoso Competition – Mary Tollefson, NCTM – The High School Virtuoso Competition will be held on the weekend of October 17-18 at UW-Whitewater. Following the recommendation of WMTA at the November meeting, the HSV Competition has been expanded to applicants in 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades. Points awarded to plaques and financial awards remain the same.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This is only a partial reporting on the June Administrative Council Meeting Minutes. To view the full report, please visit the new WMTA website at **[www. WisconsinMusicTeacherAssociation.com](http://www.WisconsinMusicTeacherAssociation.com)**. From this site, you will also be able to view the Executive Board Meeting Minutes and the May Badger Keyboard Photos.

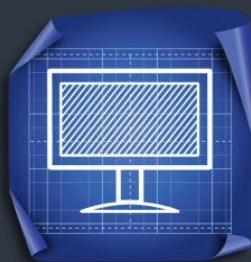
CENTRAL OFFICE

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Have You



Heard?

WMTA is getting a new
website. Check it out
by visiting:

**[www.Wisconsin
MusicTeachers.com](http://www.WisconsinMusicTeachers.com)**

Continued updates, news
and information will be
added over the next
several months.



**Wisconsin Music
Teachers Association**
Part of MTNA

Advertise Here

The WMTA Newsletter is published four times a year during the months of February, May, August and December. The deadline for sending submissions is the 1st of the month before the issue publishes. Please contact our central office to learn more about the requirements and opportunities for advertising in this and other WMTA publications.

Full Page Ad (8.5" x 11") \$100 (Aug. Issue \$150)

Half Page Ad (8.5 x 5.5") \$50 (Aug. Issue \$75)

Quarter Page Ad (4.25" x 5.5") \$25 (Aug. Issue \$35)

Eighth Page Ad (4.25" x 2.75") \$15 (Aug. Issue \$25)

Member Submissions

All WMTA members may submit relevant announcements or articles to be published in the newsletter. All submissions should be submitted 2 to 4 weeks in advance and must be received by the 15th day of the month prior to issue date or they will not be included and are subject to space availability. All August newsletter submissions must be received by the 1st of July.

To propose information, please email the central office with potential text and pictures. All text should be concise and edited for content, spelling and grammar. Photos should be clear, high resolution and ready for publication. All content is subject to approval before it can be included.