

# WMTA NEWSLETTER

February 2015



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## Calendar of Events

- **March 21, 2015**  
Badger Collegiate Performance Competition
- **March (Variable Dates)**  
District Auditions
- **March 21-25, 2015**  
MTNA National Conference
- **April 15th**  
May Newsletter Submission Deadline
- **May 17, 2015**  
Badger Keyboard Competition (UW-Oshkosh, UW-Eau Claire and UW-Parkside)
- **May 17, 2015**  
Badger Vocal/Instrumental at UW-Oshkosh
- **June 5, 2015**  
WMTA Executive Board and Administrative Council Meeting in Waunakee
- **October 23-24, 2015**  
WMTA Conference

## Letter From The President

I recently finished reading a book by Susan Cain entitled "Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking." If you have time for extra reading this winter, I highly recommend the book. Everyone has at least some aspect of introversion in our lives, whether it is through ourselves, family members, friends or students.

Cain begins by looking at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and how US society shifted from being a "Culture of Character" to a "Culture of Personality," thus making it more important to have strong self-presentation skills. Being introverted took on a negative aspect, leading to, among other things, an increased use of anti-depressants.

Cain continues by looking at leadership, creativity, biology, nature and so much more as it relates to introverts and, by default, extroverts. She cites many studies throughout the book, including one study (chapter 4, page 99) that looked at a group of five hundred four-month old infants, following up again at the ages of two, four, seven and eleven. The study looked at high-reactive and low-reactive infants and how initial reactions played out over many years. High-reactive infants, those who reacted quickly and strongly to stimuli, were found to be more sensitive later in life. Low-reactive infants were found to be mellower later in life. A great study and worth reading in the book.

There were two ways in which I found the book to be particularly fascinating. In an organization such as WMTA, our membership consists of people who fall all along the introvert-extrovert spectrum. As we look to create successful state board or local association leadership, individual strengths need to be taken into account. If we can recognize our own skills and then identify particular skills in other people, our organizations can continue to thrive and grow. And within the organization, individuals can know how they contribute most effectively.

The second direct application from the book is in my studio. As with all of our studios, the personalities of my students are far-ranging. Whether in a private lesson, group lesson, audition, recital or practice session, we as teachers need to adapt to the individual needs of our students. An introverted student may thrive in a private practice session but flounder in a performance. An extroverted student may blossom on stage but find independent practice un-stimulating.

Do you have a book that you found to be particularly illuminating for your teaching or personal music journey? Share it in our next state newsletter. Submissions need to be sent to our central office by April 15.

Happy reading!

*Catherine S. Walby*

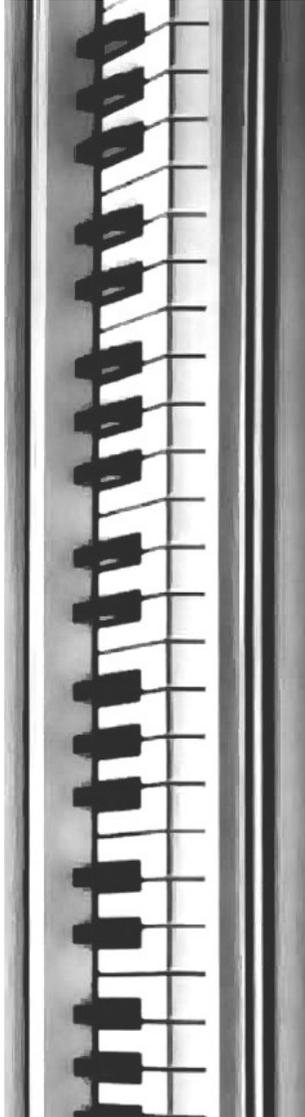
Catherine Walby, NCTM  
WMTA President



## Wisconsin Music Teachers Association

Part of MTNA





## Executive Board

**PRESIDENT:**

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**PRESIDENT ELECT:**

Nicholas Phillips, NCTM phillins@uwec.edu

**PAST-PRESIDENT:**

Gail Heywood, NCTM gailheywood0@gmail.com

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Gail Heywood, NCTM gailheywood0@gmail.com

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**MTNA SR. COMPETITIONS:** Arthur Johnson, NCTM johnsonat@lakeland.edu

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**TECHNOLOGY:** Luke Talen luketalen@me.com

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

**WEBMASTER:** Elisabeth Daniels webmaster@wmta.net

# 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 16 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.

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".

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

## Welcome to Our Newest Members

Steve Carmichael\*

Sarah DiPiazza \*

Susan McCardell

Cathleen Seipel

Meg Mittelstadt\*

Morgan Welch\*

Johanna Schilling

Bethany Stiles

Kristina St. Clair

\*Denotes Collegiate Member

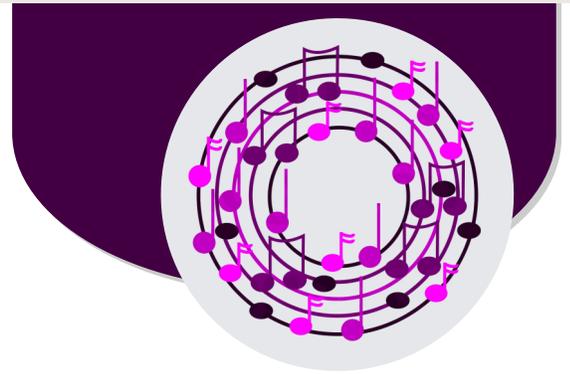


Have You Moved?

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

[www.MTNA.org](http://www.MTNA.org)

# Local Associations



**CVMTA—Chippewa Valley Music Teachers Association**

**PRESIDENT:** Sue Seeger    [smpiano88\\_keys@yahoo.com](mailto:smpiano88_keys@yahoo.com)

**FVMTA—Fox Valley Music Teachers Association**

**PRESIDENT:** Lisa Lawrence    [lawrence.lisa1@gmail.com](mailto:lawrence.lisa1@gmail.com)

**GMC WMTA—Greater Milwaukee Chapter Music Teachers Association**

**PRESIDENT:** Betsy Hegwood    [betsy\\_hegwood@yahoo.com](mailto:betsy_hegwood@yahoo.com)

**KMTA—Kenosha Music Teachers Association**

**PRESIDENT:** Patricia Callahan-Schmidt    [pcallahanschmidt@yahoo.com](mailto:pcallahanschmidt@yahoo.com)

**LAMTA—La Crosse Area Music Teachers Association**

**PRESIDENT:** Lisa Freedlund    [lisafreedlund@yahoo.com](mailto:lisafreedlund@yahoo.com)

**MAMTA—Marshfield Area Music Teachers Association**

**PRESIDENT:** Gigi Plautz, MA    [gigiplautz@charter.net](mailto:gigiplautz@charter.net)

**MMTA—Michibago Music Teachers Association**

**PRESIDENT:** Arthur Johnson    [johnsonat@lakeland.edu](mailto:johnsonat@lakeland.edu)

**OAMTA—Oshkosh Area Music Teachers Association**

**PRESIDENT:** Madison McCarney    [madison.mccarney@gmail.com](mailto:madison.mccarney@gmail.com)

**RRMTA—Rock River Music Teachers Association**

**PRESIDENT:** Julie Hildebrandt    [davidh53@frontier.com](mailto:davidh53@frontier.com)

**SAMTA—Superior Area Music Teachers Association**

**PRESIDENT:** Roberta Grube    [/grube4@centurytel.net](mailto:/grube4@centurytel.net)

**SCVMTA— St. Croix Valley Music Teachers Association**

**PRESIDENT:** Mary Anne Olvera    [maolvera@baldwin-telecom.net](mailto:maolvera@baldwin-telecom.net)

**SPAMTA—Stevens Point Area Music Teachers Association**

**PRESIDENT:** Gail Heywood    [gailheywood0@gmail.com](mailto:gailheywood0@gmail.com)

**WAMTA—Wausau Area Music Teachers Association**

**PRESIDENT:** Kristine Koppela    [koppela@charter.net](mailto:koppela@charter.net)

# Membership Update

The November 2014 MTNA report shows Wisconsin membership up 1.57% from a year ago (454 from 447). Not great, but at least on the positive side. Remember that at the MTNA Conference in Las Vegas, all states who have a positive net membership by the end of February will be recognized. The awards will be made at the Annual Meeting, and it would be great if Catherine could bring back the award for Wisconsin! What can you do to help us attain this?

The following is by Suzanne Torkelson, NCTM, Director of West Central Division who asked for this to be shared: *Happy New Year! As we hear those words, we are reminded of the new start the year promises and can perhaps also use this reminder to think of ways we can help new teachers get started right by joining MTNA.*

*As we start this new year of 2015, make it YOUR resolution to identify teachers who don't need to wait until July to reap the full benefits of MTNA membership. With the six-month membership, they can start right away!*

*For the many teachers who plan their instructional year to coincide with the public school or collegiate academic year, MTNA membership from July to July makes sense. But MTNA also has membership plans that meet the needs of teachers with other "new years." Collegiate memberships span from October through September, recognizing that chapters organize according to the academic year. The six-month national membership allows new members to join MTNA and many of its state affiliates in January, giving them a half-price introduction to all that MTNA has to offer!*

*And what DOES this organization have to offer new members? Forbes cites overwhelming evidence for the importance of the professional organization to the newcomer in a field. Imagine starting out in a new career or in a new location with the opportunity to sit in a room where everyone is employed in your field of interest! Imagine finding a group of like-minded colleagues whose strategic plan includes the vital goals of engaging the public through music making and study, sustaining the music teaching profession through networking and continuing education, and inspiring and supporting the member through programs and services. Imagine finding this professional resource in a national staff, who respond personally to questions from the membership; imagine division and state leaders, who work tirelessly to promote educational and networking opportunities; and imagine local leaders and colleagues who welcome newcomers to programs and student opportunities.*

*Are there teachers new to your community who have attended programs or shown interest in the student activities your state or local association offers? Are there young professionals who are interested in establishing a studio nearby? Are there non-member teachers who would welcome the invitation to attend a local program or the state or national conference? Are there teachers who changed from another career who might be searching for certification of their professional expertise? Are there college graduates who have moved to your location with an interest in networking or mentorship?*

Perhaps these are the teachers who would be interested in the six-month membership as a means to experience full MTNA membership benefits.

Be sure to point out the following benefit to potential new members (and look it up for yourself as well!): Check out MTNA's publications, available online. Titles you might need at this time of year include:

- *A Brief Tax Guide for the Independent Music Teacher*
- *Making the Connection: A Guide for Talking with Parents and Students*
- *Assessment Tools for the Independent Music Teacher*

Local Association Presidents will receive occasional updates on membership ideas as I get them. Let's make this a great year for WMTA!

With you in "Hands and Voices Shaping the Future," Arlyss Troge, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP-Membership

# 2015 District Auditions

## *Quick Tips for using OVATION to register students*

Have your MTNA membership number handy.

Go to: [www.ovation.wmta.net](http://www.ovation.wmta.net)

Log in: your user name is the first initial of your first name followed by your last name, all one word lower-case, no spaces. Example: rschuman (for Rita Schuman). Your password is your MTNA number.

IF you cannot log in: you might not have renewed your dues before October 15, OR you are a new member and are not activated yet. For either scenario, contact Rita Schuman ([tschoo@centurytel.net](mailto:tschoo@centurytel.net)) for assistance.

After you have logged in, review the “Teacher/Judge User Guide” that can be found on the “Help” page on the upper right hand side of the main menu screen.

Summary of what to do first when you are in OVATION. 1. Manage your contact information. 2. Manage your students information. 3. Have a list of the pieces your students will be performing so you can check if the pieces are already listed in the repertoire database. If a piece is not in the database, you will need to add it BEFORE you register your students for the audition.

Register your students following the steps outlined in the User Guide.

After you have registered your students, look under “Tools” on the main menu screen, you can access a “Teacher Fee Summary” report. Print this out and write one check to WMTA for the total of your students entry fees. Send the “Teacher Fee Summary” sheet and the entry fee check in the old-fashioned postal mail to your district chairperson. The addresses for district chairs are on the “help” page under Resources. *(At this time, you cannot pay entry fees online.)*

Watch for notifications from your district chair with updates and scheduling information.

At any time, email me with questions or concerns.

Rita Schuman, WMTA State Chair for District Auditions  
[tschoo@centurytel.net](mailto:tschoo@centurytel.net)

# 2015 District Auditions

DISTRICT	SITE	DATE	DEADLINE	CHAIR	EMAIL and PHONE
Appleton	Lawrence University	3/21/15	2/7/15	Catherine Walby	<a href="mailto:catherine.walby@lawrence.edu">catherine.walby@lawrence.edu</a> 920-751-0034
Eau Claire	UW-Eau Claire	3/7/15	2/6/15	Sandra Statz	<a href="mailto:sandra@statzmusic.com">sandra@statzmusic.com</a> 715-835-1954
Kenosha	UW-Parkside	3/28/15	2/27/15	Joan Davies	<a href="mailto:jmdavies@earthlink.net">jmdavies@earthlink.net</a> 262-605-0575
La Crosse	Viterbo University	3/28/15	2/27/15	Rita Schuman	<a href="mailto:tschoo@centurytel.net">tschoo@centurytel.net</a> 608-792-6908
Madison	UW-Madison, Humanities	3/8/15 (Sunday)	2/9/15	Emily Schultz	<a href="mailto:emilyspianostudio@gmail.com">emilyspianostudio@gmail.com</a> 608-345-1134
Merrill	Our Savior's Lutheran	3/21/15	2/14/15	Katie Livingston	<a href="mailto:katzpianostudio@msn.com">katzpianostudio@msn.com</a> 715-536-4054, 715-218-6894
Oshkosh	UW-Oshkosh	3/7/15	2/7/15	Carmen Shaw	<a href="mailto:wsps@new.rr.com">wsps@new.rr.com</a> 920-233-6943
River Falls	UW-River Falls	3/21/15	2/18/15	Deanna Roen	<a href="mailto:kroen@centurytel.net">kroen@centurytel.net</a> 715-262-5904
Sheboygan, West Bend	Lakeland College	3/7/15	2/7/15	Beverly M. and Marlene W.	<a href="mailto:bevbeemark@gmail.com">bevbeemark@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:studio_543@yahoo.com">studio_543@yahoo.com</a> 920-457-2522
Stevens Point	UW-Stevens Point	3/14/15	2/7/15	Mary Lou H. and Ann Marie N.	<a href="mailto:mhofer@uwsp.edu">mhofer@uwsp.edu</a> <a href="mailto:anovak@uwsp.edu">anovak@uwsp.edu</a> 715-345-2851
Superior	UW-Superior	3/8/15 (Sunday)	2/9/15	Roberta Grube	<a href="mailto:grube4@centurytel.net">grube4@centurytel.net</a> 715-364-2537
Waukesha, Milwaukee	WI Lutheran College	3/14/15	2/21/15	Elena Petrova	<a href="mailto:elena8704@yahoo.com">elena8704@yahoo.com</a>
Wausau	Wausau Conservatory	3/14/15	2/21/15	Mona Grote	<a href="mailto:monagrote@yahoo.com">monagrote@yahoo.com</a> 715-432-1728
Whitewater	UW-Whitewater	3/21/15	2/7/15	Melodie H. and Mary W.	<a href="mailto:larisacollies@centurytel.net">larisacollies@centurytel.net</a> <a href="mailto:marakey88@yahoo.com">marakey88@yahoo.com</a> 262-594-2476

Please feel free to call or email your district chair if you have any questions about 2015 District Auditions. Locations, dates and Chair contact information can all be found above.

# News and Updates

## Seeking Passionate People

What are you passionate about? Do you enjoy chamber music? Are you invested in your health and the health of your students as musicians and people? Do you have great ideas for the WMTA annual state conference? Do you want the arts to thrive in your community and our state? If you answered yes to any of these questions, keep reading!

Please contact Catherine Walby, WMTA state president, if you are interested in chairing the Arts Awareness and Advocacy Forum, Collaborative Performance Forum or the Wellness Forum. If you enjoy working with others to create a great state conference, contact her as well as we are in need of additional Conference Planning Committee members. Contacting Catherine does not commit you to any position so don't let that stop you from voicing your interest. She looks forward to hearing from you!

[Catherine.walby@lawrence.edu](mailto:Catherine.walby@lawrence.edu)

## Tsitsaros chosen as MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year

*Nicholas Phillips*  
*WMTA Commissioned Composer Chair*

I am especially excited to share the news that *Three Preludes: A Mythical Triptych for Solo Piano*, written by Christos Tsitsaros and commissioned by the Wisconsin Music Teachers Association, was chosen out of all submissions from state associations for recognition of the "MTNA Distinguished Composer 2014" award.



Dr. Tsitsaros, who gave the premiere performance at our 2014 State Conference in Stevens Point, will play the work, along with other compositions of his, as part of a special session at the MTNA National Conference in Las Vegas. For those attending the conference, the performance will be from 11:00am-12:00pm on March 22 in the Miranda 1 room at the Rio Hotel. This is a great honor for Dr. Tsitsaros, and a wonderful recognition for WMTA!

*Three Preludes* has been published by Hal Leonard and is available for purchase from music retailers.

# IMTF News

From State IMTF Chairperson – Sandy Ryan

It's an exciting time to be a member of MTNA/WMTA and *Your Local Association!* Technology has opened many accessibility doors recently. Just about anyone who wants to use current technology can finally get the circulation back into their legs. The long hours of sitting and trying to figure out how to navigate the digital world are getting shorter as we learn vocabulary, etc. and just plain know where and how to access help from someone. One of my 5-year-old students thinks she can work my computer for me and help me out. She can't read yet, but does know her alphabet. Gotta love youthful fearlessness!

MTNA has stepped up the value of membership, in my opinion. There are discounts, insurance coverage – both health and business, quality resources for students and parents, accessible staff personnel and powerful professional guidance. This is online! At our fingertips and late at night!

WMTA is hard-pressed to keep up, but our new website is coming along, not to mention OVATION! We should be proud of our leaders' response to the concerns voiced regarding available information. It wasn't long ago that dwindling membership and lack of face time with the loyal die-hards, lead to poor communication, thereby impeding the process of recruiting new members. "Who wants" to go to another meeting?" or "Why do I need another magazine to read?" were common questions. We can now keep up via email, social media, e-newsletters, mobile texting, virtual media, selfies, etc. It just seems to be a matter of getting a good connection. Since this is a lucrative industry, there are a plethora of providers to choose from, as well as people or entities we are affiliated with, such as schools, churches, our family or employers.

Personally, I still use my handwriting skills and like to see ink on paper. I'm rather proud of my cursive and I feel really good when the CSR at my bank, 20 years my junior, compliments me on it. But I refuse to waste my time on the anxiety of coping with change and choose to consider the use of digital innovation as welcome solutions to old problems. Some electronic processes are challenging, but many are making professional and profitable life in the pedagogy biz much easier.

## PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT LINE



MTNA provides free counsel for members.

Contact the MTNA National Headquarters with any business or pedagogical questions.

**(888) 512-5278**

**-or-**

**professional**  
**support@mtna.org**

They will gladly assist you in areas such as business plans, contracts, copyright concerns, legal standards, property acquisition, zoning laws, partnerships, grants, acoustic building standards, ASCAP matters, certification, teacher development, group affiliations, music supplies, equipment purchasing, lesson plans, customer fees, health insurance and teacher networking.

# Composition Competition Results

On behalf of Music Teachers National Association, I would like to congratulate all of the finalists in this year's Composition Competition. Music Teachers National Association is pleased to announce the final results of the national competition.

## **Elementary:**

Winner: Nathan Paek, Student of Sharon Van Valin, WA, Northwest

Second Place: Aliya Alsafa, Student of Matthew Hagle, IL, East Central

## **Junior:**

Winner: Harlan Tsui, Student of Su-Shing Chiu, CA, Southwest

Second Place: Anna Larsen, Student of Martin Boykan, MA, Eastern

## **Senior:**

Winner: Julie Puckett, Student of Nien-hwa Chen, IN, East Central

Second Place: Luka Marinkovic, Student of Jeannine Morrison, GA, Southern

## **Young Artist:**

Winner: Eric McElroy, Student of Patricia McElroy, WA, Northwest

Second Place: Charles Iskander, Student of William Price, OK, South Central

## **This year, the national judges were:**

Melody Bober, Detroit Lakes, MN

Joshua Fishbein, Rockville, MD

Marilyn Shrude, Bowling Green, OH

## **MTNA is pleased to offer the following monetary awards:**

Awards made possible by Morty and Iris Manus.

Elementary Winner: \$500

Elementary Second Place: \$250

Teacher of Winner: \$200

Awards made possible by Morty and Iris Manus.

Junior Winner: \$1,000

Junior Second Place: \$500

Teacher of Winner: \$200

Awards made possible by the MTNA Foundation Fund

Senior Winner: \$2,000

Senior Second Place: \$1,000

Teacher of Winner: \$200

Awards made possible by the MTNA Foundation Fund

Young Artist Winner: \$3,000

Young Artist Second Place: \$1,500

Teacher of Winner: \$200

All winning compositions must be performed at the MTNA National Conference March 21–25, 2015, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Only the national first-place winners will have their compositions performed at the National Conference. If the first-place winner is unable to attend the National Conference and arrange for a live performance of their composition:

- a. The first-place ranking will be retained, but cash awards for student and teacher will be forfeited and
- b. The second-place winner will be given the opportunity to attend the National Conference and have their composition performed.

If the second-place winner accepts this opportunity:

- a. The student will receive the first-place cash award in lieu of the second-place cash award and
- b. That student's teacher will receive the first-place teacher award.

Each national finalist will receive one complimentary copy of the Commemorative Competition Program Book in which you are recognized. Additional books may be purchased by using the [online form](#).

Congratulations again to all of the finalists! You should be very proud of your accomplishment. We hope that the comments you receive from the judges will be helpful to you and your teacher. Your efforts are to be commended and we hope that you will continue to learn and grow as a composer. Good luck with your musical studies!

Christopher Goldston, National Composition Coordinator  
[goldston@hotmail.com](mailto:goldston@hotmail.com), [\(773\) 580-7301](tel:(773)580-7301)

## Longtime Benefits from Early Music Lessons

Article written by Egypt Eve

<http://www.egeve.com/en/kids/618-Longtime-Benefits-from-Early-Music-Lessons.html>

Music lessons in childhood may result in changes in the brain that persist for life. When children learn to play a musical instrument, they acquire a range of auditory skills. Many studies show that these benefits extend all through life, at least for those who continue to be engaged with music.

However, the first study to prove that music lessons in childhood may result in changes in the brain that persist years after the lessons have stopped was published last month.

Researchers at Northwestern University in the U.S. recorded the electrical brain waves of college students in response to complex sounds. The group of students with musical training in childhood had better responses since their brains were better able to pick out essential elements in the complex sounds when they were tested. And this was true even for people who had stopped with their lessons years ago.

Scientists are trying to understand the connections between music lessons in childhood and language-based learning. Recent studies indicate that learning to play an instrument may have some unexpected benefits.

These studies focus on the effects of active engagement and discipline. This kind of musical training improves the brain's ability to pick out the components of sound.

Professor Nina Kraus, director of the Auditory Neuroscience Laboratory at Northwestern University says that all the things you need to learn to read can be strengthened with active engagement in playing a musical instrument.

Moreover, the skill of understanding the subtle qualities of sound, even against a complicated and noisy background, is important for an elderly person suffering from hearing loss.

A study of those who do keep playing showed that as musicians age, they experience the same decline in peripheral hearing as nonmusicians. Older musicians, however, preserve the central auditory processing skills that can help you understand speech against the background of a noisy environment.

According to Dr. Claude Alain, assistant director of the Rotman Research Institute in Toronto and one of the authors of the study, the older adults who are musically trained perform better on speech in noise tests.

Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, are approaching the soundscape from a different point of view. They are studying the genetics of the absolute pitch or the ability to identify any tone. Dr. Jane Gitschier, a professor of medicine and pediatrics who leads the study there, and her colleagues are trying to understand both the genetics and the effects of early training.



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

She said her team is trying to find out what are the variants in people's genomes that could predispose an individual to have absolute pitch. As a matter of fact, almost everyone who is having truly absolute pitch turns out to have had musical training in childhood.

Alexandra Parbery-Clark is a doctoral candidate in Dr. Kraus's lab and one of the authors of a paper published this year on auditory working memory and music. She said that her desire to go back to graduate school and study the brain resulted from teaching at a French school for musically talented children, and observing the ways that musical training affected other kinds of learning. According to her, if you get a kid who is maybe 3 or 4 years old and you're teaching them to attend, they're developing not only their auditory skills but also their attention skills and their memory skills.

Now Ms. Parbery-Clark and her colleagues can observe recordings of the brain's electrical detection of sounds, and they can see that the musically trained brains are producing different — and stronger — responses.

Actually, many of the researchers in this area are themselves musicians interested in the plasticity of the brain and the effects of musical education on brain waves, which reflect the stimulus sounds.

Researchers admit that it is fascinating to learn what the brain can do, and to puzzle out the many effects of the combination of stimulation, application, practice and auditory exercise that musical education has. However, they all say that there is not one best way to apply these findings. Families should find what instrument, teaching method, and regimen appeal to the individual child, since this should be about pleasure and mastery. Also, parents need to care about music, not just use it as a therapeutic tool. Music is great and parents should let their children enjoy it for what it really is, instead of using it as a cognitive skills improvement tool.



**Save the Date**

**The 2015 Conference will be October 23-24.  
Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.**

**Concert guest artist will be  
Van Cliburn Silver Medalist, Panayis Lyras.**



# WMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Via Phone Teleconference, February 6, 2015 – 10:00am

In attendance: Catherine Walby, Bethany Hartlaub, Nancy Burman, Lisa Zwiefelhofer, Rita Schuman, Drea Wagner, Gail Heywood, Kayme Henkel, Owen Lovell, Sandra Ryan, Nicholas Philips, Arlyss Troge, Rachel Fritz, and Katie Butler.

**Call to Order** – By President, Catherine Walby at 10:03am

**Adoption of the Agenda** – Motion Rachel Fritz, second Owen Lovell.

**Approval of Minutes** – Approved by consensus.

## Officer Reports

**President – Catherine Walby, NCTM** – Appointments: Michael Mizrahi, Composer Commissioning; Ashley Hanke, MTNA Young Artist and MTNA Chamber Music competitions; Arthur Johnson, MTNA Senior Competitions; Christine Groth, MTNA Competitions coordinator; Bethany Hartlaub, MTNA Junior Competitions and High School Virtuoso. Vacancies: Arts Awareness and Advocacy. An ad for the open position, plus two other possible positions (Wellness Forum and Collaborative Performance Forum) will be placed in the newsletter. Catherine explained the policy for member email lists and the importance of our continual compliance with MTNA guidelines to protect the members contact information. MTNA offices in Cincinnati moved; see the MTNA website for the new address.

**President Elect – Nicholas Phillips, NCTM** – No Report. He is being cc'ed on many emails from the president. Please reply all whenever possible to keep him in the loop.

**Immediate Past President – Gail Heywood, NCTM** – No Report

**1<sup>st</sup> VP-Conference – Gail Heywood, NCTM** – Gail reviewed the comments from the 2014 conference. The 2015 conference theme will be “Embark on Excellence”. Discussion was made about exhibitors, inviting the MTNA president for this year (full support for this) and the options of breakout sessions. The extra cost of the breakout session is in a second piano rental. The board agreed that this would be an appropriate expense. Regarding the exhibitors, only offering one day for exhibitors makes it easier to obtain companies to exhibit. It was decided that the exhibit hall would open on Friday. The board also discussed what the members would like and how the finances work for conference. The consensus is that, while the conference is a worthwhile expense, we need to try to break even as much as possible, expecting that there may be some fluctuation from year to year.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP-Membership – Arlyss Troge** – The November MTNA report shows 20,049 members. WMTA membership stands at 454. Arlyss is sending physical copies of the newsletter to members without email addresses.

**Treasurer – Rachel Fritz** – Current assets in the checking account are \$214.85, the money market account is \$20,575.35 and the CD is \$133,129.08. The 990 was submitted on time to the IRS. 1099-MISC forms were mailed to all applicable vendors in January. The financial committee has just finished a conflict of interest document and will be working on the whistle blower, conference contract procedures and monthly reviews of financials. Rachel also reviewed expenses for the past couple conferences and the board discussed the continual financial deficit from the event compared to the importance of supporting a good event. The finance committee consists of Catherine Walby, Nicholas Philips, Rachel Fritz and Rita Schuman. They will have a report for the June board meeting.

## Program Chair Reports

**Arts Awareness and Advocacy – Vacant – No Report**

**Badger Collegiate Competition – Drea Wagner, NCTM** – The 2015 Badger Collegiate Performance Competition will be held on Saturday, March 21 at Lawrence University. The postmark deadline for applications is February 21. Owen Lovell will be the adjudicator. Rules, entry form, and more information are available at <http://www.wisconsinmusicteachers.com/student-events/badger-collegiate>.

**Badger Vocal/Instrumental Competition – Nancy Burman, NCTM** – The Badger V/I competition will take place on May 16, 2015 at UW-Oshkosh in conjunction with the piano competition. Entry forms are due into Ovation with payment postmarked by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. The Ovation program will become easier as we develop a permanent data base. Teachers will only need to mail their summary sheet and payment to Badger VI Chair, Nancy Burman, by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Badger Keyboard Competition – Kayme Henkel, NCTM** – All sites will be taking place on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Sites are UW-Parkside, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Eau-Claire. Duets will be at UW-Eau Claire. Freeze date for all entries is April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**College Faculty Representative – Owen Lovell, NCTM** – Saturday afternoon of our 2014 state conference featured a roundtable discussion and mini-presentations on the topic of “Current Trends and Research in Piano Pedagogy”. Attendees were treated to an incredibly diverse range of topics and findings from undergraduate and graduate Wisconsin college students (and their cooperating faculty members), followed by questions and commentary from other experienced WMTA members. This event was well-attended, and we had many requests to present this format and topic area for next year’s state conference with a new group of students sharing their research. Regarding collegiate participation, more students may attend if the conference fee is less expensive. The Conference committee will discuss application of this for 2015.

**District Auditions – Rita Schuman, NCTM** – Anything and everything related to the subject of WMTA auditions for 2015 can be summed up in one word: OVATION! Thanks to Suzanne Fauser and her technology team for getting the program launched for all districts. Thanks also to Emily Schultz, district chair in Madison, who has spent many hours overseeing the clean-up process for the compositions that are in the Ovation database. We will be posting “How To” information in the current and upcoming newsletters.

**High School Virtuoso Competition – Bethany Hartlaub** – This year’s High School Virtuoso Competition will be held concurrently with the MTNA competitions. We are working to have it held at UW-Eau Claire either the weekend of October 9-10 or 16-17, depending on facility and faculty availability.

**Independent Music Teachers Forum – Sandra Ryan** – Since the state conference, Sandra has been communicating with the 2015 conference committee for planning purposes. She has recently been researching possible session proposals for the annual IMTF conference session.

**Local Associations – Lisa Zwiefelhofer, NCTM** – Since the state conference she has gotten membership lists from each of the 13 local associations, and she cross-referenced those lists against the state membership list. She found that there are more than 150 WMTA members who do not belong to a local association. That’s about one third of our membership. Some states require the members be a part of a local association and some do not. Many of the board members would be in favor of this, but concerns are that some areas do not have an association available. This issue will be discussed further during the next board meeting when more local leadership individuals are present.

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## Standing/Special Committees

**Auditions Computer Project – Rita Schuman, NCTM** – We are close to the initial budget limit for the program, but an ongoing maintenance budget should be put in place for continued support. This will fall under the finance committee.

**Central Office – Katie Butler** – The next newsletter deadline is April 15, 2015 for the May issues.

**Website – Katie Butler** – Changes and updates continue to take place. All regular information updates should be sent to the webmaster, Elisabeth Daniels and large website changes and maintain are still being handled by Katie Butler in the central office.

**Nominating Committee – Rita Schuman, NCTM** – At the close of the 2015 WMTA conference, president-elect, Nick Phillips, will follow Catherine Walby and take over as WMTA president. The next candidates for positions of WMTA treasurer, VP-Membership and VP-Conferences will be determined by July 1 for publication in the newsletter, and then voted on at the 2015 WMTA conference. The board discussed ways to promote further leadership participation from the membership.

**Bylaws/Constitution Revision – Catherine Walby, NCTM** – We will be voting at the 2015 business meeting for a few changes that have taken place regarding revisions. The current committee consists of Catherine Walby, Carmen Shaw, Dorie Petersen, Laura Swenson and Sandra Ryan.

## Old Business-none

Foundation Fellows Gala Funding –The board discussed covering the expense of the Gala for living Foundation Fellows from Wisconsin. A vote was called to cover this expense for 2015. Motioned by Sandra Ryan and seconded by Nick. The vote passed with one individual absent and two abstentions.

## New Business

ECD/MTNA Travel Grants – Catherine Walby, NCTM – We do not need to extend any this year.

2015 Foundation Fellow – Catherine Walby, NCTM – We don't have anybody currently proposed for 2016. The board will discuss this further at the meeting in June. The 2015 Foundation Fellows are Joan Davies (funded by individuals and WMTA) and Howard Karp (funded by individuals).

Membership Retention / Auditions Numbers – Gail Heywood, NCTM – We have had a decline in membership and audition participation which has impacted our finances as an organization. The board discussed the current member and non-member fees of auditions as well as teachers across the state who are not currently members and why they do not participate. As an association we need to review whether we are meeting the needs of the current music teacher. We should continue to encourage college students to become part of a larger organization. The board will discuss further ideas at the Administrative Council meeting in June.

**Announcements** –The next board meeting will take place on Friday, June 5, 2015.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 11:55am.

UW-WHITEWATER

# Music Camps

**Piano Camp: July 12-17**

Register Online: [camps.uww.edu](http://camps.uww.edu)



**Choir Camp: June 14-19**

**String Orchestra Camp: June 21-26**

**Jazz Camp: July 6-11**

**Flute Camp: July 12-17**



**Middle School Band Camp: July 19-24**

**High School Band Camp: July 26-31**

**Percussion Camp: August 2-7**

**Solo Voice Camp: August 2-7**

## **Wanted: Piano Teachers for Let's Play Music Graduates (ages 7-9)**

Let's Play Music is a music theory course that emphasizes total musicianship through piano, playing, singing, classical music, note reading, and ear training... and that's accomplished through play! The Madison area will be graduating at least 20 LPM students this May, and more in coming years. After graduation from Let's Play Music, we want our students moving into a setting that will retain and enhance the skills and concepts learned in Let's Play Music.

Thus, Let's Play Music is partnering with fine private teachers to help 'connect' the transition into a private studio setting. **Connections** piano teachers are not affiliated with Let's Play Music, but are certified in the Let's Play Music method, providing the perfect transition from group classes to private lessons. By working together, we can ensure the best possible transition for our Let's Play Music students.

Learn more about how to become a certified **Connections** teacher at [www.letsplaymusicsite.com](http://www.letsplaymusicsite.com) or contact LPM teacher Ann Cue at [cues@chorus.net](mailto:cues@chorus.net).



let'splaymusic



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## 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

Half Page Ad (8.5 x 5.5") \$50

Quarter Page Ad (4.25" x 5.5") \$25

Eighth Page Ad (4.25" x 2.75") \$15

## 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.



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