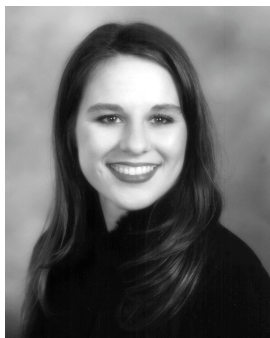




ARIZONA STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association



Ashley Bradford

ASMTA President

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am honored and deeply humbled to have the opportunity to serve ASMTA in this capacity for the coming year. In an effort to work toward the purpose of reaching as many teachers and students as

possible with the benefits of MTNA, national has passed along four focus points that we have been working on in the last year:

1. Work to Increase Membership
2. Work to Increase Certified Teachers
3. Network with MENC and other related organizations
4. Utilize Technology

We have seen incredible progress toward these goals through the visions and hard work of our leaders. Fran Kaspar, Elaine Dyches and Gail Quackenbush have increased certified members by spearheading certification development. Laurie Brown and Genny Rafferty have improved data processing and information exchange through tireless work on technology development. Grace Young and Rod Hendrix have implemented public relations and collaboration projects for increased membership and visibility. Every hard working state and local board member could be mentioned for their important contributions to our progress.

We will continue to execute plans to further achieve success in our four focus points this year, as well as adding a fifth MTNA focus point:

5. Leadership Development

Some of the strategies we implemented last year and will be continuing this year include:

- ASMTA representative in attendance at MENC state convention
- All membership data and statistics digitized for graphing, analysis and reference
- Certification classes offered

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- Certification portfolio created for completion facilitation
- State conference inclusion of varied instrument sessions
- Leadership visits to local associations

New strategies we plan to add to our agenda and implement this year include:

- Digital Archives started
- Leadership Retreat and Development
- Traveling Guest Artist master classes
- "From the Top" taping and airing from Phoenix
- ASMTA advertisements airing on public radio stations around the state
- ASMTA representative at local MENC meetings

What would you like to see us focus on as an organization in the near future? We are here to serve you and are looking forward to considering the points that are important to you. Please e-mail me with your thoughts at Ashley@MastersMusicAcademy.com

I am looking forward to visiting local association meetings again this year and always enjoy spending time with everyone!

Sincerely,

Ashley Bradford

ASMTA President

Dorothy Dungan**Immediate Past President:****Biography of
Marjorie
Gunnell****Honored Teacher
for 2008**

Marjorie Gunnell
began studying piano

in the fourth grade and played in the school orchestra and for Sunday School during her junior high years. Cello was her second instrument in both junior and senior high. Marj attended the University of Oregon where she studied organ and played the cello in the University Symphony Orchestra. Several years later she studied piano at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. After moving to Gilbert, she graduated from Arizona State University with a major in Fine Arts, Music. She earned organ certification from Brigham Young University. Marj studied organ and piano whenever it was possible even while raising three children and moving several times. Marj also studied organ, classical and jazz, with Ken Noble, pedagogy for elementary and intermediate students with N. Jane Tan, and worked on MTNA certification with Fran Kaspar. In 1999, Marj was one of the first recipients of the Janice McCurnin Teacher Enrichment Grants through the Arizona Study Program.

In 1966, Marj joined MTNA and began teaching. Living in Utah at that time, she became a member of the Davis County Music Teachers Association. In 1970 Marj and her family moved to

Oregon where she continued teaching, entered students in events, and was a member of the Oregon Music Teachers Association. Later, in Sacramento, California, she was one of the first members of CAPMT (California Association of Professional Music Teachers), where she entered students in auditions and served as publicity chair.

She then took a short break from teaching for three years to help in a family business. In 1986, Marj joined Central

District and ASMTA. In 1987, the East Valley Music Teachers Association was formed, and she was one of its first members. Marj has held several positions in EVMTA. She was the first treasurer from 1987 to 1989, again from 1991 to 1993, and she is currently serving as treasurer. Marj was Vice President from 1991 to 1993, and in 1995. In 1996 she became the EVMTA President until 1998. She has served ASMTA as associate editor of the MusiGRAM (1989) and as treasurer from 1988 to 1990, and again from 1999 to 2001.

Over the years, Marj has been a great encourager of fellow teachers. In Oregon, she urged a friend to begin teaching piano. The friend is still involved in teaching and has been an officer in the Washington Music Teachers Association. Marj has a former student who is a music teacher in Virginia. In EVMTA, Marj worked with a teacher to help her pass level 12 of the Arizona Study Program. Marj has always encouraged fellow teachers to involve themselves and their students.

As a teacher, Marj has had many students participate in the Arizona Study Program evaluations, EVMTA Piano Ensemble and other EVMTA competitions and activities. Marj's students also have participated in events in many of the other local associations that she was involved in. She also has had several organ students on scholarship through the Central Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Marj has attended many state and MTNA national conferences.

**Arizona State Music
Teachers
Association**Board of Directors**President**

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Pam Allman

College Faculty Chair

Dr. Lisa Zdechlik

Horors Recital Chair

Elaine Dyches

Technology

Jennifer Fox

Local Association Presidents**Cochise**

Charles Gregory Marlowe

East Valley

Paula Dahl

Eastern Arizona

Celeste Innes

Northern Arizona

Chase Coleman

Tucson

Lois Spangenberg

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(Under 2nd VP)**MTNA Foundation Chair**

Janice Holladay

(Under 4th VP)**MusiGRAM Editor - 4th VP Robert Spall****Membership**

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Genny Rafferty

Advertising/eScript

Barbara Harry

Arts Awareness & Advocacy

Gail Chang

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Anna Mae Brunning

Kassandra Jenkins-Weleck 2nd Vice-President : Competitions

The MTNA State Competition will once again be held at Chandler-Gilbert Community College in Chandler on Saturday, November 1st. Volunteers are needed from the Phoenix area (EVMTA or PMTA) for registration, door monitors, and timers. If you are interested in attending that day to listen to competitors or to assist with the competition, please contact Kassandra Jenkins Weleck at kjweleck@gmail.com or 520-219-9348.

The MTNA Southwest Division Competition will be held at the University of Arizona in Tucson Saturday, January 10 & Sunday, January 11, 2009. Competitors will be the winners of their respective state's MTNA State Competition from Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah. Volunteers are needed from all over the state to assist with preparations, registration, information, door monitors, timers, local resources, and more. Teachers and students are welcome to attend; dates and times of competitions will be available after December 1, 2008. Please contact Kassandra Jenkins Weleck at kjweleck@gmail.com or 520-219-9348 for more information regarding volunteering for the Division Competition.

Honors Recital Chair Report

The 2008 Honors Recital finals were held on Friday, May 30 at Chandler-Gilbert Community College. All finalists were pianists. Medalists with Distinction and Medalists from each category were given the opportunity to perform at the ASMTA Conference at the Grace Inn that afternoon as well as certificates of merit, a medal, and cash prizes. Winners are listed below:

Primary

Medalist

Eirene Ding (student of Natalya Thran)

Grace Xu (student of Natalya Thran)

Honorable Mention

Sophia Lewandrowski (student of Ji-Sun Lee)

Madeleine Zheng (student of June Chow-Tyne)

Elementary I

Medalist with Distinction

Alexander Fan (student of Hong Zhu)

Medalist

Rena Han (student of Judith Sandoval-Ferg)

Honorable Mention

Lucy Bittner (student of Ji-Sun Lee)

Elementary II

Medalist with Distinction

Amy Hong (student of Hong Zhu)

Eric Lin (student of Hong Zhu)

Medalist

Benson Chyr (student of June Chow-Tyne)

Michelle Jiang (student of Judith Sandoval-Ferg)

Honorable Mention

Maggie Zheng (student of June Chow-Tyne)

Intermediate I

Medalist with Distinction

Joey Chang (student of Tehling Chiang)

Medalist

Alex Chen (student of Rosmary Stelmach)

Jesse Chyr (student of June Chow-Tyne)

Amber Watson (student of Judith Sandoval-Ferg)

Honorable Mention

Scott Sun (student of Aemilia Teguh)

Chantel Udall (student of Gail Fischler)

Intermediate II

Medalist with Distinction

John Octavian Dobos (student of Baruch Meir)

Medalist

Timothy Lee (student of Baruch Meir)

Evan Pensis (student of Jelena Vladikovic)

Honorable Mention

Sierra Fung (student of June Chow-Tyne)

Advanced

Medalist with Distinction

Cecilia Chou (student of Baruch Meir)

Medalist

Graam Liu (student of Jelena Vladikovic)

Honorable Mention

Melody Zhang (student of Gail Fischler)

Judges for the event were: Mandarin Cheung-Yueh, Chase Coleman, Fran Kaspar, Tarina Kim, Lahni Lew, Mandy McDevitt-Bopp, Lynn Moser, Christina Novak, and Ed Wolfe.

A big thanks to all the volunteers that made this event possible! Thank you also to the 2008 Honors Recital committee for all their assistance and guidance: Irene Kuniski, Chyleen Lauritzen, Barbara Spoelman, and Rosmary Stelmach.

The 2009 Honors Recital will be held again in May/June 2009. Dates are to be determined once the ASMTA Conference schedule has been set. Please check the winter newsletter for more information!

Kassandra Jenkins Weleck

2nd Vice President, Arizona State Music Teachers Association

Chair, James R. Anthony Honors Recital

Chair, MTNA Southwest Division Composition Competition

Lara Holt 3rd Vice President :

Conference Chair

Natalya Shkoda has agreed to be the Concert Artist for the 2009 Conference as well as teach a Master Class and a class on the Russian Piano School. Other potential Clinicians that we are in contact with are William Westney and Gail Smith, Kyono Bernier, Terrance Rust, and others. We still need to determine the National Rep.

The location has yet to be determined although we have an event planner who is working on this for us (at no cost to us). We will hopefully have the location set within a few weeks.

The date of the conference will be the last weekend in May. May 28-30, 2009.

We would like each area to get a representative for us who will be able to collect raffle prizes from their locations and bring them to the conference. This will help us to make sure the prizes are state-wide and varied. More details will be given to the reps.

Registration is in the process of working out the bugs for online registration, although registration by mail will be available as well for those who do not have access to the internet.

Stephanie Koogler is our registration chair and has done an amazing job!

Arizona Study Program

Welcome back to yet another whirlwind year of music teaching! The ASP has been hard at work all summer rewriting theory workbooks. At this time we have completed levels 1-8. The changes in levels 1-6 (also rewritten last year) are cosmetic, and include more bass clef, clarification of the whole measure rest, and the dropping of the upper case "M" and lower case "m" to name major and minor keys and triads. The use of an upper or lower case letter (such as "G" or "g") is sufficient. While the addition of "M" or "m" is not wrong, it is not required.

Levels 7 and 8 are now complete, and 9-12 should be finished sometime in September. We know it is difficult for teachers to be waiting for these books, but we are in hopes that you will find the new books worth the delay. It took us almost 10 years to complete the 1998 edition, and only 2 or 3 for the 2008 version. By the time you read this, all books should be available. The 2009 testing will be completely based on the 2008 edition of the workbooks.

We have given four Arnold Bullock Memorial Scholarships this year, to students who graduated from ASP and went on to major in music. These four students (and their former teachers) are Garrett McDaniel (Annie Center), David Roman (Jan Thompson and Fran Kaspar), Jenica Soelberg (Barb Spoelman), and Sarah Rowley (Fran Kaspar).

Congratulations are also in order for the seniors who completed level 12 last year and received the James Anthony Award for their achievement. The students (and their teachers) are:

East Valley MTA -Brooke Hendrix (Ashley Bradford), Rosie Highsmith (Sheryl Johnson), Michael Ryan (Kirk Taylor), Devaun Sheppard (Gina Dastup), Mitchell Turbenon (Natalya Shkoda), Hanah Vutipadadorn (Manuella Pagano), Ben Waggoner (Pam Allman), Rebekah Yang (Paula Dahl);

Phoenix MTA - Cherie Bates (Dorothy Dungan), Vivian Chyan (Irene Kuniski), Sean Colonna (Larry Clapp), Kate Larsen (Eleanor Johnson), Kristen Liang (Barbara Stoutenburgh), Georgia Lincoln (Sharon Stevens), Lauren Meiss (Sherry

Lenich), Sara Mohkami (Sharon Stevens), Greg Peairs (Rosemary Stelmach), Mengyuan Qiu (Barbara Stoutenburgh), Sam Russell (Rosemary Stelmach), Steven Schaefer (Sharon Stevens), Madalyn Suiter (Sharon Stevens), Allison Villa (Dorothy Dungan), Kevin Yang (Irene Kuniski);

Tucson MTA - Ricky Price (Lynn Moser), James Patterson (Alexander Tentser), Jessica Hung (Gloria Ritt), Julia Vyborny (Helen Jones), Tyler Kobylinski (Cecilia Whitby), Cynthia Lee (June Chow-Tyne), Alice Cai (June Chow-Tyne).

The non-seniors finishing level 12 are also to be congratulated. They are

East Valley MTA - Emma Strong (Ning Guan), Melissa Crandall (Fran Kaspar), Rachel Schlappi (Fran Kaspar), Anna Toone (Fran Kaspar), Rudy Chen (Yali Luo), Amanda Loh (Barbara Spoelman), Cody Wong (Tim Wong), Justin He (Fei Xu), Cyndia Yu (Fei Xu);

Tucson MTA - Jason Xu (Angeline Ng), Mara Penatzer (Marie Sierra);

Cochise MTA - Stephanie Quach (Karen Stahl)

It is with great pleasure that we recognize the number of students enrolled in ASP in the last ten years is 18,836. We are pleased to see the program grow and improve, and look forward to many more years of growth. Thanks to all of you for helping us along this path.

Sincerely,

Fran Kaspar, Chairman

Technology

Music Technology- It Doesn't Have To Be Complicated

By Jennifer Foxx

ASMTA Technology Officer

Sometimes we make things much more complicated than they really are. This is so true when it comes to music technology. Technology can be complicated, it can be overwhelming and it can be confusing. But does it need to be? No.

This year ASMTA is going to focus on using Practical Technology in our music studios. Practical Technology is for teachers who want to dip their toe in the water, for teachers who are looking for more ideas to what they are currently doing, and for teachers who have perhaps rejected the idea in the past but are now open to new possibilities.

Chances are you are already using some form of technology in your studio and you didn't even realize it. CD players, tape or digital recorders, video cameras, accompaniment disks,

computers, keyboards, digital metronome, iPods, the internet- all of these are example of some of the technology tools many teachers already take advantage of.

Starting a computer lab might seem overwhelming, but remember – start simple. You don't need to have everything all at once. Many teachers start their labs with a single program. Over time as you familiarize yourself with the tools it's easy to add a little more at a time. If you already have a computer it doesn't take much more to incorporate a computer lab in your studio. There are many free and affordable resources on the internet such as HYPERLINK "<http://www.classicsforkids.com/>" \o "blocked::<http://www.classicsforkids.com/>" www.classicsforkids.com and www.MusicLearningCommunity.com. These resources can offer many software titles that won't break the bank, yet can provide numerous benefits for your students.

Another great internet site to help you with your music technology and software needs is www.KeysToImagination.com. Michelle Sisler, who runs the Keys to Imagination website, has written a fabulous book, Studio Makeover: Technology "Addition". This book covers building a studio lab from the ground up.

Marci Pittman, a piano teacher from Chico, California, has her private students spend fifteen minutes at each lesson practicing music theory in her computer lab. The software they use reinforces musical concepts and strengthens the students' note reading, rhythm, and listening skills. "Our students are growing up in an age of technology and they use it more than any generation before them. As a piano teacher, I want to use technology as a tool to enhance the study of the language of music in lessons and in the computer lab independently."

In addition to theory software, Pittman supplements her lessons with a series of music history CD-ROMs. "The music history and great composer CD-ROMs give multimedia presentations of the periods of music history and the composers who lived during them, all the while using musical examples from that time period or composer," said Pittman.

D'Net Layton, a member of ASMTA in Mesa, uses Finale's Print Music program to make piano arrangements for her students. She also has her students notate their own compositions for the Desert Valley Music Teachers Association Composition Festival. "After students are finished with their composition, we take things a step further. Using a picture that the student drew, or an image we found on the internet, we design a cover for the composition. The students are then presented with a beautiful piece of sheet music. I love the look in my students' eyes when they see their composition 'published' for all to see!"

Digital pianos and keyboards are a great way for students to explore new musical possibilities. These tools make it possible for students to play with background accompaniments and record their pieces. Students enjoy playing in ensembles, using different sounds as they play along with an orchestra or band. Many teachers use the built-in rhythm features to reinforce good rhythm and listening skills.

Genny Rafferty, an ASMTA member located in Peoria, takes these tools to another level. She uses her digital piano to record accompaniments and parts for her voice students, then burns CD's on her laptop computer. Her students are then able to practice with the CD's at home. Rafferty also records her students' performances and provides a CD that can be shared with their families and friends. Rafferty explained, "I think that piano teachers have a unique opportunity today. Never before has such a breadth of media and technology been available for use in our studios. Much of it is right at our fingertips!"

MIDI Disks have proven to be a great Practical Technology tool that can help students when learning a piece. Many publishers include MIDI disks that accompany their method books. Marcia Vahl, a piano teacher from Maple Grove, MN, uses a digital keyboard to play MIDI disks provided with the Piano Adventures method series to help her students play at a good performance tempo.

"I love using the Piano Adventures MIDI accompaniment disks with a student who is not able to keep a steady beat or makes a lot of rhythm mistakes. It instantly shows the student what their error is and helps them get on track. They always respond positively to orchestrated accompaniments and the arrangements help them internalize the steady beat," said Vahl.

Practical Technology doesn't have to be expensive, it doesn't have to be overwhelming and it should never take over the lessons. Practical Technology can give students that extra boost that they might need when they are experiencing burnout. These tools can serve as a great supplement in preparing for the Arizona Study Program, Guild, College exams, and other achievement programs. Music Technology is not meant to replace the teacher and should never be used as such. Instead it should serve as a beneficial teaching tool and help enhance the learning that is provided by the teacher.

Cochise

Charles G. Marlowe - CMTA President (No Submission)

Eastern Arizona

EAMTA is in full swing in Eastern AZ! We had our first meeting September 8th with about 10 teachers in attendance. We also had our first mini - recital held at a teachers home. We are preparing for our Ensemble Festival on October 30th. We are excited this year as we have 3 level 11-12 student participating in ASP. We are grateful to Elaine Dyches and Gail Fischler who have helped us raise the bar at Eastern AZ College. We are so grateful for their professionalism, and many hours of teaching us about ASP and Certification, and Piano pedagogy. We are also grateful to Chyleen Lauritzen who faithfully served as our EAMTA President for 6 years. She has done an exceptional job! We have 2 new teachers who have joined our group, and still never seem to have enough teachers for all those who want lessons. We will continue to make sure our teachers in the EAMTA have all the information to do the AZ Study Program and NCTM Certification, so we can each learn and grow and become more professional in the piano teaching field.

Celeste Innes

EAMTA President

East Valley

Greetings from East Valley MTA!! By now you're all busy with your teaching and the myriad of activities that come with being a piano instructor.

I have a wonderful board again this year and I want to thank all of them for their hard work and support of EVMTA.

The EVMTA officers for the 2008-2009 year are

Paula Dahl, NCTM, President

Rod Hendrix, Vice President

Diane Legge, NCTM, Secretary

Marge Gunnell, Treasurer

We were thrilled for Marge Gunnell this past May when she was given the Honored Teacher award at the State Conference. Marge has been a faithful and wonderful member of MTNA, ASMTA, and EVMTA for many years.

I want to thank Rod Hendrix for lining up an exciting array of programs for our meetings this year. We have decided to meet at AZ Piano Company for the months of September, October, and November and to meet at My First Piano in Mesa for the months of January, February, and March. We want to thank Jason Sipe at AZ Piano and Josh Wallace at My First Piano for their hospitality towards us.

Our first meeting is Sept. 11 and will feature Walter Cosand talking about "The Four P's of Pedaling."

October 9 is our Ensemble read-through lead by Becky Rogers and Jan Irvine, our chair people.

The November 13 meeting will have Kathryn Rood sharing how Kindermusik has influenced her private teaching.

We have been able to get the local piano tuners to donate one free tuning each month and will be giving one away each month at our meetings as a door prize. We are grateful for their generosity. I want to thank Gina Dastrup for contacting the tuners for us.

Our first event will be Music in the Mall at Fiesta and Superstition Springs Malls on October 18. Many thanks goes to Ellen Sassano for her hard work in getting the malls lined up.

Next will be the Fall Recital at My First Piano on November 15. Thank you to Sheryl Johnson for lining up this event for us.

We are looking forward to a great year of personal growth and of encouraging our students to become better pianists.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Dahl, NCTM

President, EVMTA

Northern Arizona

Up here in the Northland NAMTA is preparing for an exciting year of recitals, competitions and masterclasses. Our monthly Saturday recitals commence on September 13th at NAU and continue at Coconino Community College in October, followed by November and December recitals at NAU. On Wednesday November 5th the Quick-Bowman Competition Fall Recital at the Sedona Public Library will feature winners from last spring's contest. After the recital on September 13th we will have a meeting to take care of business and schedule masterclasses and other events. We hope that the rest of you are looking forward to the coming year as much as we are!

Chase Coleman NAMTA President

Phoenix

PMTA's first meeting September 11 started with performances by our summer camp scholarship recipients.

Barbara Stoutenburgh will chair our first major event, the Fall Festival, with the theme Preludes and Etudes. Dean Elder assembled the required lists. Each student will receive a written critique and a gold, silver, bronze medal, or participation ribbon.

On October 8, PMTA member, Stella Saperstein, will discuss the Russian School of Piano Playing for beginners. Stella has judged many local competitions and co-authored the book "The Harmonious Child". She is a graduate of the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in St. Petersburg Russia from which she received the degree in Concert Piano Performance.

On November 13, Dr. Baruch Meir will conduct a master class for elementary, intermediate, and advanced students. Dr Meir is an ASU Professor with many outstanding, prize-winning students. In addition to his teaching and concert career, he is the President-Director of the Bosendorfer ASU International Piano Competition.

In December, we will have our Holiday Social meeting. Charlene Zundel will present games from TCW resources, and the Friday Quartet with members Sue Shiner, Jo Ann Smelser, Sara Rivers, and Paula Heil will perform.

In addition, members can participate in meetings of Performance Plus and Sharing Plus, as well as present their students in Students Recital Series and performances in the local Malls.

We look forward to another year of bringing higher musical standards to our community. Doing so will provide many challenges for our teaching.

Irene Kuniski PMTA President

Tucson

Lois Spangenberg - President

Tucson Academy of Music, 1735 E. Ft. Lowell, Suite 6, Tucson, AZ Dr. Lisa Zdechlik, Assistant Professor of Piano Pedagogy and Group Piano, will present her Klav-Ear for Kids, a beginning piano method designed for average-age beginners in private or group instruction that she co-authored with Dr. Linda L. Beckman. In this hands-on session, Dr. Zdechlik will introduce the philosophy and pedagogical approach of Klav-Ear for Kids. Teachers will explore the method and teacher's manual and will have the opportunity to hear and play selections from the books. Klav-Ear for Kids may be obtained through Pender's Music. To order, contact DeLee Francis at HYPERLINK "<mailto:dfrancis@pender's.com>" dfrancis@pender's.com 4401 NW 63rd Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73116(405) 842-7825 or (800) 772-8405.

2009 ENSEMBLE PLANS REVEALED

We are pleased to announce details of the 2009 TMTA Ensemble and our association again with the University of Arizona School of Music. The concert will be March 21, 2009, at Centennial Hall.

We are excited to again have Dr. Timothy Kolosick as our conductor. This year we are inviting Ensemble Alumni of any age (those out of high school) to play in a special alumni piece. It will rehearse at the end of the day on Sundays. Please check above dates. The exact piece will be chosen when we determine who is interested in participating. TMTA teachers are our best source for identifying ensemble alumni. Please forward this information to any former students you think would be interested in participating. It is necessary we have the names (and contact information) of interested alumni by the end of August. Please contact me at HYPERLINK "<mailto:hpjones@comcast.net>" \o "<mailto:hpjones@comcast.net>" hpjones@comcast.net