

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Dr. Raymond Ryder
 NCTM

ASMTA
PRESIDENT

Pianist Gary Graffman entitled a book of memoirs "I Really Should Be Practicing." I'd like to borrow that title.

Inside This Issue

President's Letter	1
1st VP	2
2nd VP	2
ASMTA Board of Directors	2
Conference Announcement	3
4th VP	3
Arizona Study Program	4
Local Association News	4-6
Advertisers	6-9
Reminders; Address panel	10

Most of my newsletter articles are inspired by things I've read, maybe because reading gets me operating in a verbal mode. Making music, whether practicing or performing, is essentially non-verbal perhaps even the antithesis of verbal. And studio teaching entails observing a student performing; comparing their performance to our own experiences, expectations and strategies; then trying to do a minimal amount of verbalizing to produce a musical (non-verbal) result. Although I haven't needed to do so recently, it's surprising how much can be conveyed using only Italian musical terms. A few summers ago I accompanied a student from Poland at Interlochen Arts Camp. His teacher there was bi-lingual, but the student and I shared no common language so our rehearsals depended upon musical terms, demonstration and pantomime.

But I haven't read anything lately that inspired a newsletter article. This fall turned out to be more busy than I anticipated (even before the heat pump blower gave out and an unnatural spring in the yard revealed that the old galvanized pipes connecting my house to the city's water were failing and suddenly had to be replaced). So what's my starting point for this article? Unfortunately, my starting point is a sense of frustration. My main frustrations stem from not having a conference chair. But there have been a few other concerns brought to my attention that would benefit more from the wisdom of Solomon than from me. These frustrations and issues have set me to thinking about the role(s) of ASMTA.

What are we? What are we not? How are we changing?

These questions have been weighing on my mind for at least a couple of months, but answers still seem vague and tentative. For one thing, we are a continually changing collective. Our membership changes, though slowly, as do our individual perspectives and expectations. Slow change means some answers are always tentative, but that doesn't mean the questions should be avoided.

So here are some tentative answers. ASMTA is not me alone (nor am I a modern-day King Solomon, by the way). ASMTA is not the Board alone (nor do we have any paid staff). Newsletters, competitions, events and conferences don't just magically happen (but neither are they overwhelming). ASMTA is all of us, each of us. I remember a newsletter editor once reminding the board they were an editor, not an investigative reporter. Similarly, ASMTA can provide opportunities, resources, and network connections; ASMTA can facilitate, inform, and even inspire teaching. But, it is not a situation of "the organization" and "you." ASMTA is us, each of us. So, if you or someone else you've noticed can help out with the conference or with serving on the ASMTA Board in upcoming years, step forth! I'm not an investigative reporter either (and "I Really Should Be Practicing"), so I'm only familiar with a small proportion of our total membership. ASMTA is each of us.

ASMTA 1ST VICE PRESIDENT / PRESIDENT ELECT

Chyleen Lauritzen, NCTM

Friends or Competitors?

I am reading a book titled, *Before My Heart Stops*: a memoir by Paul Cardall, four-time Billboard-charting recording artist. Paul was born with half a heart and had undergone six major heart surgeries before being put on the transplant list. Prior to his heart transplant many of his fellow artists, some would say “competitors,” gave a benefit concert called Living for Eden (Cardall’s 3-year-old daughter). So many people wanted to participate that some performers had to be turned away. Cardall’s wife expressed gratitude for the money raised, but especially for the support and love the event showed. One of the fellow artists, Kurt Bestor, father of two daughters with spina bifida said:

Without community, you don’t get through this stuff...I’ve experienced enough on the other side that I’ll be forever saying yes, when a friend is in that kind of trouble. (Cardall 139)

In ASMTA I know we have many teachers who would have supported an event of this nature and given of their talents without a thought of reimbursement. They see other teachers as colleagues and friends. But I’m afraid we may have some who feel we are “competitors” rather than friends. I hope we can respect and appreciate each other as fellow musicians and always act with integrity as we strive to set a worthy example for our students.

ASMTA 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Andrew O’Brien

Arizona Winners for 2010-2011 MTNA Performance Competition

Compositions of all winners and representatives advance to the southwestern division competition. Congratulations to all! All winners will be given the opportunity to perform at January’s Southwestern Regional Convention.

Junior Piano Eric Lin, winner
Hong Zhu, teacher
Abigail Cook, winner
Diana Galindo, teacher

Senior Piano Evan Pensis, winner
Jelena Vladikovic, teacher
Hannah Wayment-Steele, alternate
Diana Galindo, teacher
Shantell Petty, honorable mention
June Chow-Tyne, teacher

Junior Strings Bobae Johnson, violin, winner
Susanne Rothaar, teacher
Tiffany Chang, violin, alternate
William Magers, teacher

Senior Strings Jeanelle Brierley, violin, winner
Susanne Rothaar, teacher
Kevin Bodhipaksha, viola, alternate;
Susanne Rothaar, teacher
Michele Gardiner, violin, honorable mention
Susanne Rothaar, teacher

Young Artist Victoria Hauk, flute, winner
Brian Luce, teacher

Woodwind Jack Schwimmer, saxophone, alternate
Timothy McAllister, teacher
Jeffrey Siegfried, saxophone, honorable mention
Timothy McAllister, teacher

Chamber Music Arizona Graduate Winds (U of A),
state representative; William Dietz, teacher

ARIZONA COMPETITION WINNERS

Compositions of all winners and representatives advance to the southwestern division competition. Congratulations to all!

Elementary: Urvi Binrajka’s *Sonatina in A*

Junior: Christian Nguyen’s *Vicissitude*

Senior: Gabrielle Dotson’s *Adrift*



ASMTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Certification	Pam Allman NCTM

**ASMTA 3RD VICE PRESIDENT /
CONFERENCE CHAIR**

**ASMTA 2011
CONFERENCE
JUNE 2-4, 2011**

If you can help with the 2011 Conference as a co-chairman or a committee member, please notify Raymond Ryder immediately.

Please check asmta.org for further information.

**ASMTA 4TH VICE PRESIDENT
Carol Hill, NCTM**

Norma Meredith, membership chairman, has done an outstanding job with the ASMTA membership files. We now have 441 active members and one patron. We welcome the following new members who have joined this year:

- CMTA Heather Fernandez
EAMTA Ciera Hunt, Jalin Tilley, Chantel Udall
EVMTA Christine Ales NCTM, Vicky Burkinshaw,
Brooke Colvin, Pamela Crocket, Bjorn Hanson,
Mary Ellen Loose, Brittany Turley,
Karen Zakrzewski
NAMTA Carol Ridley
PMTA Josephine Abrams, Sungah Beach, Amy Burns,
Julie Dainard, Rachel Velarde, Margaret Jimenez
TMTA Sventlana Arakelova, Jessica Carnevale,
Tyler Kobylinski, Jean Rankin, Loretta Meyer,
Elena Miraztchiyska, Michael Navarro,
Jennifer Swegle
Students John Hwang, Josie Gleave, Jonathan Robinson,
Melissa Hogue, Nicholas Jones, Courtney Fanello,
Qing Feeken, Nataliya Willoughy,
Garinee Garmin, Olivia Gardner, Kyungsun Choi,
Sarah Nelson, Garrison Jones, Laura McCall
Patron Kevin Rindlisbacher (Steinway Piano Showman)

Camille Conforti, advertising chairman, has updated the advertising form and put it on the asmta.org website. If you know of any prospective advertisers, please direct them to the form on line.

Genny Raffery, website chairman, is working on a major updating of our website. If you have any information that should be added or changed, please send it to Genny as soon as possible.

Kenzie Carden continues to digitalize our archives - another major volunteer job!

Thank you Norma, Camille, Genny and Kenzie!

Those of you with an email address will be notified when the MusiGram is posted online. If you don't have email, please check asmta.org in early January, May and September. This is the last time hard copies will be mailed unless you send me a request for one. Since almost everyone has access to the internet, please help us cut down on the extra expense and volunteer hours. Thank you!

In December, I had the honor of playing for Marthella Gerow's service (1926-2010). She joined PMTA in 1975 and entered students in the AZ Study Program from 1976-2010. She will be missed! Her son gave me permission to print a poem she wrote.

Ah! Bach!
by Marthella Gerow

Ab!

Bach!

The enrichment of my life!

How could I survive the

Bumps of life without

Johann Sebastian Bach's

Magical gifts to mankind i.e.

'Art of the Fugue' or

Mass in b minor'?

Ab!

Bach!

Master of contrapuntal music,

Music once heard is

Digested & forever

Woven into the fabric

Of my being and

Can never be unraveled.

Ab!

Bach!

Your God-inspired gift of music given to

Mankind is intangible – yet

It moves, stretches and touches my soul

As my spirits soar into orbit

From all earthly moorings

Like a kite unleashed

Listening all the while

I am at peace

I am whole

Ab!

Bach!



ARIZONA STUDY PROGRAM

Elaine Dyches Mooney, NCTM

Life is a juggling act and right now the biggest balls I'm juggling include the Holidays and Repertoire for Arizona Study Program evaluations. IF I manage to survive all the recitals, programs, and church services associated with the holidays, THEN I'd better have a plan for each student's evaluation repertoire!

Two words come to mind, variety and timing. Timing is the biggest gamble because ultimately the student may or may not practice as I hope or plan. Learning the music too soon means the performance peak can occur too early. Not getting the music learned in time obviously produces a performance that isn't quite what was hoped for.

Variety, on the other hand, is more in the hands of the instructor. I encourage my students to assist in the repertoire selection since they will practice more if they chose the piece. Frequently, I'll offer them two or three options and we discuss the merits of each option, allowing the student the final choice.

As an instructor, I consider it my responsibility to be sure that my students will not be presenting many repetitions of the same piece to the adjudicator. Not only is hearing the "tried and true" favorite over and over boring, it encourages comparison. I want each student to present their personal best performance, which means choosing repertoire that shows off this student's abilities and not setting the stage for comparison with other students.

The ASP technique and theory requirements also influence repertoire choices. Level 3 students study compound meter so it makes good sense to be sure they experience compound meter in their repertoire. Level 5 students practice arpeggios in their technique so I like my students to perform pieces that include arpeggios at this level.

Variety at the more advanced levels is built into the program since students must perform pieces from the different historic periods. Variety at the elementary levels is just as important. A good variety will include pieces in different keys, meters, tempo and style. The student may love ragtime, but performing four different rags would not allow the adjudicator to see all that the student is capable of. Discussion of the different elements in each piece actually helps the student to learn to evaluate and expand the range of their choices. Incidentally, sometimes a student can be encouraged to select a piece that stretches their comfort zone and increases their knowledge and skill.

I recall a college freshman that I assigned a Chopin Prelude that was essentially a left hand etude. The student's response was "but I'm not very good with my left hand!" I just smiled. Repertoire selection is SO important!

ASP 2011 Evaluation Dates:

PMTA April 29 & 30

CMTA & EAMTA May 6 & 7

EVMTA May 13 & 14

TMTA May 7

NAMTA May 19 & 20



EAMTA

Eastern Arizona Music Teachers Association (EAMTA) has completed another successful fall semester. *The association met monthly to conduct association business and to teach each other by focusing on a composer. Mendelssohn, Chopin and Handel were spotlighted this fall, and more composers will be presented next semester.

Three mini-recitals were held. Students played a memorized piece and then gave observations and positive comments to each other.

Our larger fall event, the Ensemble Festival, was held October 26 with 41 duets played by 55 students, parents and teachers. There is nothing like rejoicing in the advancement of students in their piano talent.

New to this year is a Musical Christmas Open House held on December 9 at a local music store, Richards Music. Students were invited to play their Christmas music and enjoy refreshments while becoming better acquainted with our local music resource.

EAMTA happily welcomed this semester a new member, Jalin Tilley. Her family recently moved to our Gila Valley.

*Spring 2011 will bring monthly association meetings, a workshop presented by Radmila Stojanovic, mini recitals, Young Musician Showcase, and Arizona Study Program.

Sherri Flake, EAMTA Presidnet



In addition to our many faithful continuing officers, chairpersons, and administrative leaders, new additions this year are: Kelly Pearson – New Treasurer, Melodie took over as Recording Secretary. Juleene Farr joins Tabitha Kaminski as co-chair for the Music Carnival, Kandyce Bullock chairing the Senior Recital, Dianne Cangelosi handling the Senior Awards, and Janet Norman taking charge of the Spring Recital. A major change in leadership this year has been the retirement of Fran Kaspar from Arizona Study Program. Her replacements are: Lara Holt Heeder, Debbie Saifi, and Barbara Spoelman.

This year's monthly workshops are providing wonderful training for our members. Mandarin G. Cheung-Yueh presented "Developing the Average Student into a Well-Rounded Musician" – incorporating essential skills into regular lessons for the average student in September and Jenny Chien presented

“Impressionistic Kaleidoscope” – exploring impressionistic repertoire not composed by Debussy and Ravel in November. Our next workshop – “Teachers’ Idea Exchange” – is January 13th with a group discussion of teaching strategies, tips, etc.

We are looking forward to the workshop on February 10th with Tarina Kim presenting “Discover Canadian Women Making Music” – exploring creative and colorful contemporary works and to the workshop on March 10th with Johnny and Chris Rice presenting “Where is the Piano?” – the emergence of “Beautiful Music Group.” Our spring luncheon is April 14th at Mimi’s Café in Mesa.

Our meeting locations this year are Arizona Piano Company, 4134 E. Wood St., Suite 200 in Phoenix for September – November and My First Piano, 1818 E. Southern in Mesa for January – March.

Our performance year got underway with Music in the Mall on October 30th, Fall Recital taking place November 20th, and Composers Celebration Concert taking place December 4th.

Other events this year:

Feb. 5	Piano Ensemble Performance
Feb. 26	Music Carnival
March 5	Piano Competition
April 2	Spring Recital
April 9	Prize Piano Performers
April 23	Senior Recital
May 13-14	Arizona Study Program evaluations

So, EVMTA is charging forward in challenging times!! We will continue to share the joy of making music with others.

Respectfully submitted,
Rod Hendrix, M. Ed., EVMTA President

NAMTA

The fall of 2010 was a productive season for NAMTA. Our monthly student recitals were well attended and we had an excellent turn out of young pianists and teachers for Jeffrey Swann's masterclass in October. We are looking forward to the spring and the Catherine Adel Festival and the ASP auditions and examinations, as well as the ASMTA Conference.

Chase Coleman, NAMTA President



To Our Colleagues and Friends in ASMTA,

We are extending our warmest greetings and wishes for each one of ASMTA members for the new year 2011 from TMTA in Tucson, Arizona. As the president of TMTA it has been my privilege to see the loyalty, caring, sharing and serving hearts and attitudes among the members of TMTA. It is heartwarming

to experience and witness. This past years' accomplishments bare witness to that fact. Every school year TMTA's members present the entire program for TMTA's annual ensemble performance. Ensemble will be performing it's 58th year on March 19, 2011! A great big thanks to Helen Jones and her dedicated committee members.

The momentum continues to build with Arizona Study Program Enrollment. The Kudo's programs were filled enough to add an additional program! Barnes and Noble is a successful fund raiser. On December 3, 2010 TMTA's Annual Christmas Luncheon was hosted at Desert Skies Methodist Church by our TMTA board member Susan Schild and ASMTA President Raymond Ryder. The entertainment for this annual luncheon was TMTA's member Pierre Herbineaux and accompanist Raymond Ryder. We are very thankful to have Raymond as a member of TMTA. Our member Pierre has become a nationwide TV celebrity by performing and competing in America's Got Talent. Pierre competed as a finalist. We are very proud for Pierre! A superb musician on the harmonica.

On December 18, 2010 TMTA sponsored a community collaborative event at the Tucson Mall, Tucson, Arizona. This event is known as Random Act of Culture. Our board member Sondra Franks was willing to spearhead this event and willing to contact all local churches, schools, community choirs, university and college choirs. The response has been overwhelming and exciting for everyone involved and participating. Tucson will be known as the finest culture center of Arizona. We thank each of our members and the surrounding communities for helping to contribute to make Tucson a city of musical excellence. Congratulations to our TMTA board members and members. The Random Act of Culture may be viewed on Youtube. We look forward to the new year 2011 to be filled with just as much excitement. I consider it my personal privilege to be able to serve along side each member of TMTA. The board TMTA members are: Lois Spangenberg Gloria Singleton, Sondra Franks, Diann Lopez, Kassandra Weleck, Susan Schild, Lynnette Barney, Charmaine Pianedame, The TMTA Chairman are: Gloria Ritt and Anne Neff Smith: ASP, Helen Jones: Ensemble, Jessica Carnevale: Music in the Mall, Maria Sierra: Hospitality, Diann Lopez and Paul Lorenz: Kudos, Heather Murphy: Listserv, Martha Reed: Membership, Ron Durback: Mentor Society, Elmira Reavis: Referral Service, Susan Jimerson-Overholt: Student Honor Society, Paul Lorenz: Community Outreach, Yolanda Dyche: Senior Recital, Dr. June Chow-Tyne: Merit Scholarship Auditions.

TMTA Is Now On Facebook! Search for our page under Tucson Music Teachers Association, and keep up with the latest news online.

TMTA website (<http://www.tucsonmusicteachers.org>).

Respectfully and Musically Yours,
Cecilia Whitby TMTA President and TMTA Board members



Our PMTA sponsored events for students have seen a general increase in participation this year, most probably due to the scarcity of recital space available for independent studios' use.

PMTA is blessed with amazing Chairpersons, Tatyana Eldridge (Fall Festival); Jennifer Eisel & Becky Bender (Music at the Mall on December 11); Linda Porter (Student Piano Recitals); Betty Campbell (Vocal Recitals); and the tireless work from our Scholarship Chair, Liz Owens. These people along with their committee volunteers have made our autumn of 2010 enriched with opportunity for the students of our member teachers.

We are indebted to Christina Eide at Glendale Community College for her assistance in hosting both our Fall Festival on the weekend of November 13 & 14, as well as Student Piano Recitals on October 23 and December 11.

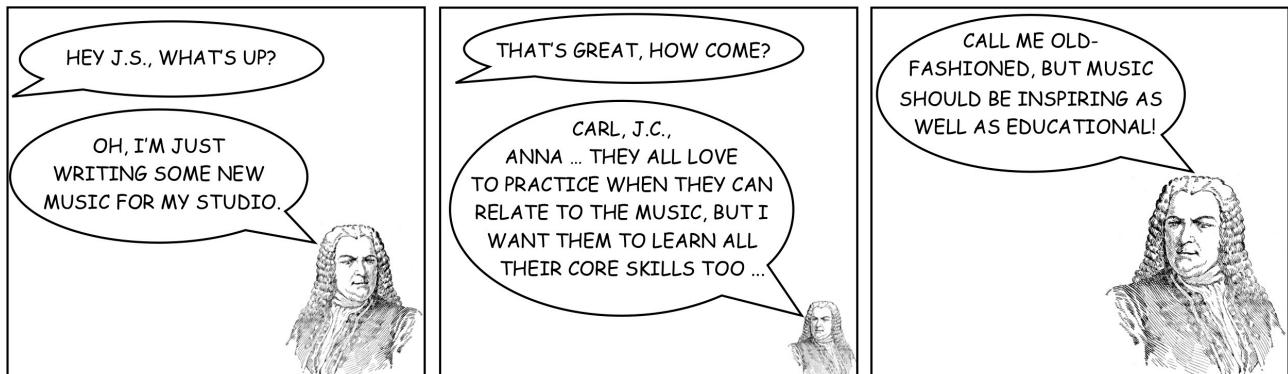
And we are indebted to Juan de Dios Hernandez for hosting our Vocal Recital at Grand Canyon University on November 13.

We look forward to our winter and spring activities and are grateful for the preliminary work of Susan Shiner & Rita Quay (Ensemble). Also Snezana Krstic has put in much time to find a location to host our Celebration of Music in addition to the normal planning activities for that event.

We faced some challenges in locations for our General Meetings this fall due to the closing of Steinway of Phoenix. However, due to the generosity of Jason Sipe at The Arizona Piano Company and Juan Hernandez at Grand Canyon University, we were able to enjoy:

- Master class conducted by Juan de Dios Hernandez, which showcased Juan's great talent to bring out the best in both pianists and vocalists.
- Juan also made a terrific presentation on the topic "Teaching Musical Style, Literature & Interpretation in the age of Wikipedia, YouTube and Facebook."
- In honor of this "Year of Collaborative Music," our December meeting was made particularly enjoyable by a concert of holiday music by Duo West, featuring cellist Ian Ginsburg and PMTA member Sherry Lenich on piano. In between their musical performances that showcased their breathtaking talents, Sherry & Ian shared some interesting information on how they first met, how their combined talents blossomed into their collaborative endeavors as well as how their non-profit organization operates. Sherry was sure to point out the benefits they have enjoyed through her association with PMTA, ASMTA & MTNA.

Respectively submitted,
Barbara Tilson, PMTA President



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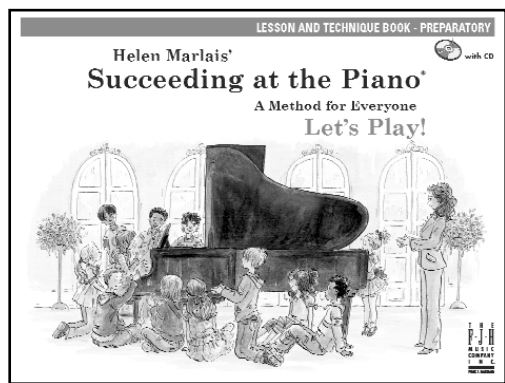
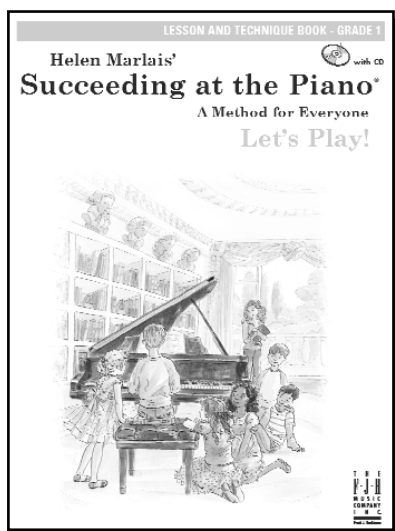
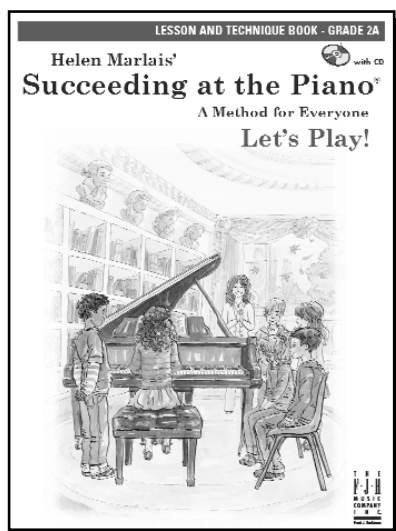
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*The New Year lies before you,
like a spotless trail of snow.
Be careful how you tread on it,
for every mark will show.*

ASMTA BOARD MEETING

January 22, 2011 10:00 A.M.
Desert Foothills United Methodist Church

WEBSITES

MTNA: mtna.org

ASMTA: asmta.org

EVMTA: evmta.org

PMTA: phoenixmusicteachers.org

TMTA: tucsonmusicteachers.org

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Carol Hill, Editor

April 20 Spring MusiGram

May 1 ASMTA Conference Booklet

FUTURE MUSIGRAMS

The new policy is now in effect.

**As stated in the last two MusiGrams,
all newsletters will be posted on the ASMTA website
(asmta.org) in early January, May and September.
No hard copies will be sent unless requested in writing
from Carol Hill, 4th Vice President.**



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