



Nuances

The Newsletter of MAPTA

October 2009 - Vol 40 Issue 2

Performers Supporting Performers
Fall Workshop 11/6
OMG! R U on FB??
Fall Music Social
Monster Concert
Practicing Performing - Guest Feature
Sonatina Festival
Why We Make Mistakes

Calendar

Free Exhibit
"Secrets of Steinway"
runs through
October 30 at
Overture Center

Thursday, Oct 1st

Sonatina Festival application [deadline](#)

Saturday, Oct 10th

MSO Fall Youth Concerto Competition
Auditions

Young Artists Recital

Sunday, Oct 11th

1:00 pm - Warmups
1:30 pm - Performance
Capitol Lakes Retirement Center -
Grand Hall -
333. W. Main Street, Madison.

Monday, Oct 12 -

Bolz Young Artist Competition
application [deadline](#)

General Meeting & Program

Tuesday, Oct 13th

9:00 am - 11:00 am
Ellen Burmaster "On Fingering-
Exploring Several Teaching Pieces" -
Discussion of updated By-Laws
Christ Presbyterian Church, 944 E
Gorham St.

Performers Supporting Performers

Friday, Oct 16th

10:00 am
Cheri Lewis' home, 1706 Wild Oak
Circle, Madison. Contact Ruth
Heinecke for more information at (608)
437-4634 or via email.

Professional Goals

Tuesday Oct 20th

9:15 am
Ward-Brodt Music

Monster Concert

Saturday, Oct 24

9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Barnes & Noble- East Towne

Sunday, Oct 25th

November 8 [Young Artist Recital](#) entry
[deadline](#). Contact [Brian Hagen](#) for
more information.

October 28-31 - [WMEA State](#)

President's Message *by Debbie Yee*

Welcome, ,

Ah... October!

One of the most beautiful seasons in Wisconsin has arrived - changing leaves, comfortable temperatures, kids back in school and a flourish of MAPTA and other musical events.



MAPTA's New Year was heralded in with the superb Young Composers Festival on September 13th. Many families, teachers and performers attended the well-organized

event. I would like to thank Liz Agard and Shad Wenzlaff for organizing such an enjoyable Sunday afternoon celebration. I would also like to recognize Ward-Brodt for their generous donation toward gift certificates for the performers.

Our next performance event will be the first Young Artist Recital for 2009/10 on Sunday, October 11 at Capitol Lakes Retirement Center. If you are looking for ghoulish fun this month, the Monster Concert, presented by MAFOP, will happen at Barnes & Noble at East Towne Mall on Saturday, October 24th from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The concert is always full of surprises and treats. More information about these and other great happenings are included in this edition of Nuances.

MAPTA's first general meeting will be on Tuesday, October 13th at 9:00 am at Christ Presbyterian Church, 944 East Gorham Street. The program will feature an excellent speaker, Ellen Burmaster, who will provide some new insight on fingering and exploring several teaching pieces. Following the presentation, Pro-Goals Chair Anita Schulz will present the new draft of our By-Laws, which have been revised by a group of fifteen members over the past year. **This will be the last opportunity to make suggestions to the proposed document.** Watch for the revised draft in your email before the October 13th meeting.

A link to the final draft of the by-laws will be included in the November edition of Nuances and voted on at a special general meeting on Tuesday, November 10 at Ward-Brodt at 9:00 am. Please take the time to read this important document. It is our organization's guiding document.



Looking forward...

Debbie Yee
MAPTA President

PSP - Performers Supporting Performers

Performers Supporting Performers' next two meetings are scheduled as follows:

Friday, October 16, 10 a.m. at the home of
Cheri Lewis

Friday, November 20, 10 a.m. at the home
of Patty Ladpli



Please plan to attend, especially if you are interested in performing in the PSP February 2010 recital.

Mark your calendars... the PSP Recital will be Sunday, Feb. 28, 2010, 2:00 at Capitol Lakes Retirement Center's Grand Hall.

Sonatina Festival

Saturday, Nov 7th
Competition
Rhapsody Arts Center
Awards Recital
Steinway Piano Gallery

Young Artists Recital

Sunday, Nov 8th
1:00 pm - Warmups
1:30 pm - Performance
Capitol Lakes Retirement Center -
Grand Hall -
333. W. Main Street, Madison.

Board Meeting

Tuesday, Nov 17th
8:30 am -10:30 am
Steinway Piano Gallery, 6629 Mineral
Point Rd, Madison

Fall Adult Music Social

Sunday, Nov 22nd
7:00 pm
Cheri Lewis' home, 1706 Wild Oak
Circle, Madison. Call Cheri at
608.222.5125 if you need directions.

***** **Date Change** *****

MAPTA Honors Festival Recitals

Sunday, Mar 14, 2010
Morphy Hall

This date has been changed from what is published in the directory. See your directory for more information

MAPTA Sponsored Events are featured in this color.

Quick Links

- [MAPTA Membership](#)
- [MAPTA Membership Form \(PDF\)](#)
- [Contact MAPTA Officers and Board Members](#)
- [MAPTA Members Only Site](#)
- [Last Month's Issue of Nuances](#)

Submissions

Submissions of articles, events or other piano themed features are welcome. We need them by the 21st of each month to be considered for publication.

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"Music has been in my kids' lives



since before they were born. Music is how they express themselves, find their friends and ultimately find themselves."

—Peter Cunningham
Assistant Secretary
US Department of Education

Fall Workshop - Friday, November 6th - 9:00 am (Registration 8:30 am)



Dr. Andrew Hisey will present this year's Fall Workshop, "**Laying a Foundation for Improvisation and Play with Your Music.**"

Dr. Hisey is one of the founding directors of the National Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy Forum, a member of Canada's Royal Conservatory of Music College of Examiners and serves as series editor for the Composer

Editions series from the Frederick Harris Music Company. Currently, he is a professor of piano in St. Olaf College where he holds the vice chair for the school of music.

Ward-Brodt Music Mall, 2200 W Beltline Hwy, Madison
\$35 MAPTA members, \$45 Non-MAPTA members, \$20 Students

Registration Deadline: to be announced in brochure

For more information contact: [Gloria Chuang](#) or consult your Membership Directory

Find MAPTA on Facebook by Grant Billings

There are two ways to stay connected with MAPTA on Facebook. Become a fan of the public site - that anyone on Facebook can see - or by becoming a member of the "secret" site. This is the invitation only page - only other MAPTA members are allowed. If you did not receive an invitation, send me an [email](#).



The "secret" site will feature the MAPTA event calendar you see in Nuances and an easy to access venue for sharing information, videos, pictures... anything that can help us all connect.

See you on FB!

Fall Adult Music Social from Cheri Lewis

The Fall Adult Music Social will be held on Sunday, November 22nd at 7 p.m. Please encourage all of your adult students to participate in this opportunity.

The event is fairly informal and will help pianists at all levels to become more comfortable sharing their music with others. Pieces can be memorized or played with music. Adult students who would like to first learn more about the social are also welcome to attend without playing that evening. Those attending are requested to bring a small plate of cookies or other food to share.

Cheri Lewis will be hosting the event at her home: 1706 Wild Oak Circle, Madison 53713. Call Cheri at 608.222.5125 if you need directions.

New Members and Other Stuff...

MAPTA is pleased to welcome its newest member... **Helen Dietzer.**

Brandy Held's website listing in the directory should read www.brandytunesmusic.com

Do you know someone who could benefit from joining MAPTA? Send them this issue of Nuances by clicking the link below.



The Monster Concert will take place on Saturday, October 24 from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm at Barnes & Noble, East Towne Mall. This event will be an opportunity for students to dress up in their Halloween costumes, play a piano piece, and receive a treat. Teachers may sign up for blocks of time by [emailing](#) Renee Farley or by calling 271-2626. More than half of the day is already reserved, so teachers are encouraged to make a reservation as soon as possible.

Here you may download this year's [Monster Concert poster](#) as well as a [sheet of coupons](#), which can be duplicated. Barnes & Noble will donate a percentage of their day's sales to the American Family Children's Hospital, provided that shoppers present their Monster Concert coupon at the time of purchase. Coupons are valid only on Oct. 24th at the Barnes & Noble at East Towne. Coupons may be applied toward any purchase, including items in the coffee shop area. The easiest way to distribute the coupons to the participating students is through their teachers. Other shoppers can also pick up a coupon at our table, as we will have plenty of extras. There will also be a "Wish List" for shoppers who would like to donate a children's book, CD, etc. to the Children's Hospital. Purchases and donations are not required to participate.

Volunteer teachers are needed at Barnes & Noble to monitor our table and to give out treats to performers. Shifts are available at the following times:

11:00 am - 2:00 pm and 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Contact Renee Farley if you are available to help cover an entire or partial shift.

This event is sponsored by Madison Area Friends of Piano, of which MAPTA is a participating member. MAFOP sponsors two events each year, the "Monster Concert" at East Towne, and the "Key Up for Kids Piano Playathon," which will take place on February 13, 2010 at Hilldale Mall. Watch for more details on the Playathon in future issues of Nuances.

Practicing Performing - A Way to Combat Performance Anxiety

Dr. Eugene Alcalay, guest columnist

It is easy to forget what a solitary, asocial activity playing the piano can be. While studying at Curtis and Juilliard, I often found it challenging to bond with friends because we each spent the better part of our days secluded in small practice cubicles; the piano our only companion. While solitary practice is important, it is not enough to prepare the player for performance.

With every new class of students come the same concerns. They say "I've practiced a lot, learned my pieces thoroughly, and yet I feel terribly nervous. I experience paralyzing stage fright, memory slips, and get awfully tense on stage." My response is consistent. "Yes, you have done great work in preparing, but have you actually practiced performing?"

Practicing performing, that is, experiencing those nerves in a more controlled setting by doing run-throughs in front of peers or colleagues is a crucial exercise in growing as a musician. Running through the Liszt Sonata for your grandmother or little sister is a start, but it is unlikely to simulate the same performance anxiety or produce valuable feedback. As a student, I went out of my way to "borrow" someone's ears to listen as I ran through a piece or program and, of course, I was always willing to return the favor.



Eugene Alcalay works with UW student Aelin Woo at a Master Class this past summer

Run-throughs also lead to conquering that great nemesis of pianists; the memory-slip. Quite simply, the more we play for our students and peers, the less we slip in concert. Here is how it works. When I have a memory slip in a run-through, it is most certain that I will not have the same slip in concert. After four or five run-throughs, most trouble spots are recognized and overcome.

For more security in memorizing, seek out and compare similar passages in a given piece (recap versus exposition in a sonata, similar subject entrances in a fugue). These spots are most likely to "go" first. It is also a good idea to create a "mental map" of the score containing key reference places to which we can always go in case of a lapse in memory. As a rule, I would not "retrace my steps" to a junction prior to a lapse. It is better to jump to a reference point after the danger area, lest we freeze again at the same spot.

We pianists often become so caught up in the physical act of playing that we forget to listen and breathe. We can become tense when playing intense passages and develop bad posture, which becomes so familiar that it feels normal. Video recording our practice allows us an objective view; we see exactly what we look like at the piano so we can identify and correct problem areas. You may even find that the camera's presence will bring out some new nerves which will eventually subside. The camera does not need to be fancy nor audio quality perfect. Most digital cameras have a "movie mode" which is good enough for our purposes.

Video recording also allows us to listen to ourselves objectively. Try playing back the recording while following along with the score. Tempos invariably sound faster on a recording. For me, this has always been difficult psychologically, yet I learn so much from the process.



Wide is the psychological gap between sitting alone at the piano and sitting on stage with an audience of any size. By enlisting your peers and using a video camera to analyze what you see and hear you will quickly notice improvement in the quality of your performance and in how you feel before, during and after performing.

A Steinway Artist and Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Eugene Alcalay



currently serves as Associate Professor of Piano at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. He has performed and given master classes in the United States, Europe and South America.

Young Artist Recitals



Young Artist Recitals are opportunities for students of MAPTA teachers to share their pieces with others in a friendly, non-competitive setting.

The recitals will be held on Sunday afternoons at one of two Madison locations according to the recital date; Capitol Lakes Retirement Center's Grand Hall, 333. W. Main Street, and Oak Park Place East's Grandview Hall, 718 Jupiter Drive. Admission, seating, and warm-ups commence at 1:00 with the performances starting at 1:30.

Registration details and all other matters pertinent to the the Young Artist Recitals are to be directed to [Brian Hagen](#)

Sonatina Festival - Saturday, November 7th by Mickey Lytle

The Ninth Annual Sonatina Festival, to be held this year on Saturday, November 7th, aims to raise awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the Sonata and Sonatina musical forms. As many music auditions and competitions are held in the spring, this festival encourages musical preparation during the fall semester by providing a performance goal for piano students of all ages and levels.



Sonatina Festival

The festival is held at Rhapsody Arts Center in Verona and is open to residents of Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois. Students will compete with other entrants in their age group. Medals will be awarded to the top performers in each category. Memorization is required (except for duets, adults, and teaching professionals). Entrants will play one movement of a selected Sonatina or Sonata without repeats.

Our judges this year are Eugene Alcalay, Associate Professor of Piano at UW-Platteville and Jane Baldrige, a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music. Decision of the adjudicator is final. Students who receive highest honors will be selected to perform in a winners' recital at the Steinway Piano Gallery of Madison following the judging. Select winners will also receive a cash scholarship and perform for the Steinway Piano Society. The Steinway Piano Gallery of Madison is the festival's sponsor again this year.

We hope to see you at Rhapsody Arts Center for this exciting day of music-making! Visit www.rhapsodyarts.org/sonatina for complete festival information and to download an entry form.

What Happened to our Area? by Grant Billings

Several Nuances readers deserve a little extra credit for noticing that last month's edition had an "Easter Egg" in it. For those unfamiliar with the concept, an Easter Egg is when something is hidden in a website or program just to see if anyone will notice. Well, several readers did.

The new MAPTA logo was missing the word "area" from the wrap-around the keys. Truth is, despite several sets of eyes proofing the final draft of the new logo, everyone... absolutely everyone... missed the fact that the word was missing.



The Board thanks everyone who noticed the "egg."

Now... can you find what's wrong with this edition? ;-)

Final Thought... Multitasking = Forgetting

In his new book, ["Why We Make Mistakes: How We Look Without Seeing, Forget Things in Seconds, and Are All Pretty Sure We Are Way Above Average."](#) Pulitzer Prize winning author Joseph T. Hallinan is clever in illustrating his point... right down to the crooked-cut book cover.



"One of (the problems) is that we forget what we were doing - or planned to do. That to-do list in our brains is known as working memory; and it keeps track of all the short-term stuff we need to remember... But the contents of our working memory can evaporate like water in a desert; after only about two seconds, things begin to disappear. And within fifteen seconds of considering a new problem, researchers have shown, we will have forgotten the old problem. In some cases, the forgetting rate can be as high as 40%."

On the topic of multitasking, he is blunt. "The gains we make by multitasking are often illusory... We gain nothing."

For the record, I was interrupted six times while typing this. You can find more information about this book by clicking the picture above.



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