



# Nuances

The Newsletter of MAPTA

September 2010 - Vol 41  
Issue 1

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## Submissions

Complete submissions of articles, events or other piano themed features are welcome. **All submissions are due by the 21st of each month to be considered for publication.**

Nuances Editor:  
Grant Billings  
c/o Steinway Piano Gallery  
6629 Mineral Point Road  
Madison WI 53705  
[nuances@SteinwayMadison.com](mailto:nuances@SteinwayMadison.com)

## Studio Exchange Teachers

Contact [Gloria Chuang](#), [Denise Taylor](#), [Shad Wenzlaff](#), [Debbie Yee](#) or [Joanna Grace](#) if you are interested in being a part of the Studio Exchange Program.

## Board Meeting UpDate

The dates for several Board Meetings have been changed from those listed in the Directory.

**Board Meetings will be held on:**  
September 28  
November 2  
January 25  
March 1

The locations listed in the Directory are correct.

## Regrets

## President's Message

[Debbie Yee](#)

Dear ,

Another school year is upon us promising more wonderful opportunities for both our students and ourselves.

You'll notice a slight change to the look of *Nuances*. The Table of Contents (to the right of this column) is now also the Calendar. Simply click on the event listed and *Nuances* will hop right down to the details.



The season kicks off with the Piano Competition Festival Awards Recital on Sunday, September 19. This is a great event that showcases our community's most talented young composers.

October offers another educational and enlightening Fall Workshop. Make sure to circle Friday, October 15 on your calendar for Kenneth Drake's presentation that will include "Touch as the Communicator of Interpretation" and "Beginning to Intermediate Classical Performance: Suggestions on Achieving Appropriate Stylistic Interpretation".

November heralds the premier event of the year, our Piano Playtogether, on Saturday, November 20. Robert Vandall will be conducting his piece which MAPTA commissioned from him for this event and the rest of the concert.

There will also be monthly General Member's Meetings with a varied repertoire of topics gleaned from last spring's Membership Survey. **Childcare will now be available at each general meeting!** Regular Young Artist Recitals will continue and the treasured Honors Recital will have some new twists and color. And the hospitality and comradeship of fellow teachers and other music business professionals will be at your fingertips. I hope to see many of you at these wonderful events.

Please make sure to call or email me with any comments or suggestions at any time.

Looking forward...

Debbie Yee  
MAPTA President

**Next General Meeting - Tuesday, Sept 14 - 9:00 am**  
Christ Presbyterian Church, 944 E Gorham St

Plan now to attend our first program of the year: **"Maximize Your Studio Potential: Business ideas that benefit everyone!"**

Presented by MAPTA's own Joanna Grace, this program is full of relevant information for any teacher, no matter what your studio size. Identify ways to market your strengths, build clientele, increase effective communication and achieve freedom in operating your studio. It will also address the business side of starting, maintaining, and managing a studio. Topics will include information about taxes, insurance, and vacation time.

*Joanna is a past president of MAPTA, and received the Studio Teacher Fellowship Award recipient from MTNA (in 2004). Her studio is Brass Keys Music in Madison.*

**Surprise! Two Deserving Students Receive Free Pianos**  
From Wisconsin School Music Association



On August 13, 2010, two lucky applicants for the Piano Bank program were the special guests at

Long time member **Elaine Faille** passed away in June.

Elaine was a very active member for many years in the 1980's and '90's and participated in the Monster Concerts and Playathon until just a couple of years ago.

She is someone who contributed a lot to the organization and who will be remembered as a good teacher and a solid supporter and comrade of her fellow teachers in MAPTA.

### Spread The Love!

*Do you know someone who could benefit from joining MAPTA?*

Send them this issue of Nuances by clicking the link below.



*Steinway Society's Grant Billings presents two lucky applicants with their new pianos*

a reception that included powerful remarks from Dr. John Schaffer, Director of the UW School of Music about the importance of music education.

The reception also included performances by past Piano Bank recipients, who shared their thoughts on how important playing the piano - and having a free piano in their home - was to them.

The Piano Bank makes free pianos available to area elementary through high school students who meet financial eligibility and other requirements. There are currently more than a dozen pianos available.

Near the end of the evening, two students were told that their applications had been approved and were introduced to their new pianos. Capping the evening, as the event concluded and the rain broke, guests enjoyed a rare double rainbow over Waunakee.

The next deadline for Piano Bank applications is September 15, 2010. For more information about program guidelines or to download an application, visit the [WSMA website](#).

**PSP Friday, Sept 17 - 1:00 pm**  
Ruth Heinecke's Home, 400 Oak Valley Rd, Mt Horeb



Performers Supporting Performers will meet Friday, September 17, 1:00 pm at the home of Ruth Heinecke.

Any MAPTA members interested in playing for each other in an informal home setting are welcome. Music need not be memorized. Contact Ruth for more information.

[Ruth Heinecke](#)  
608.437.4634

**Piano Composition Festival Awards Recital Sunday, Sept 19 - 3:00 pm**  
Covenant Presbyterian Church, 326 South Segoe Rd



I am very pleased to announce that Dr. David Dies, this year's guest adjudicator, is busy scoring this year's 27 Piano Competition Festival entries - an increase of more than 10% over last year! If you have students that entered, you will be hearing from us soon regarding scores and performance invitations.

Each entrant will receive a certificate of participation at the September 19 Awards Recital at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Madison. Teachers attending will also receive comment sheets at this time. It's truly inspiring to hear these original compositions and I encourage all teachers to attend this special event.

If your student is invited to perform, I will notify you via email soon after September 1 and ask you to reply within one week to confirm your student's participation in the Awards Recital. The committee needs enough time to facilitate awards, certificates, recital program, and reception details, so your help by replying as quickly as possible is appreciated.

If you have questions about the program, or other details, please feel free to contact me, but also note that I may not be able to reply to an email or voicemail in as timely a fashion as I normally respond.

Thank you for your entries and service to MAPTA,  
[Shad Wenzlaff, Festival Chairperson](#)

If you do not attend that, your student's certificates and comment sheets will be sent to you via snail-mail following the recital.

**Young Artist Recital Deadline Sunday, Sept 19**

The next Young Artist Recital will take place on Sunday, October 3, 2010 at Capitol Lakes Retirement Center's Grand Hall, 333 W. Main St.

For information, see the Membership Directory or contact [Brian Hagen](#) or [Renee Farley](#).

**Pro Goals Tuesday, Sept 21 9-11:00 am**  
Ward-Brodt, 2200 W Beltline Hwy

The Professional Goald Committee meets on the third Tuesday of September, October, November, January, February and March from 9-11:00 am at Ward Brodt.

For more information, see the Membership Directory or contact [Anita Schulz](#).

#### MSO's Youth Concerto Competition Deadline *Friday, Sept 24*



Photo by Zane Williams

The Fall Youth Concerto Competition provides outstanding young instrumentalists with the opportunity to perform solo repertoire with John DeMain and the Madison Symphony Orchestra at the annual [Fall Youth Concerts](#). It is open to students aged 8-14 who play piano or string, wind, brass and percussion instruments. Winners also receive a scholarship to attend the UW-Madison's Summer Music Clinic.

The chance to polish a concerto movement and to perform before a large audience can be the turning point in the life of a young musician.

More information is available at the [MSO website](#) or [click here for the registration form](#).

#### Fall Workshop "Connecting the Mind and the Fingers through Touch"

Friday, October 15, 2010 Registration 8:30 am  
Ward-Brodt, 2200 W Beltline Hwy



This year's workshop featured Kenneth Drake, Professor Emeritus at University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana.

This workshop is open to all students, teachers and piano enthusiasts.

[Click Here to Register](#)

For more information, contact [Gloria Chuang](#) (608)238-0603.

#### Young Artists Recital *Sunday, Oct 3 1:00 pm Warmups - 1:30 pm Performance* Capitol Lakes Retirement Center's Grand Hall, 333 W. Main Street

Practice begins at 1:00 pm with Performances starting at 1:30 pm. If the playing time of all students for a single recital exceeds 45 minutes, two recitals will be held with the second beginning around 2:30 pm.

Contact [Brian Hagen](#) or [Renee Farley](#) for more information.

#### Round Table Discussion Group *Friday, Oct 8 - 9:00 am* Debbie Yee's house, 5718 Piping Rock Rd

Come share games that you have used with your students! Contact [Debbie Yee](#) for more information.

#### Sonatina Festival Deadline *Friday, Oct 15*



2009 Sonatina Festival Finalists

The deadline for entering Rhapsody Arts Center's 10th Annual Sonatina Festival is October 15th. The competition will take place at Rhapsody Arts Center in Verona with the Awards Recital following at Full Compass Systems in Madison.

The annual event raises awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the sonata and sonatina musical forms and promotes music education.

The competition is open to students of all ages and levels of study from Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa. Last year's festival included 168 entrants with 53 finalists and \$400 awarded in scholarships.

Download the [entry form](#) and find more information at [rhapsodyarts.org](#).

#### Exploring Music Resources

[David Kartler](#)



The music of Dennis Alexander is this month's featured item. Many teachers took advantage of his visit on Aug 12 to purchase a wide variety of his repertoire. The top sellers included Premier Piano Course Value Packs, Especially in Romantic Style, Especially in Jazzy Style and several others.

Feel free to peruse his other traditional favorites: Best of Dennis Alexander, Dennis Alexander's Favorite Solos, A Splash of Color, Keys to Stylistic Mastery, and Keys to Artistic Performance.

Speaking of perusing, it's not too early for Halloween requests.



Dennis Alexander

Halloween music is arriving over the next couple weeks and Piano PlayTogether and National Federation music is in stock

**New Releases from the FJH MUSIC CO. Collections**

- In Recital for the Advancing Pianist, Classical Themes  
Edited by Helen Marlais FJH2104 / \$7.95
  
- Best-Loved Hymns I  
Arranged by Lyndell Leatherman FJH2023 / \$19.95  
The Wedding Collection  
Timothy Brown FJH2098 / \$6.95
  
- Bravissimo! Book 1  
Timothy Brown FJH2089 / \$5.95
  
- Timeless Piano Classics  
Edwin McLean FJH2083 / \$6.95
  
- Solo Standouts, Book 3 FJH2095 / \$6.95  
Intermediate/Late Intermediate compositions by 6 FJH composers.
  
- ¡Olé! by Lee Evans FJH2038 / \$6.50  
Original Latin American Dance Music

**Sheets**

- Winter Play - Elizabeth W. Greenleaf W9363 / \$2.95
- Johann the Cat - Mary Leaf W9360 / \$2.95
- The World Keeps on Spinning - K&J Olson W9361 / \$2.95
- Outplanet - The Final Battle- Edwin McLean W9359 / \$2.95
- Suite in G Major - Jason Sifford W9362 / \$4.95

**New releases from Hal Leonard**

- Returning to the Piano 00311845 / \$19.99  
A Refresher Book for Adults - Bk/CD  
44 Songs from pop tunes to folk songs to classical music that help you return to your previous skill level through familiar repertoire.

**MAFOP Update**

[Renee Farley](#)

M.A.P.T.A. is a member of Madison Area Friends of Piano (MAFOP). The two main events hosted by MAFOP are the Monster Concert at Barnes & Noble, East Towne Mall and the Key-Up-for-Kids Piano Playathon at Hilldale Shopping Center. The dates for these two events are: Monster Concert, October 30, 2010 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at Barnes & Noble East Towne Mall and Piano Playathon, February 12, 2011 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at Hilldale Shopping Center.

**Monster Concert**

Joanna Grace will do the scheduling for the Monster Concert. Teachers reserve a block of time for their students to play in costume and then receive a treat. The concert runs from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. You can reach Joanna at [info@brasskeysmusic.com](mailto:info@brasskeysmusic.com) or by calling (608) 663-0257. More teachers are needed to help staff the check-in table at Barnes & Noble. Let Joanna know if you can help. Please find the Monster Concert poster and vouchers for your students for the day. Teachers, please give one to each student that plays. A percentage of the net sales for the day will be donated to the American Family Children's Hospital.

**Key-Up-for-Kids Piano Playathon**

Plan to have your students get involved with the 19th annual piano playathon at Hilldale Shopping Center. This is a fundraising event where students get pledges or donations for playing the piano at one of two sites at Hilldale Shopping Center on Saturday, February 12, 2011. Last year the students raised over \$10,000 for the American Family Children's Hospital. Leftover tee-shirts from the 2010 playathon were donated to the Salvation Army where homeless families reside. Watch for a fall letter detailing how to get involved in this wonderful event where students use their piano talents to raise money for a worthy charity.

The next meeting of MAFOP will be on Thursday, September 9 at 8 AM at the home of Connie and Joel Jones, 36 Arboredge Way, Fitchburg. If you would like to join this committee, this is an open invitation. MAFOP meets once a month. It is a joint venture by piano teachers, piano dealers and piano technicians whose sole purpose is to encourage playing the piano. Please call Connie at (608) 442-8302 if you would like to attend.

**Piano Play Together Update**

[Diane Madsen](#)

The 2010 Piano Play Together will take place at Oregon Performing Arts Center on Sunday, November 21st. This year's event will feature a Robert Vandall composition commissioned by MAPTA!

There are still some students without a partner. If you have a student who is interested in playing, simply email [Patty Ladpli](mailto:Patty.Ladpli) and she'll help match your student with a partner.

The PPT Registration Update can be downloaded [here](#).

### Important dates:

Mandatory rehearsal - Sun. Nov . 14 - Steinway Piano Gallery of Madison

Mandatory rehearsal - Sat. Nov . 20 Oregon Performing Arts Center Oregon H.S.

PPT Event - Sun. Nov 21 Oregon Performing Arts Center

**Conductor:** Robert Vandall- WOW!! for us.

Anyone who wishes to play or simply be an audience member is welcome to join us. Contact [Diane Madsen](#) or [Jeanne Felix](#) with any questions.

### Technicality - Audition Recording Tips

[Buzz Kemper](#)

We at Audio for the Arts are pleased and proud to be a member of MAPTA. For 17 years we have dedicated ourselves to serving pianists and other acoustic musicians by providing the highest quality audio recordings. We can also record just about anywhere on-location, including schools, churches, community centers and even clients' homes.



Since student recordings are a specialty of ours (we offer 20% off our normal rates for student projects) we wanted to offer some tips to making exceptional audition recordings for schools, festivals, music camps, competitions or to receive scholarships.

- 1. Encourage them to read the technical rules carefully.** What are the technical requirements? What format do the adjudicators specify? Is editing allowed? Is a video recording required? Computer-based audio editing has gotten so sophisticated over the past few years that edits -even multiple edits- can be virtually impossible to detect. Because of this, some institutions require a video document of the session. The rules may also include instructions on the exact order of the pieces, what information needs to be listed on the CD label, etc. It is also common to find additional paperwork that the engineer needs to fill out. Give this information to the recording engineer and he/she can help you make sure that the submitted material is correct.
- 2. Quality In/Quality Out.** Your student should be concentrating on their performance; that means hiring professionals to do the recording. Sound quality matters, and this is one area where the "do-it-yourself" ethic will not serve them well. A well-played audition that is mired in distortion or noise is as unpleasant to listen to as a bad performance. A professional studio recording or-if the student prefers to record at their home, school, church or other facility, an on-location recording-will provide them with much higher sound quality than anything they or their friends can do themselves.
- 3. Book recording time well in advance.** If the materials are to be postmarked by the 30th, it is dangerous to book a recording appointment for the 29th. The reasons for this should be obvious, but if not, just think Murphy's Law: Things can go wrong. Maybe the student is having an off-day or doesn't feel well; maybe we are trying to record in their school or church and the maintenance crew is running a chain saw outside that afternoon (yes....that has actually happened). Making a recording appointment at least one week before the postmark deadline is good. This will also allow time for re-takes in case they are needed.
- 4. Come to the session yourself.** In our experience, having the student's teacher present at the session can be very helpful. As their teacher, you know the students' abilities and what, for them, is a good or not-so-good performance. You would know better than us when they should try another take and when it's time to move on to the next piece. You become, in a very real sense, their producer, and can help the student get through the process more smoothly and efficiently.
- 5. Gauge the student's stamina.** If your student has six pieces of music to record, it is best not to let them fall into the trap of doing 57 takes of the first one in pursuit of the "perfect take", then having them feel like they're going to pass out before finishing the rest of the program. Let's say it's early on in the recording session and a given piece of music isn't going well. The student may want to consider putting it aside for the moment and moving on to another piece. That will keep them from feeling stuck as their frustration level rises. Then, later in the session, they can go back and try the piece again. The second time around they may feel more confident and less frustrated.
- 6. Give the engineer final instructions, then go home and relax!** When they've finished recording, the engineer will typically spend a few minutes going over sound options with you and your student. Nothing too technical or intimidating, just simple things: Do you like the overall sound? Is the balance between instruments to your liking? Is the reverb pleasing? Then, give the engineer the final order of pieces for the CD, the exact information that should appear on the label, the number of copies you want, and you're done!

For more information about Audio For The Arts, visit [www.audioforthearts.com](http://www.audioforthearts.com)

### Board Meeting Minutes May, 2010

Minutes from each meeting of the MAPTA Board of Directors is published in each issue of Nuances in accordance with the bylaws.



Present: Anita Schulz, Debbie Yee, Joanna Grace, June Zeeh, Jeanne Felix, Denise Taylor, Shad Wenzlaff, Grant Billings, Janet Smith, Patty Ladpli, Cynthia Stephan, Gloria Chuang (late)

1. Minutes from March Board meeting were not available.

2. Treasurer's Report from June Zeeh: \$495 income from Honors and May brunch. Expenses \$606.05, includes May brunch, scholarship, phone line. Funds are being transferred to Summit Credit Union beginning 6/1. Total assets are \$9,581.84. Motion to accept Treasurer's report, approved.

Committee Reports and Budget Approval for 2010-11:

3. Fall Workshop - in Gloria Chuang's absence Debbie Yee proposed \$1200 income, \$1200 expenses. However, Marvin Blickenstaff, our proposed speaker has not been confirmed yet and the board hopes to find an equally well known speaker if our first choice is not available. Motion to approve budget of \$1200, approved.

4. Programs – \$700 expenses for programs, May brunch: \$500 expenses. Income: \$400 for May brunch. Move to accept, approved.

5. PSP - no budget, no report. Grant suggested we add \$25 to cover the cost of printing programs. Move to accept, approved.

6. EMR - no budget, no report

7. Nuances: Last year's income numbers does not include those who paid to get mailed copies of Nuances. Were this reflected, Nuances would have made money this year. Grant Billings expects to increase income next year through advertising. Grant proposes a paypal account, which costs 2.5% of the charges that run through per year. Charges might include Nuances ads, fees to MAPTA events (brunch, workshop). Shad Wenzlaff raised concerns about the extra work for the Treasurer. Motion approved to test Paypal for Fall Workshop. Then the Nuances budget was also approved for Nuances budget of \$200. After discussion of website (see #8, below), the board proposed adding "constant contact" (for website flexibility) to Nuances budget for \$600, Motion to accept new budget, approved.

8. Website: \$500/year maintenance on the website ("hosting"), \$500 to re-design the site and make it more appealing. The new improvements would make changes easier on the website by switching out of HTML code to a user-friendly update option. We could probably stop paying the webmaster (Michael) the maintenance fees if the re-design gives us more independence. Cynthia Stephan raised issue of making sure MAPTA website appears on search engines when parents do a search for a piano teacher. There would be a cost of \$400/year to be able to do surveys on the website ("constant contact") and various other applications including Nuances, the fee for which was provided by Grant for 2009-10 year. The cost of constant contact was added to the Nuances budget (see #7, above). Motion for \$1000 website budget, approved.

9. Publicity: Joanna Grace plans to explore free advertising first, community based advertising, word of mouth, phone calls. Proposes \$700 to get publicity going. Jeanne Felix inquired about where the emphasis will be for publicity - students/referral, or teachers/increase membership. Joanna sees publicity as helping every aspect, including trying to publicize MAPTA events. Grant is opposed to spending money on stationery, as he feels it is an outdated way to communicate and people can easily print with logos now. There was general agreement. Grant was concerned that the \$700 allowance for publicity was high given no specific plan of action. Joanna agreed to seek Board approval before spending publicity budget. Motion to accept \$700 budget, approved.

10. Referral: Yellow pages ad has been canceled. Question to abandon TDS phone line in favor of a Trac Fone, which would cost approx. \$150 startup, \$100 each year afterwards. Motion for \$150 for referral to be used for Trac Phone, approved. TDS phone line will be canceled.

11. Honors: Income \$1700, expenses \$1500, based on past performances. Motion approved for the budget.

12. Young Artists' Recitals: \$300 income, \$50 expenses. Motion approved.

13. Piano Play Together: Fee to Robert Vandall for commissioned piece already paid (\$500). Income based on 200 students/ \$14 fee. Higher fee is due to increase in conductor fee to \$1000. Board feels the fee of \$15 per person is fair and reasonable, Shad expressed concerns that some students would find that high. Motion approved. Total PPT budget of income \$3000, expenses \$2975. Board approved.

14. Piano Composition Festival: \$700 budget expenses, \$500 income. Fee is \$16. Propose at Covenant Presbyterian, Segoe Rd, on Sunday September 19, marginally cheaper at Covenant Presbyterian. Budget approved by Board.

15. Professional Goals: Anita Schulz distributed revised Bylaws and Responsibilities of each Chair for members to review and ask questions. Budget includes \$200 for printing and ink cartridge. Motion approved.

16. Membership. Cynthia requested help for board to make phone calls to people who haven't signed up for Membership yet. Budget approved as stated on the form.

17. Misc: Debbie proposes to start a "Presidential Library" \$75, start with 5 Federation booklets, in general Board was not enthusiastic to spend money in that way and found logistical problems where to house such a library. Cynthia proposes an online library that members list books they're willing to share to members upon request. Joanna can be point person for that. Board therefore approved \$50 budget for President's Budget, same as last year's.

18. Continuing Education: Board proposes keeping budget at \$500, approved. Board approved \$250 for MAFOP. Insurance expenses: \$1,042 approved by Board.

19. Next meeting in September. Board prefers 8:30 am meeting time over 9 am.  
Meeting adjourned at 10:42 am

Respectfully submitted,  
Denise Taylor, Secretary

#### Upcoming... Honors Festival

[Helga Swatzak](#)

It is our honor to co-chair the Honors Festival 2011. Although it is still early in the year, we would like to encourage you to start thinking of any students you might have, 10 - 18 year olds, who might want to work towards the auditions taking place on Saturday, February 19th, 2011.

Students may play one or two pieces from memory within a 10 minute time slot for two wonderful guest judges. We highly encourage the preparation of unique and imaginative repertoire by lesser known composers, and look forward to an exciting Honors Recital on Sunday, March 6th.

The Registration Form will be available in an upcoming issue of Nuances.

Janet Smith & Helga Swatzak

#### The Final Note



*"September is  
National Piano  
Month!"*

**Free Piano Themed Events in Madison:**

Wednesday, 9/1 5:00 pm [Jazz@5](#)

Saturday, 9/18 11 am [PianoWorks! For Kids!!](#)

Wednesday, 9/22 6:30 pm [PianoWorks For Adults](#)

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