



Nuances

The Newsletter of MAPTA

August 2012 Vol 43 Issue 1
MAPTA Calendar of Events

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Share The Music!

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

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 Editors:
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Studio Exchange Teachers

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

President's Message

[Patty Ladpli](#)

Dear ,

Welcome to the 43rd year of Madison Area Piano Teachers Associated!

I would especially like to welcome our new & returning MAPTA members:

Bess Berg
Heidi Chi
Jennifer Hedstrom
Heid Music
Melody Ng
Gina Weibel
Heidi Wiskur
Joanne Wroblewski
Shad's Piano Place



We're happy to have you join MAPTA and look forward to meeting you all soon.

Special thanks to Shad Wenzlaff for his work as membership chairperson. The membership directories will be completed and mailed to everyone very soon. In the meantime, login to the [MAPTA website](#) & you'll be able to see nearly all the general information & event information found in the directory aside from the complete list of members.

Please read about MAPTA's main Fall events: the [Piano Composition Festival](#) & the [Fall Workshop](#). There are some really exciting presenters lined up for these two events.

Lastly, please read my short list of tips for MAPTA members below...good for new members AND old!

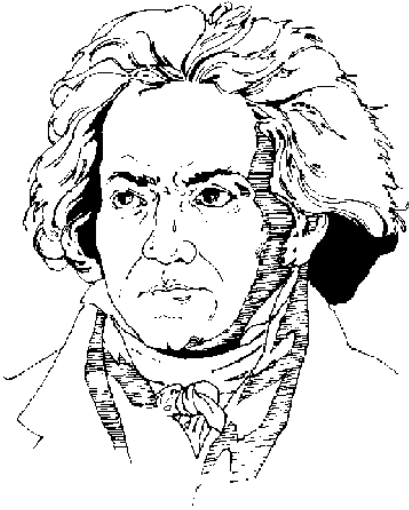
I hope you all enjoy the rest of your summer. Hope to see you at our opening General Meeting on September 11 at Christ Presbyterian Church!

Sincerely,

Patty Ladpli
MAPTA president

Piano Composition Festival Submissions
Registration Deadline is September 21

[Jeff Stanek](#)



MAPTA's Piano Composition Festival is now open for registration! Students (and teachers) who submit original piano compositions will receive written feedback from our guest composer, [Teddy Niedermaier](#) of Roosevelt University, and have an opportunity to perform at the festival, October 20, 2012, at the [Wisconsin Center for Music Education](#) in Waunakee. All participants, regardless of whether or not they submit a composition, will be able to take advantage of a full afternoon of activities suitable for all ages and experience levels, including group improvisation, composition and notation workshops, and more. [Download the Piano Composition Festival brochure](#) from MAPTA's website for more information, including a complete schedule and registration form, or contact chairperson [Jeff Stanek](#) at pcf@madisonpianoteachers.org.

Annual Fall Workshop *Friday, November 2*
[WSMA Center for Music Education](#)

[June Zeeh](#)



We are happy to announce the presenters for the Annual Fall Workshop: Vanessa Cornett-Murtada and Suzanne Schons. The Fall Workshop will take place on Friday, November 2 at the WSMA Center for Music Education in Waunakee. E-mail [June Zeeh](#) for more information. The official registration form will be available very soon!

The Brain and Music: Piano Teaching and Practice Strategies to Maximize Student Learning, by Suzanne Schons

Drawing from research in psychology, education, music education, and the rapidly evolving field of neuroscience, there is a great deal of information that piano teachers can use to help their students learn to their fullest potential. This session will provide a brief overview of how the brain learns, stores, and recalls information, and how a child's brain works differently from an adult's. Extensive teaching

and practice tips will be provided, on areas such as helping students direct their attention and avoid distractions, presenting concepts in a way that will create relevance and meaning for students, optimal timing of practice, strategies for motor skill development, and mental practice.

Suzanne Schons, Ph.D., NCTM, is on the music faculty of the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN, where she teaches piano lessons, class piano, and piano pedagogy. She also teaches students from preschool through adults in her home, and at the K&S Conservatory in Woodbury, MN. Prior to moving to Minnesota in 2007, she spent ten years on the faculty of the Crane School of Music, State University of New York at Potsdam, where she was Associate Professor. Her research interests include studying the brain and music learning, and she recently wrote a book chapter on that topic for the fourth edition of the piano pedagogy textbook *Creative Piano Teaching*. She is active in MTNA and is currently the certification commissioner for the West Central Division.

Crush the Jitters! Strategies for Performance Anxiety Management, by Vanessa Cornett-Murtada

Cold hands, fluttering stomach, self-doubt: these are only a few of the symptoms which can afflict performers, regardless of their age or level of ability. In this session we will examine the body's acute stress response before discussing a variety of ways in which anxiety can be addressed depending on the performer's age, personality, and degree of stress. Solutions include a variety of movement and breathing exercises to coax the body and mind to a naturally relaxed alpha-brainwave state, biofeedback techniques to warm the hands, creative visualization methods to bring about a positive physical response and silence "mind chatter," and a variety of healthy psychological strategies. With practice, these become powerful performance tools to quiet the body and mind.

Vanessa Cornett-Murtada, DMA, CHt, CMI, is the Director of Keyboard Studies at the University of St. Thomas. An international clinician, she has presented workshops and masterclasses around the U.S., U.K., Canada, Ireland, Italy, Serbia, Croatia, Greece, and Taiwan. Her publications include book chapters in *Creative Piano Teaching*, papers in the *Journal of Undergraduate Neuroscience Education* and *College Music Symposium*, and new music reviews in *Clavier Companion*. She chairs the Committee on Wellness for the Pianist for the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy and serves on the Wellness Forum for the Minnesota Music Teachers Association. She is a licensed hypnotherapist and a certified meditation instructor who specializes in the treatment of performance anxiety for musicians.

MAPTA Member Tips!

[Patty Ladpli](#)

1) **Attend [General Meetings!](#)**

We have some very interesting [programs](#) lined up for this year. Check out the schedule of general meetings. More detailed descriptions of the programs will be found in *Nuances* each month.



2) **[Register and pay fees & send in Nuances ON TIME!](#)**

Please be attentive to due dates for event registration. Fill out the registration forms & pay fees on time to help make life easier for the committee chairpersons & our treasurer. We are working towards having online registration & payment of dues/fees.

Also, be sure to send in *Nuances* submissions on time. There is a very short window of time that the *Nuances* editors have to work within...please help them by submitting by the 21st of the month, if not sooner.

3) **[Where to find information:](#)** Membership Directory, *Nuances*, & the [MAPTA website](#).

Please read your directory, *Nuances*, & the MAPTA website for general & event information. We also announce event information at general meetings and board meetings.

4) **More about [the MAPTA website!](#)** The website contains virtually all of the information that is in the directory, plus links such as: maps to venues & links to more information about speakers.

There is a complete calendar including deadlines, events, meetings. From the home page, if you click on "View all events" you will get a list of the events...but then if you click on "Calendar" you will get the events in a traditional calendar format.

Your Username to login to the website is the 1st initial of your first name + your last name. (ie. Pladpli) If you have forgotten your password or would like to change it, simply click on "Lost your password?" enter your username, and then click on "Get New Password" You will receive an e-mail with directions on resetting your password.

From the Treasurer

[Pamela McMullen](#)

Each year, MAPTA's finances are audited by a member who is not on the executive committee. In June, Shad Wenzlaff performed the audit. All checks written and received between June 1, 2011 and May 31, 2012 were accounted for and checkbooks balanced according to reports submitted.

There are three things to keep in mind for the coming year: all chairpersons or other members must submit an Expenses Request form (available on website) along with any receipts for expenses. There are no exceptions to this policy. Secondly, if possible, please submit requests in a timely fashion (ie. within 30 days from the date of the expense is preferred). Thirdly, all expenses need to be requested before the end of the fiscal year (May 31, 2013).

Piano PlayTogether 2010: Note from Robert Vandall on Fanfare Celebration

This note posted on our You Tube video of Fanfare Celebration from the last Piano PlayTogether:

Diane, I just now had a chance to see this video. Very, very good playing by all of your players. They were in sync, listened carefully to the balances, and were right with me on everything. It was a wonderful experience for me and I can't thank your organization enough for the opportunity to write that piece for you! Bob Vandall

[To see Fanfare Celebration, click here.](#)

Planning for the Piano PlayTogether in November 2013 will begin soon!

Madison Area Friends of Piano (MAFOP)

[Renee Farley](#)

We are in the initial planning stages for 2012 - 2013 performance events.

The Monster Concert will be on October 27th. Students and teachers come to play, in costume, at Barnes & Noble East. An all day spookly and fun event. Email Connie Jones for scheduling your studio.

The Key Up for Kids Piano Playathon will take place again at Barnes & Noble West on February 9th. This is our only fundraiser. Participants gather pledges for money to be used in The Child Life Program at American Family Childrens Hospital. Another all day event that encourages students to discover how they can contribute their talent for a meaningful purpose. Contact Connie Jones for scheduling times.

The newest: Oakwood Invitational will take place in the Oakwood West Auditorium, most likely in March. This is a concert, in a nice stage setting, for students who are chosen by their teacher as someone who will benefit from special notice of their efforts and talent.

MAFOP is a unique group of teachers, technicians and dealers. Creative ideas, staffing and additional hands are most welcome. This is a group you can help with on a short term basis (an event) or all year if you can.

PLEASE consider being more than just a participant and join us. We do have a lot of fun.

Contact: Connie Jones, 442-8302 or jajones2@wisc.edu

OR
Renee Farley, 271-2626 or reneef@farleypianos.com

Next meeting will be on September 14th @ 8:00 AM. Please come and see what we are all about.

