



# Nuances

The Newsletter of MAPTA

September 2012 Vol 43 Issue 2  
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.

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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](#)

Welcome back, !

I hope that everyone had a wonderful summer and that you're all ready to start the new school year. MAPTA has an interesting slate of programs for our general meetings, as well as some fresh ideas for our main events.



The Piano Composition Festival has been expanded to include an all-day workshop. In addition to the usual chance to submit a composition for feedback, [Dr. Teddy Niedermaier](#) will be leading workshop sessions for teachers & students. Students do not need to submit a composition in order to participate. Thank you to Jeff Stanek for organizing this event.

The Young Artist Recitals, chaired by Cynthia Stephan, will also try a new format--the recitals will follow a theme and may include some discussion or activity in addition to the recital itself. Also a very special thank you to Cynthia and Shad Wenzlaff for the printing & mailing of this year's membership directory.

Just to give new members an idea of how things work, let me explain how our meetings work.

On the 2nd Tuesday of the month is our general meeting which includes a program on a special topic and a business meeting. On the 3rd Tuesday of the month, the professional goals committee meets. And on the 3rd Friday of the month, Performers Supporting Performers gets together. Be sure to check the location of these meetings, because these meetings are held in different places throughout the year.

Our first meeting will be a Welcome Back Round Table, held on September 11, at 9:00 am, at Christ Presbyterian Church. It will be a nice chance to get acquainted with new members and share some teaching ideas. For new members--this is a GREAT chance for you to meet other teachers, network, and hear more details about the various events and programs for our members and our students.

MAPTA really does have lots to offer for all of its members--from teacher education, to student events, networking, and performance opportunities, in a friendly community of teachers.

Hope to see you all soon!

Patty Ladpli  
MAPTA President

### First Board Meeting of the Year

[Denise Taylor](#)

The first Board Meeting of the year will take place on Tuesday, September 4, 9:00 a.m., at the Middleton Public Library, 7425 Hubbard Avenue in Middleton. The October Board Meeting will be at the same location on October 23. Please send agenda items to Patty Ladpli.

### Welcome Back Round Table

[Alena Harrison and Helaine Muehlmeier](#)

All MAPTA members are invited to attend the first general meeting of the year, a welcome back round table, to be held on Tuesday, September 11, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will take place at Christ Prebyterian Church, 944 E. Gorham Street, in Madison.

Possible round table topics to be discussed include: student practice plans/strategies, building camaraderie in the studio, incorporating listening into the lesson.

### Professional Goals Committee Meeting

[Jeanne Felix and Diane Madsen](#)

The first professional goals meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 18, at the Sequoia Branch Library, 4340 Tokay Blvd., in Madison.

Contact co-chairs [Jeanne Felix and Diane Madsen](#) for more information.

### Performers Supporting Performers

[Ruth Heinecke](#)

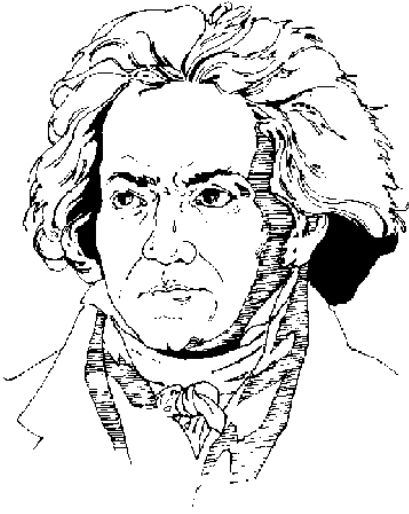
Performers Supporting Performers will meet Friday, Sept. 21, 10:00 a.m., at Patty Ladpli's home, [9406 Whippoorwill Way, Middleton](#).

For new members, our Performers Supporting Performers group meets informally in homes monthly (usually the 3rd Fri. of the month), where members can play for a friendly, supportive audience. Music need not be memorized. Even "works in progress" are encouraged and the music can be anything from intermediate level and up. Listeners are welcome, too. Please send your RSVP to [Patty Ladpli](#).

Plan to join the group!

Piano Composition Festival  
Registration Deadline is September 21

[Jeff Stanek](#)



We are in the midst of accepting registrations and submissions for the [Piano Composition Festival!](#) The festival will take place October 20 at the [Wisconsin Center for Music Education](#) in Waunakee and all entries are due by September 21. The expanded program this year features guest composer-pianist-educator Dr. Teddy Niedermaier and a full day of performances, improvisation, and composition workshops. Dr. Niedermaier will also offer a teaching workshop specifically for piano teachers. For more information, please contact Jeff Stanek, chair of the Piano Composition Festival via e-mail at: [pcf@madisonpianoteachers.org](mailto:pcf@madisonpianoteachers.org). You can also find out more online, as well as [download a brochure and registration form](#).

**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. Click here to get the [official registration form](#) OR [Register Online!](#) Please register by October 19.

*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.

*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.

## Membership Committee

[Shad Wenzlaff](#)

A special welcome for our new associate member, Miriam Cross, to MAPTA!

Please add her contact information to your membership directory:

Miriam Cross  
miriamjcross@gmail.com  
2990 BrynWood Drive  
Fitchburg, WI 53711

There is one update to the membership directory. Under the lists of accompanists and adjudicators, please change June Zeeh's e-mail address to: [junezeeh@tds.net](mailto:junezeeh@tds.net).

## Monster Concert Coming Soooooon!

[Renee Farley](#) and [Connie Jones](#)

It is "preaching to the choir" when one mentions the many benefits a child receives from playing the piano. The one I am going to mention today is one that still warms my heart--that is an adult watching a child play, seeing the adult maybe wishing he/she had done this as a child, or maybe just marveling at the skill of the child. This sort of thing happens every year at the Monster Concert (and lots of other places, too, but this focus is on the annual Monster Concert.) If you as a teacher have not participated in this event before, this is a good time to give it a try. Students (and many teachers) dress in costume and play. Some teachers announce the pieces, some children announce, some do not announce, but just play. You decide.

The event is on: Saturday, October 27, at Barnes & Noble Bookstore at East Towne Mall from 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., near the Food Court.

There is a direct entrance to the bookstore from the parking lot. Teachers sign up for blocks of time for their students to play.

Connie Jones is accepting bookings. Contact her at: [jajones2@wisc.edu](mailto:jajones2@wisc.edu) or 608-442-8302

Questions? Contact Connie Jones or Renee Farley ([renee@farleypianos.com](mailto:renee@farleypianos.com) or 608-271-2626).



## Piano Bank Program

[Jan Tweed](#)

Now that school is starting, it is time to think of those students who would benefit from taking piano lessons, BUT do not have a piano! If you know of anyone in this situation, please remember the Piano Bank Program sponsored by Billings Piano Company, the Steinway Society, and the Wisconsin Foundation for School Music. Information about the application form may be found on the WSMA web site--[wsmamusic.org](http://wsmamusic.org)---under Wisconsin Foundation for School Music. Read the stories of those students now in the program. For any questions about the program, please email the Piano Bank Coordinator, [Jan Tweed](#), of WSMA/WMEA/WFSM.

### Experienced Piano Accompanist Needed

[Nancy Wynn](#)

I am the director of the Plato Chorus, a group of 20-25 senior singers who are performing a variety of SATB music. We are all in our 50's, 60's, 70's and are in need of an experienced accompanist. We meet on Mondays from 1:30-3:00 at the Arboretum Co-Housing building at 1137 Erin St. The chorus is offered for 14 weeks in the fall and 14 weeks in the spring, plus a few performances throughout the year. The Plato Club offers about 25 classes each spring and fall for seniors and this is one of them. It would be wonderful to have an accompanist who would join the Plato Club and be with us for all our practices and performances.

The director, accompanist, and singers are all volunteers.

### The Final Note

***The Trill of It All*** - "When you see a one-handed violinist play the Tchaikovsky violin concerto, you can always say, there's a story behind the notes." - story about one-handed violinist, **Adrian Anantawan**.

