



Nuances

The Newsletter of MAPTA

September 2013 Vol 44 Issue 1
MAPTA Calendar of Events

Quick Links

[MAPTA Membership](#)

[Contact MAPTA Officers and Directors](#)

[Last Month's Issue of Nuances](#)

[Advertising in Nuances](#)

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 Editor:
Stacy Fehr Regehr
3212 Churchill Drive
Madison WI 53713
nuances@madisonpianoteachers.org

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.

September Program
Tuesday, September 10, 2013

President's Message

[June Zeeh](#)

Dear

Greetings!

Welcome to the forty-fifth year of MAPTA! I hope that this summer has been productive and enjoyable for everyone.

The exciting events this fall are our Piano Play-Together and Fall Workshop with Dallas Weekley and Nancy Arganbright. Registration for the Play-Together is due October 1st. Registration for the workshop is due October 25th.

Our first general meeting of the year is on Tuesday, September 10, with Joyce Grill speaking on "Pedagogy This and That". The meeting will be held at Madison Christian Community at 7118 Old Sauk Road, Madison.

The first Young Artist Recital will be held on October 20th, with registration due on October 6th.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our MAPTA events!

June Zeeh
MAPTA President

September Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held Tuesday, September 3, 9:00-11:00 a.m., at Heid Music, 7948 Tree Lane, Madison.

[Pamela McMullen and Helaine Muehlmeier](#)

MAPTA's first scheduled program of the year will be "Pedagogy This and That", presented by Joyce Grill. The program and general meeting will be Tuesday, September 10, from 9:00-11:00 a.m., at the Madison Christian Community Center, [7118 Old Sauk Road, Madison](#).

New Member Tea

[June Zeeh](#)

A time for new MAPTA members to become better acquainted with MAPTA will take place this month. A tea for new members and board members will be held at [1653 Park Street, Middleton](#), on Sunday, September 15 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Please R.S.V.P. to June Zeeh at: junezeeh@tds.net or 608-831-3716.

Performers Supporting Performers

[Ruth Heinecke](#)

PSP is a group of MAPTA teachers that meets monthly to play for each other in informal, home settings. Music at any level may be played, memorization isn't required, and listeners are welcome, too. This is a good incentive to keep our own practicing habits active, and provides some social time with fellow teachers. We will alternate our meeting times between the 4th Tuesday and 3rd Friday of the month.

The first meeting of this school year will be held at Ruth Heinecke's home, ([400 Oak Valley Road, Mount Horeb](#)) on Tuesday, September 24, 10:00 a.m.

Feel free to contact [Ruth](#) with any questions.

PlanoPlayTogether

We are gearing up for a wonderful Piano Play Together, a group ensemble event with 10 pianos on stage and students playing duets. Students get valuable ensemble experience and get to work with the esteemed duo-piano team of Weekley and Arganbright. This year's event will be held Sunday, November 17, 2 p.m., at MATC Mitby Theater, with mandatory rehearsals on Sunday, November 10 and Saturday, November 16.

This will be one of MAPTA's premiere events this year, and we want as many MAPTA students as possible to participate! For those of you new to this event (it's held every 3 years), here are a couple of tips:

1. If possible, sign two of your students up per piece (one primo, the other secondo), so you create a complete 4-hand piano "team". (The exception is Level 1 pieces, where the teacher must be the second part.) If a pair isn't possible from your studio, you may contact Patty Ladpli for pairing opportunities. We want everyone to participate who can!
2. Repertoire lists are available at Heid Music and Ward Brodt, and [here](#). The repertoire list gives the approximate level of the piece, and you should be able to view sample copies at Heid Music. If you have any questions whether or not a piece has been filled up, please contact Patty Ladpli.
3. Make sure families have the dates in their calendars. If you're concerned about a possible rehearsal conflict for your student, please email Denise Taylor, who can give you approximate rehearsal times for each day. This will also help you pair siblings together, so they rehearse somewhat close to each other. Our goal is that even the busiest students can fit this event in, but the rehearsals are mandatory.
4. HURRY AND DON'T DELAY!!! Registration form and \$20 per person fee is DUE OCTOBER 1. The

form is available [here](#).

We are looking for teachers who can help us plan this event. If you're interested, please email Denise Taylor RIGHT AWAY. Many hands will help us coordinate a smooth and professionally-run event for teachers, parents, and students. Regardless, all teachers need to participate at the event itself.

Be sure to sign your students up to this fun and valuable opportunity; they will not be sorry!

Welcome, New Members!

[Linda Johnson](#)

Jennifer Hedstrom

1154 E. Mifflin St.
Madison, WI 53703
847-400-7263
jlhedstrom87@gmail.com
Specialties: young beginners, accompanying, chamber music

Luanne Ritsema

887 Hemlock Drive
Verona, WI 53593
608-848-1679
LMRITSEMA@tds.net
Specialties: Beginner to intermediate
Other instrument taught: organ

MAFOP

[Connie Jones and Renee Farley](#)

This is MAFOP's 22nd year! We hope you will plan to be part of one or both of our events.

MAPTA is an active member of Madison Area Friends of Piano (MAFOP). There are three events this year sponsored by MAFOP:

MONSTER CONCERT

Saturday, October 26, 2013, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Barnes & Noble East Towne
This is an opportunity for your students (and you, if you would like!) to dress in costume and play a piece. Teachers register through Connie Jones at jajones2@wisc.edu or 608-442-8302.

KEY-UP-FOR-KIDS PIANO PLAYATHON

Saturday, February 8, 2014, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Barnes & Noble West (by Metcalfe's and Shopko)
This event is a fund-raiser for the American Family Children's Hospital. It is a unique opportunity for children to give of themselves and their piano talents to benefit other children. The event has received increasing coverage from local television and radio stations. This day really promotes playing the piano in a positive way. The bookstore employees tell us how many customers say they enjoy hearing the children play.



OAKWOOD INVITATIONAL

Monday, March 17, 2014
Oakwood Auditorium, West
MAPTA students worthy of being recognized as outstanding performers or ones who have worked especially hard will be offered the opportunity to perform on stage in the Oakwood West Auditorium.

Family & friends are encouraged to join the residents of University Woods for a very popular evening concert.

NEW TO MAFOP!! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE OUR OWN WEBSITE!

The website will be up and running in time for you to benefit from it for scheduling your students for MAFOP events. You will be able to see which times are open so when you contact Connie, you will have this added information.

MAFOP wishes all teachers and students a rewarding year filled with learning new repertoire.

Questions about MAFOP can be directed to Connie Jones at 608-442-8302 or jajones2@wisc.edu or Renee Farley at 608-271-2626 or renee@farleypianos.com.

Sonatina Festival

[Leo Van Asten](#)

Rhapsody's 13th annual Sonatina Festival will be held on Saturday, November 16, 2013. The festival 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.

More information can be found on the festival website www.sonatinafestival.org or by calling Rhapsody Arts Center at 608-848-2045.

Piano Lessons, NO WAY!

[Jo Simons \(former member as Jo Severt\)](#)

Yesterday I had a remarkable piano lesson with a brand new student, six-year-old Mason. I've been teaching Mason's older sister, Annie, for two years, and their mom suggested I should try out a lesson with her brother. However, Mason would have none of it and defiantly told us so as he sat on the living room floor, arms crossed. He told us over and over again, "I do NOT want to take piano lessons. It's a big waste of my time!" But his mother told me that he's super resistant to new things, but if something happens to hook him, he becomes very invested in it. I wasn't so sure I could hook him with that attitude, but nevertheless, we headed to the piano room that is also a playroom littered with little pieces of toys that I always have to gingerly step over on my way to the upright piano. Mason stomped in, letting me know in no uncertain terms that he was NOT happy about this. His mother made him do it; otherwise, he would have run at top speed in the other direction!

The first thing he did to express his displeasure with this whole affair was jump up on the piano bench and start pounding the keys with his sneakers! I told him that's not good for the piano, so he climbed up on top of it and just sat there, legs folded underneath him. He had taken some of the toy pieces from the floor and started dropping them on the keys, which I also let him know would hurt the piano. Ok, I've got a half hour with this very resistant, strong-willed child, now what? (In all the years I've been teaching, I've never experienced anything like THIS!) So I just started doing what I do with beginners: demonstrating the musical alphabet starting from the bottom note. This is A, then B, and then looked up at him to tell me what the next key is. He let me know he wasn't going to talk to me--his lips were sealed as he swiped his fingers across his lips and "threw away the key." But after a few moments he said, "The top note is Z." Other than that, he was completely silent. But a few minutes later, he pointed to the low notes and the high notes and told me what they were. "Right you are," I said to him with a big smile! Of course Mason was testing me - all kids do, and when they discover I'm not a harsh disciplinarian and that I accept them for who they are and am not going to try to force anything on them, very interesting things start to happen. The real kid emerges, which is always a beautiful thing for me to see. It works like a charm for optimal learning if kids are relaxed and there's a sense of fun about it all, although I truly did not expect it to

work with Mason. He was already showing me the "real kid!"

But surprisingly, next thing I knew, he was sitting next to me on the bench! Then I decided to show him 3 keys on the piano that he could play while I played a standard accompaniment underneath his improvisation. It's an easy first-lesson thing I always do and kids get to play C,D,E any way they want. It actually gives me a lot of information about their skill level; I can tell if they have a sense of rhythm, how their fingers work on the keys, and how creative they are. I know Mason liked that he could do it HIS WAY. Next, I told him he could play any black keys he wanted, and I played a boogie bass while he switched to that task easily. We must have done that for a full 5 minutes. All his angry resistance was gone, and he was very focused on making music! At one point, I happened to notice out of the corner of my eye that his mother was filming us from behind the glass doors of the piano room. Mason was so engrossed in what he was doing, he didn't even notice her!

Next, I told him we were going to make up a song about rain... and gave him some preliminary examples of what rain and thunder might sound like. That led him to want to write his own song... and he already had a name in mind: "Forest Colors!" I was amazed because it went on and on and was really creative! Then he had another song he wanted to play called "X-Box," which is one of those kid culture things I'm clueless about. I asked him what that was and he explained it to me. "Ah," I said, "Go! Let's hear it." And once more, it was surprisingly long. I then dragged out a beginning book and had him play a few simple songs which he did with no resistance. The time flew by! Soon enough his half-hour was up and it was time for his sister's lesson. When I told him that, I expected him to bolt for the door, but instead he said to me, "Let's just go another five minutes!!!!!" I was completely blown away. He wanted more! Had I actually hooked this stubborn little boy?! And when I finished with his sister's lesson and was talking to his mom afterwards, she asked me if I thought she should force him to take lessons or not, and I said, "You know, I think it's very possible he might want to continue... not sure, though, but I think we should just wait and see what happens next" and I told her about the lesson.

Amazingly, in that wild half hour, he actually learned a lot! He learned the musical alphabet and how it works on the piano; he identified the twins and triplets (black notes); learned his finger numbers, plus what quarter notes, half notes, whole notes, and quarter note rests are. He wanted to know more about rests, if there were other kinds, etc. Wow. I'm very curious to see what happens next week. I told his mom, "So far, I think I've convinced Mason that piano is just plain fun (it isn't of course) but he's six, and we can just have fun for awhile. I'll slowly introduce musical concepts into each lesson if he does decide he wants to continue." I also told Mason after hearing his two compositions, "You can be the world's youngest composer!" Then I said to him "But I think Mozart has you beat.....he was writing at three." Mason was amazed at that, but also I could see he was excited about the prospect of being a composer some day. And if that's the direction he wants to go, I'll be totally supportive of course!