



Nuances

The Newsletter of MAPTA

Sept 2014 Vol 45 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](#), or [Debbie Yee](#) if you are interested in being a part of the Studio Exchange Program.

President's Message

[June Zeeh](#)

Dear



Greetings! Welcome to the forty-sixth year of MAPTA!

A special thanks to those who served on the board last year, and to those who are continuing their positions. I would like to extend a warm welcome to new board members. MAPTA is fortunate to have a dedicated group of people willing to invest their time and energy into making MAPTA a quality organization.

We have a wonderful year of exciting programs and events planned. The first meeting on September 9 features our own members speaking on their continuing education experiences this summer. The meeting takes place at Shad's Piano Studio, 615 N. Sherman Ave., Suite 21, Madison.

Our workshop with Gail Berenson is planned for November 7. Please see the workshop description below and plan to attend this stimulating day with a master teacher, performer, and clinician.

The first Young Artist Recital takes place at St. Mary's Care Center on November 2, with a registration deadline of October 19.

I hope that all MAPTA members are able to take advantage of the opportunities that MAPTA has to offer for you and your students. The hospitality and comradeship of fellow teachers and music business professionals are at your fingertips through our organization.

Please do not hesitate to call or write to me or to any board member with your comments and suggestions.

Looking forward to another productive year!

June Zeeh
MAPTA President

Program and General Meeting

The first program and general meeting of the year will be on Tuesday, September 9, 2014, at member Shad Wenzlaff's studio: [615 N. Sherman Ave., Suite 21, Madison](#). MAPTA members will be sharing continuing education experiences from this last summer, including the following from Gloria Chuang:

How to Make Your Presentation More Engaging and Participatory!

Think of a Question that the students/your audience have in mind
Before you show slides think of the picture before your audience does
Challenge your audience
Hands-on Demonstrations

During the National Convention in March, there was an overwhelming amount of sessions on music wellness, installing another new iPad app, and the vast amount of new series of music being published with the usual companies, but nothing caught my attention except from a session about practicing. The presenter: Barbara Fast from the University of Oklahoma. Her session entitled, "Practicing: What the Expert Is Saying", has a lot to do with the session I am about to give to our teachers. She gave professional examples from all across the art forms and presented slides on that the average time to get to a professional level, one has to spend 10,000 hours or more. Yes, 10,000 of practicing will make you an expert in any field. So, in the session during our first general meeting, I am about to explore the technique I am using from the lecture and ways I learned to incorporate that into my lecture. Although not quite over 10,000 hours yet, this is a start on how I can draw my audience into a presentation on "Bach and his Son, C.P.E. Bach--Celebrating his 300th, the Style Gallant".

At the end of my presentation, I will have an evaluation on the ways I presented and comment sheet for ways I can improve.

From Gloria Chuang--after the session on Barbara Fast during the National Convention March 22-26, 2014 in Chicago.

Board Meeting

There will be a MAPTA Board Meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 2014, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., at Heid Music, [7948 Tree Lane, Madison](#).

Performers Supporting Performers

[Ruth Heinecke](#)

Performers Supporting Performers will meet on Friday, September 19, 10:00 a.m., at the home of Ruth Heinecke, [400 Oak Valley Road, Mount Horeb](#). Anyone interested in performing in a relaxed, informal setting is encouraged to attend. Listeners are welcome, too!

Please contact Ruth (ruthheinecke@gmail.com) for more information.

Exploring Music Resources

[Denise Taylor](#)

Halloween Music for Your Students

What young student doesn't want a FUN piece to begin the fall season of lessons? A great choice for beginning students is Halloween music (and its perfect concert: the Monster Concert hosted by MAFOP). The music is fun and inspiring, which helps students prioritize piano practicing as they juggle a new semester of school and extra-curricular activities. Generally, I give each elementary student one Halloween piece as a supplement to their regular lesson book and repertoire. What I have found is that students have fun with costume planning, candy dreams, and spooky thoughts, while practicing their pieces and increasing their piano skills and confidence.

To my mind, a Halloween piece should be spooky but a surprising number of them are not (!). Most are in minor keys, sometimes with twangy added notes. Very early level pieces often depend on Halloween lyrics, which encourages singing in lessons and practicing. The ones that are in major keys usually describe happy pumpkin patches or candy treats.



A great choice for skilled Elementary players are any of the numerous Tarantellas written as Halloween music. A few examples are (in approximate order of difficulty): *Graveyard Tarantella* by Robert Vandall (Alfred), *Ghost Tarantella* by Christos Tsitsaros (Hal Leonard), and *Terrifying Tarantella* by Mary Sallee (FJH).

Some other good choices for students in approximately level 3-4 lesson books might be: *Black Cat Scherzo* by Melody Bober (Alfred), also in 6/8 time with a one octave G minor scale in the music; *A Spooky Story* by Kathleen Massoud (Alfred), which will help build finger strength with lots of half step dexterity; *Jack O'Lantern Jamboree* by Martha Mier (Alfred), a particular favorite of students that sounds more difficult than it actually is, thanks to a simpler LH.



Music for younger or earlier students (approx level 2) choices might include: *Grumpy Old Witch* by Dennis Alexander (Alfred) avoids one "position", bouncing around A minor pentascale and having both chords and toccata-like alteration; *Little Black Cat* by Martha Mier (Alfred) which is fun, humorous and sounds good, lots of G minor position but breaks away from it plenty; *Halloween Footsteps* by Margaret Goldston (Alfred), which jumps from one C minor position (with accidentals) to another. An easier choice might be *Cat Prowl* by Nancy Faber (FJH), which alternates between C minor position and twangy seconds on

two-black-key groups.

There are even pieces intended for students who began their first lessons in September. I might suggest *Halloween!* by June Montgomery (Alfred), with two bars for left hand, then two bars right hand, as opposed to melodies split between the two hands (which I think is harder for beginners).

At Heid Music, I reviewed a few books exclusively of Halloween music. *The Piano Town Halloween*

book, *Primer Level* (Kjos) is presumably meant to pair with the corresponding Snell/Hidy Piano Town series. This book is clearly intended for the brand new September student, with 9 pieces, each introducing new concepts such as 3/4 time, slurs, staccatos, and rests. The first 2 (*Candy Bag*, *Wise Old Owl*) have notes without staff lines, then quickly moves to the staff for the remaining pieces. Each piece, particularly the beginning ones, depend on text for Halloween context, as well as teacher duet parts to provide that crucial "spookiness".

Another book I reviewed is *Bastien Halloween Treats, level 1* (Kjos). I would choose this for students having already completed several months of lessons, or an older brand-new beginner. There are no duet parts, and all but one have text. Six one-page pieces are interspersed with light and appealing Halloween-themed theory exercises. *The Waltz of the Polka-Dotted Ghosts* has manageable broken and blocked root position triads in C Minor and is accessible and valuable for early students. *Boogie Down on Halloween Night* provides light syncopation and accidentals. *A Skeleton for Tea* makes a nice early recital piece.

Tom Gerou's 5-finger *Halloween Fun* (Alfred) might appeal to certain cases. Known for his popular arrangements, Gerou presents thirteen pieces of familiar Halloween tunes, such as *The Monster Mash*, *Funeral March of a Marionette*, and even two Harry Potter tunes (*Hedwig's Theme* and *Voldemort*).

They all come with teacher duet, which provides much needed harmonic richness. I'm not a big fan of the 5-finger style --which splits the melody between hands, in roughly middle C position with some variations-- because students can find it musically challenging and unintuitive. Regardless, this book would appeal to students who already know the tunes (maybe a much older beginner?). *The Monster Mash*, for example, has so many repeated notes per phrase that it just sounds silly without being able to hear the "real" version in one's head while playing it. But if you have a die-hard Harry Potter fan, this might be a great choice.



WMTA

Emily Schultz

WMTA High School Virtuoso Competition (Grades 9-12)

Date: Friday-Saturday, October 17-18, 2014

Location: UW-Whitewater

Application deadline: Thursday, September 11, 2014

Contact: Dr. Mary Tollefson, 608-785-8418, mtollefson@uwlax.edu

http://www.wmta.net/2014.WMTA_HSV_info.pdf

MAFOP's Monster Concert

[Jeanne Felix](#)

The Madison Area Friends of Piano (MAFOP) is again sponsoring a fall "Monster Concert". It will be held on Saturday, October 25, 2014, at Barnes & Noble East. You may schedule times in 15 minute intervals for your studio. Contact Jeanne Felix at jmfelix@netzero.net or 608-345-8456 for scheduling your studio time.

The Monster Concert is a great way for your students to showcase their favorite pieces while wearing their favorite Halloween



costumes!!

Fall Workshop

[Alena Harrison](#)

The annual workshop is a special event featuring a guest speaker on a variety of pedagogical topics. Gail Berenson, Professor of Piano at Ohio University, will present this year's workshop.

Date: Friday, November 7, 2014

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: WSMA Center, [1005 Quinn Drive, Waunakee, WI](#)

Schedule:

8:30 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. "Bach to Bartok and Beyond: The Collaboration of Physical Gestures and Sound Concepts in the Teaching of Style"

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. "The Art of Communication: Nurturing Resourceful and Spirited Students"

11:45 a.m. Questions/Wrap-up

12:00 p.m. Lunch

12:45 p.m. Master Class



Gail Berenson, a native of Kenosha, Wisconsin, is Professor of Piano at Ohio University and was awarded the School of Music's "Distinguished Teacher of the Year" Award in 2000. As a result of her respected work as a piano pedagogue and her reputation as a noted expert on musician wellness issues, she is much in demand as a performer, clinician, master class artist, adjudicator, author, and reviewer. She has performed and lectured in over thirty states and ten countries, and is a Past President of Music Teachers National Association, an association of over twenty-three thousand members. This summer she will be a presenter at the 2014 World Conference of the International Society for Music Education in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Ms. Berenson is one of the co-authors of *A Symposium for Pianists and Teachers: Strategies to Develop Mind and Body for Optimal Performance* and a contributor of three chapters to the fourth edition of the Lyke, Haydon, Rollin book, *Creative Piano Teaching*. In recognition of her significant contributions to the music world and the music teaching profession, she was awarded an MTNA Foundation Fellow Award in 2007. A dedicated teacher, her students are performing and teaching in independent studios and on college faculties throughout the world. More information can be found on her website at: <http://www.gailberenson.com>

Fees: \$35 MAPTA Members
\$45 Non-MAPTA Members
\$20 Students

Registration Deadline: Friday, October 17, 2014

Send Registrations to: Alena Harrison, 814 N Gammon Rd, Madison, WI 53717

Questions?: (608) 203-6043 or alena.harrison@gmail.com

Directory Updates

[Linda Johnson](#)

Please update your directory with the following MAPTA members:

Grant Billings (ASM)
Piano Gallery Madison LLC
6629 Mineral Point Road
Madison, WI 53705
608-237-7373
grant@billingspiano.com
used pianos, new pianos, tuning and technical services

Marianne Egerstrand (ACT)
Ambiance Muzik/Music Lessons
2413 Fremont Ave. #4
Madison, WI 53704
608-249-5444
ambiancemuzik@gmail.com

DiAnne Genrich (ACT)
4111 Observatory Road
Cross Plains, WI 53528
608-798-3718 home
608-219-7402 cell
diannergr@tds.net

Carrie Glasgow
4815 Midmoor Road
Monona, WI 53716
608-212-2448
cmw@uwalumni.com

Jennifer Hedstrom (ACT)
1154 E. Mifflin St.
Madison, WI 53703
847-400-7263
Jlhedstrom87@gmail.com

Kirstin Ihde (ACT)
New address:
824 Nebraska Street
Oshkosh, WI 54902

Lisa Mott (ACT)
4210 Dempsey Road
Madison, WI 53716
608-259-6924
mottgal@gmail.com

Barbara Norcross (ASM)

E9818 Buckhorn Road
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608-524-8753
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608-224-0030 home
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Heather Yonker (ACT)
5 Wynbrook Circle
Madison, WI 53704
608-628-3406
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Jennifer Zuhlke
Jennifer's Piano Studio LLC
1310 Iowa Drive
Madison, WI 53704
608-698-7390
jzuhlke@gmail.com
www.jenniferspianostudio.net

Directory Correction

[Pamela McMullen](#)

Correction to MAPTA 2014-2015 Directory:

page 7: Annual May Brunch will take place on **Tuesday, May 12, 2015**, not on May 13.

My apologies for this error.

MAPTA Meeting Minutes

[Alena Harrison](#)

April 8, 2014, MAPTA Meeting

Minutes were read and approved from March 11, 2014, meeting.

Young Artist Recital - April 27

Adult music social - April 13, at 2 p.m., at Judy Ferrari's house, 3118 Timber Lane Verona.

PSP meeting - Meeting fourth Tuesday in April (29) for one final meeting this year at Sue Ellen's home at 10 a.m., 2413 Ravenswood Road, Madison, WI 53711

May meeting at Oakwood West - May 13, at 9:00 a.m. - will have snacks in lobby after meeting. Programs, snacks, meeting. Committee reports at the business meeting.

Anita Schultz honored as honorary member.

Positions open: please let June know if interested. Passed around a list.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.