



# Nuances

The Newsletter of MAPTA

**April 2015 Vol 45 Issue 9**  
**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  
5013 Hammersley Road  
Madison WI 53711  
[nuances@madisonpianoteachers.org](mailto:nuances@madisonpianoteachers.org)

## 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](#)



Welcome to our April edition of Nuances!

This year has held many valuable and exciting events for our members, and as we approach the end of our MAPTA year, there are still wonderful events taking place.

**April 12** is the Adult Music Social at the home of Judy Ferreri.

**April 14** is a planning meeting for next year's programs. Any MAPTA member who wishes to have input is welcome to attend this meeting. It will be held at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Debbie Yee, [5718 Piping Rock Road, Madison](#).

**April 24** is the next meeting of Performers Supporting Performers at the home of Ruth Heinecke.

**May 10** is the Young Artist Recital which will be held at Oakwood West. Registration deadline is **April 26**.

**May 12** is our final MAPTA meeting of the year. The program has changed. It will be presented by Trevor Stephenson at his home at [5729 Forsythia Place, Madison](#), at 9:00 a.m., with a meeting and snacks to follow.

**May 19** is our final Board meeting of the year at Heid Music Store at 9:00 a.m. At this meeting, outgoing board members will transfer their duties to new board members.

There are still a few board positions open for next year. These are: Membership/Referral, Nuances Co-Chair, and Publicity. For more information on these positions, or to indicate your interest, you may contact Alena Harrison, incoming President, at [alena.harrison@gmail.com](mailto:alena.harrison@gmail.com), or at [608-204-5353](tel:608-204-5353). A new feature for our board members is that they will now pay a reduced membership fee of \$30.00.

June Zeeh  
MAPTA President

### MAPTA Chairpersons Needed!

[Alena Harrison](#)

We are seeking chairs for the following committees beginning this coming school year (2015-2016). Committee chairs generally serve for two years:

- Membership/Referral - tracks membership renewals, puts together the directory
- Nuances Co-Chair - assists in compiling and sending out communications
- Publicity - in charge of helping get the word out to the broader community about MAPTA

If you have been wondering how you can get involved and help support MAPTA, now is your chance to step up and make a difference! And to those of you already serving, thank you!

Please email or call Alena Harrison ([alena.harrison@gmail.com](mailto:alena.harrison@gmail.com); [\(608\) 203-5353](tel:6082035353) (home) or [\(608\) 695-6705](tel:6086956705) (cell)) if you would like to learn more about one of these positions or if you are interested in volunteering. Thanks to each of you for all you do to help make MAPTA a great resource for piano teachers and students in the Madison area.

### Adult Music Social

[Cheri Lewis](#)

The Spring Adult Music Social will be held on Sunday, April 12, at 4:00 pm. Please encourage all your adult students to participate in this opportunity. The event is fairly informal and will help pianists at all levels to become more comfortable sharing their music with others. Pieces can be memorized or played with music. Adult students who would first like to learn more about the social are also welcome to attend without playing that evening. Those attending are requested to bring a small plate of cookies or other food to share. Call Cheri Lewis at [608-222-5125](tel:6082225125) with any questions.



Judy Ferreri will be hosting the event at her home: [3118 Timber Lane, Verona](#). Call Judy at [608-469-2235](tel:6084692235) for directions.

### Programs for MAPTA 2015-2016

[Linda Johnson](#)

Now is the time to make known the ideas that have crossed your mind as programs that would be interesting for our MAPTA meetings. Everyone is invited to attend the Programs Planning Meeting on Tuesday, April 14, at 9:00 a.m., at Debbie Yee's home, [5718 Piping Rock Road, Madison](#). If you have an idea but can't be at the meeting, please e-mail Linda Johnson at [dijatj@tds.net](mailto:dijatj@tds.net) at your

earliest convenience (perhaps now before you forget - just a quick note is fine). We are looking forward to putting your great ideas into programs in the 2015-2016 school year.

### Performers Supporting Performers

[Ruth Heinecke](#)

Performers Supporting Performers will meet Friday, April 24, 10:00 a.m., at the home of Ruth Heinecke, [400 Oak Valley Road, Mount Horeb](#).

Any MAPTA members are welcome to perform or just listen.

### Program Change for May

June Zeeh



On Tuesday, May 12, our final MAPTA meeting of the year will be held at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Trevor Stephenson, [5729 Forsythia Place, Madison](#). He will be presenting a program of music by Claude Debussy.

***Please make note of this change, as it is different from the directory listing.***

### Membership Renewal Time is Here!

[Linda Johnson](#)

It is time to renew your membership in MAPTA for the 2015-2016 year, which begins in June and goes through June. To be included in the printed directory, we need your membership form and dues before **June 15**. You can renew online through the website (click on "Become a Member" and follow the directions) or you can print the form attached [here](#) and mail it in with your check to the address at the bottom of the form. Perhaps you know another piano teacher who is not currently a MAPTA member. Now is a good time to suggest that they join MAPTA. Remember that the online referral list is now included with the membership fee for all those who desire that service.

### Exploring Music Resources

[Denise Taylor](#)

#### ***Sight Reading with Beginning Students***

This month's Exploring Music Resources column is going to talk about sight reading with beginner students. Shad Wenzlaff called to my attention the Piano Safari series, which incorporates intervallic sight reading from the very outset of lessons. This struck a chord (haha) with me because, based on the teaching videos they have on their blog, it is exactly how I teach sight reading.

Intervallic sight reading is of course how advanced musicians read music, following the contours, shapes, and patterns in the music. One cannot possibly process all the necessary notes (not to mention rhythms) without thinking intervallically. So to my mind, method books that begin with

students reading specific notes on the staff (middle C, D, E, F, G etc) will likely result in weaker sight reading skills.

Do you have your students count out loud while sight reading? I find this is difficult for many students and often does not correlate with playing accurate rhythms. There's an interesting article in the March/April 2015 edition of Clavier Companion on this very topic by Carol Wallace Payne. She directed a study at Florida State University and found that students made more mistakes, not fewer, when they had to count out loud while sight reading. Her article goes into the various ways in which she tested this.

Rhythm aside, let's turn back to intervallic music reading. Piano Safari (by Katherine Fisher and Julie Knerr) is not the only series that teaches reading this way. I'm aware of Music Tree (Frances Clark), as well as Celebrate! Piano, the latter which feeds into Celebration Perspectives repertoire books (Frederick Harris). They both use a system of Landmark Notes to get the students started and then have them read steps, skips, fifths, etc. Eventually the students will learn the specific names of lines and spaces, but not until a fairly firm grounding in the intervallic approach. My students learn reading this way, with varying success - some are more gifted readers than others - but I suspect this is the most likely approach for success.

Inspired by Shad, I checked out the Piano Safari series and was interested to learn that its teaching philosophy is a hybrid of intervallic sightreading combined with rote teaching, Suzuki style. The sightreading, because it needs to be taught from the very outset for the greatest success, but also longer pieces because students benefit greatly from playing more complicated pieces. At the beginner level, these longer pieces are best learned by rote teaching. This makes perfect sense - beginner students are attracted to the piano because they want to play the piano, not slog along with reading and counting exercises.

I expect most MAPTA teachers work to combine these skills in their students, perhaps by supplementing various methods. With Piano Safari they are deliberately integrated into the curriculum. Furthermore, their website archives multiple supporting videos, instructional ones for teachers, and "reminder videos" that students can practice with, setting them up for successful learning!

Shad heartily endorses this series, which he uses for beginner-3rd year students in conjunction with various other methods. He recommends interested teachers start with the sight-reading cards, which cost \$38.50 and are only available at their website, <http://pianosafari2.weebly.com/>.

## MAFOP 23rd Annual Piano Playathon Update

[Jeanne Felix](#)

The 23rd annual Piano Playathon was a huge success! Thank you to the 225 students represented by 30 teachers who participated in our music sharing day. A total of \$11,381.55 was raised for the American Family Children's Hospital!

These funds will help the Child Life staff provide toys, games, supplies for music and art activities and distractions so the patients can heal in a soothing, child friendly environment.



Lavonne Berkvam was the winner of bringing in the most money from one studio. Her studio alone brought in \$815. Congratulations to Lavonne and her students!

The student winner of the overnight stay at a Wisconsin Dells waterpark, for raising a minimum of \$100 was Alex Rech of Verona. Congratulations to Alex!

Thank you to all of the teachers in providing a fun way to let your students share their musical talents to a very worthy cause.

American Family Children's Hospital is a special place where amazing things are done for its young patients. To see some examples of the medical miracles that happen every day please visit <http://www.uwhealthkids.org/amazingkids>.

## Board Meeting Minutes

[Sue Ellen Dubbert](#)

MAPTA Board Meeting  
January 20, 2015  
Heid Music Madison

In attendance: June Zeeh, Alena Harrison, Linda Johnson, Sue Ellen Dubbert, Gloria Chuang, Mike Weiser, and Patty Ladpli

Call to Order: 9:05am

### I. Approval of the Minutes

- Reading of the minutes from the October 21, 2014 board meeting
- Minutes approved

### II. Treasurer's Report

- Checking account: \$1,421.38
- Money Market: \$6,065.67
- Janus account: \$3,712.00

### III. Membership Committee:

- Membership
  - Officers Slate will run again in the February 2015 Nuances
  - Voting by email and during the February 2015 General Meeting
    - No nominations will be taken on the floor of the meeting
- Referral
  - Linda is still receiving phone calls regarding referral. Discussion about phasing out the phone line next year

### IV. Communications

- Nuances
  - New ad prices are listed in Nuances
  - New Nuances coordinator will be needed next year
- Webmaster
  - Adam is doing well with website updates
  - Need to update the Nuances archive
  - Will ask him if he is able to send out Constant Contact messages

### V. Continuing Education

- Programs
  - Three more programs for the 2014-2015 year: Feb. 10th at Christ Presbyterian, Mar. 10th at Patty's studio, and the May 12th at Christ Presbyterian

- Fall Workshop
  - June read a thank you email from Gail Berenson regarding the Nov. 2014 workshop
  - 2015 Workshop will be under the direction of Shad and the incoming VP
- Performers Supporting Performers
  - Next meeting will be Jan. 23rd at Patty's studio
  - PSP recital will be March 1, 2015, 2:00 at Capitol Lakes Grand Recital Hall
- Exploring Music Resources
  - Denise will not be writing a column for Feb. due to the death of her father
- Scholarship
  - All honorariums have been sent and received

#### VI. Recitals

- Composition Festival
  - Mike is talking with potential judges
  - Mike plans to hold an informal workshop for teachers in early spring on how to get students started with composition
  - Festival details need to be published in the May 2015 Nuances
- Young Artist Recital
  - Only three students registered. The recital will need to be canceled
- Adult Music Social
  - No report from Cheri
- Honors Festival
  - Gloria asks that teachers with students participating volunteer with the festival
  - The judge has offered to hold a masterclass on Feb. 1st. A free will donation will be collected to defray the cost.
  - The judge has signed a contract

#### VII. Old Business

- The opportunity to express need for childcare during meetings will be included on the membership forms for next year.
- The audit materials are ready and Connie Jones will complete the audit soon.
- A survey may be taken regarding aspects of members' studios, but not rates. Rates may be discussed in a meeting, but not a formal written survey.
  - Discussion about whether a forum could be established on the website for discussion of studio business
- Linda will make a list of all the website updates that need to be completed each year.

#### VIII. New Business

- Madison Opera Center has contacted MAPTA announcing that it has space to rent for events
  - MAPTA would need day event insurance
  - They have two halls at various rates
- Planning meeting for 2015-2016 programs will be set once new Programs chair has been established
- New chairs are need for:
  - Membership/Referral
  - Nuances
  - Programs
  - Publicity
  - Masterclass
  - Honors festival co-chair
- Discussion regarding a request from Shad to advertise an upcoming master class that he is organizing
  - The board agreed to publicize the event once details have been established

Meeting adjourned: 10:55am

MAPTA General Meeting  
February 10, 2015  
Christ Presbyterian Church

Treasurer's Report  
About 10,000 in accounts  
Copies of budget are available from Debbie

Continuing Education  
Programs Committee  
Needs a new chair-person by May  
A separate meeting will be scheduled for 2015-2016 program planning once chair is in place  
Next program will be March 10th at Patty Ladpli's studio on the topic of two piano music

Performers Supporting Performers  
Next meeting will be February 24th at Cheri Lewis' home  
Recital will be March 1st at Capitol Lakes

Exploring Music Resources  
No report

Scholarship Committee  
Alena is heading this as the VP  
Anyone can apply for a \$100 scholarship, there is \$500 available

Communications  
Nuances  
No report

Recitals

Honors Festival  
28 students auditioned in 2015 and 17 were chosen to play at the recital  
A new chair is needed for next year

Young Artists  
Next recital is March 22nd-deadline of March 8th

Adult Music Socials  
April 12th and 4:00 at Judy Ferreri's

Membership  
Send Linda any information you would like to have included with your listing on the referral page

Old Business  
Childcare for 2015-2016-need to check on the availability of the nursery at Christ Presbyterian

New Business  
Linda Johnson presented the following slate of officers:  
President: Alena Harrison  
Vice President: Mickey Lytle  
Treasurer: Debbie Yee  
Secretary: Sue Ellen Dubbert

The slate passed

Open positions for 2015-2016:

Hospitality

Membership/Referral

Nuances

Programs

Publicity

The website now features a forum for members to discuss

Need to give the webmaster specific topic headings

Piano Play Together

Patty and Lana are taking input for the next PPT. General discussion will be held at the

March General Meeting.

Piano Composition Festival

Mike is setting up a meet-up for informal discussion on March 20th at the Sequoya Library

Meeting adjourned: 10:50

## The Final Note

[Patty Ladpli](#)

An interesting link to check out:

<http://ed.ted.com/lessons/how-playing-an-instrument-benefits-your-brain-anita-collins>

### [Forward email](#)

[nuances@madisonpianoteachers.org](mailto:nuances@madisonpianoteachers.org) |

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



MAPTA Nuances - | 3213 Churchill Drive | Madison | WI | 53713