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**December 2015
Volume 46, Issue 4**

**LAST MONTH'S ISSUE
OF NUANCES**

**STUDIO EXCHANGE
PROGRAM**

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

SUBMISSIONS

Complete submissions of articles, events, and 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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Nuances

The Newsletter of MAPTA

President's Letter

The air is getting colder but hearts are warming as holidays draw near.

In December we will not have a general meeting or a Board meeting. However, keep in mind our upcoming January meeting on **January 8, 2016**, at the home of Linda Johnson.



We had a great Fall Workshop, and I want to send a big thank you out to everyone who volunteered and helped with that, especially to Shad Wenzlaff who did a tremendous job spearheading that effort. I know I learned a lot and was glad so many could join us.

There is a Young Artist Recital on **Sunday, December 6**, at St. Mary's Care Center at 2:00 p.m. Feel free to attend that if you feel so inclined!

Also keep in mind the upcoming Honors Festival recital being held on **Sunday, February 7, 2016, at 2:00 p.m.**, at the UW-Madison School of Music's Morphy Hall. Contact [Denise Taylor](#) if interested in participating.

Also coming in February is the Madison Area Friends of Piano's Annual Piano Playathon on **February 6, 2016**. Contact [Renee Farley](#) for more details.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas, Hanukah, New Year, and any other holiday that your family celebrates.

[Alena Harrison](#)



MTNA Foundation Fellow -- 2016

This year WMTA has nominated Jessica Johnson as our MTNA Foundation Fellow. Click [here](#) to read about how you can help achieve this through a personal contribution.



MAPTA After 5

Talk shop (or don't) with your fellow MAPTA members at these upcoming gatherings. Feel free to bring friends, significant others, non-member piano teachers, music appreciators, music educators, etc.

Thursday, December 17, 7:00 p.m. @ Great Dane Hilldale

[357 Price Place, Madison, WI](#) (near Hilldale Mall)

Please confirm your attendance by emailing Mickey Lytle at vp@madisonpianoteachers.org by **Tuesday, December 15**. The December After 5 is on a Thursday at 7:00 p.m. because it's recital season and weekends are busy. With no general meeting/program or board meeting in December, we thought it would be good to see each other before the new year! Pop on over after teaching for some comfort food and fun!

Mark your calendar for the next After 5:

Sunday, March 13, 5:30 p.m. @ Vintage Brewing
Whitney Square Shopping Center, 674 S Whitney Way

[Mickey Lytle](#)

January Program and Meeting

MAPTA will have a January meeting:

Friday, January 8, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Linda Johnson's home studio
[1917 Vondron Road, Madison](#)

Special presentation: Emily Schultz will explain to us
"The Process of MTNA Certification".

We will have a some snacks and a social time after the presentation.

[Linda Johnson](#)

Honors Festival



This is a busy time of year for piano students, so here's a reminder to plan ahead for the MAPTA Honors Festival, which will be held **January 30 and February 7, 2016**. The [registration form](#) is available now and is postmark due **January 11, 2016**.

Please bear the following details in mind as you prepare your students:

- The festival is open to students of MAPTA teachers who are in grades 4-12.
- Students must prepare and memorize one or two **level 6** pieces or higher. (Please direct questions about appropriate repertoire to Denise Taylor or Shad Wenzlaff.)
- The application is postmark due **JANUARY 11, 2016** (earlier than what's printed in the directory). The fee to participate is \$20 per student. Teachers should send one check (payable to MAPTA) for all of their students. Applications should be mailed to MAPTA Honors Festival, c/o Denise Taylor, 1313 N. Westfield Rd., Middleton, WI 53562.
- The festival auditions will be held **Saturday, January 30, 2016** at Madison Christian Community Church, 7118 Old Sauk Rd, Madison. Students' times will be sent to teachers a week before the auditions, earlier if possible.
- Auditions are closed to parents and audience members.
- Each student will receive written comments from the judge, mailed directly to the teacher after the event.
- Students may elect to participate for comments only, and not be considered for the recital. This

should be noted on the application form. Fourth grade students are only eligible for comments.

- The judge will select students to participate in one of two Honors Recitals on **Sunday, February 7, 2016** at Morphy Hall at the UW School of Music, 455 N. Park St, Madison. The Junior Recital (grades 5-8) will be at 2:00 p.m.; the Senior Recital (grades 9-12) will be at 3:30 p.m. Students MUST participate in the recital for their age level, no exceptions.
- We are looking for volunteers to join the MAPTA Honors Festival Committee. We plan to meet in December to design the judge's form and discuss logistics/questions and in January once the forms are turned in. Please feel free to join us on **Sunday, December 6**, 2:30 p.m., at Barriques Coffee, 127 West Washington Avenue. An RSVP to [Denise Taylor](#) would be appreciated, thanks.

[Denise Taylor](#)

Master Class Opportunity

--for high school students with small hands:

Professor Jessica Johnson and MAPTA are collaborating on a workshop in February on the joys and benefits of playing on a reduced sized keyboard. Please see the attached [pdf](#) for details. Professor Johnson wants to have a master class with MAPTA students who fit this description:

"I would like to work with three intermediate to advanced high school students who are SMALL HANDED pianists--- that is to say that they have trouble playing octaves and big chords on the standard-sized keyboard. They can "reach" it, but it feels stretchy to them (how I describe myself). None of the students should be able to play a 9th (not referring to stretching on the outside of the white key and barely able to press down). They will each perform their piece on the standard sized piano, then we will work on issues and strategies to both do on the standard sized piano, as well as have them try what it feels like on the 7/8 size piano."

Please contact Professor Johnson with any questions: jjjohnson@wisc.edu.

If you have someone who is willing and able to participate in this Saturday event, please let both Linda Johnson dljatj@tds.net and Professor Jessica Johnson know.

Thank you!

[Linda Johnson](#)

MAFOP -- Piano Playathon

On **Saturday, February 6, 2016**, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., the Madison Area Friends of Piano (MAFOP) will host a benefit event to support the UW's American Family Children's Hospital. The 24th Annual Piano Playathon, will benefit the Child Life Program which provides toys, games, and supplies for music and art activities for their young patients. This event will take place at Barnes & Noble Bookstore near West Towne Mall.

The Playathon is a way for students to experience helping others while sharing their talent. It gives them an opportunity to perform pieces they've been preparing and to have some fun. In return we ask that they collect tax deductible pledges to raise funds for American Family Children's Hospital. This can be done with a pledge form or by creating a personal fundraising page at www.uwhealthkids.org/piano.

In addition, a percentage of all purchases made that day with a special in-store coupon will be donated to American Family Children's Hospital by Barnes & Noble.

The 2015 Piano Playathon raised almost \$12,000!!!

To register your studio and get more information or materials, please contact Lori Schultz at 608-890-9308 or lschultz2@uwhealth.org. Please do not schedule your time until you are sure of the number of students who will be playing. The scheduled time is in 15-minute increments and you will be limited to one hour.

All performing students will receive thank you items. Total pledges over \$25 will earn the participant a prize. Anyone gathering pledges of \$100 or more will be eligible for the grand prize drawing of a one-night stay for a family of four at a Wisconsin Dells resort hotel.

Together we will have a positive impact on thousands of kids in our community.

[Jeanne Felix](#)



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