

[View this email in your browser](#)



**February 2016
Volume 46, Issue 6**

**LAST MONTH'S ISSUE
OF NUANCES**

**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.

Nuances Editor:
Stacy Fehr Regehr
5013 Hammersley Rd
Madison, WI 53711
nuances@

Nuances

The Newsletter of MAPTA

President's Letter

There is plenty going on this February -- besides lots of snow and Valentine's Day -- to keep a MAPTA teacher very busy.



Come listen to students play at the Honors Festival Recital on **Sunday, February 7**, at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., at Morphy Hall in the Humanities Building on the UW-Madison campus.

Please join us on **Saturday, February 20**, from 2:30-6:45, for a workshop and masterclass with Jessica Johnson on "The Joy of Downsizing: The Benefits of Playing and Teaching on a 7/8 Size Piano Keyboard" at Morphy Hall in the Humanities Building at the UW-Madison.

There is also a Young Artist Recital on **Sunday, February 28**, at 2:00 p.m., at St. Mary's Care Center. Registration deadline is **February 18**, and more information can be obtained from Brian Hagen.

Non-MAPTA events include the Piano Play-A-Thon on **February 6** at Barnes & Noble West Towne; the National Federation of Music Clubs Junior Festival on **February 14**; and WMTA District Auditions on **March 6**. Please see your directory for contact information for those events.

We hope to see you at one or more of these coming events!

[Alena Harrison](#)
MAPTA President



Honors Festival

Please attend the Honors Recitals, held **Sunday, February 7**, at 2:00 p.m. (grades 5-8) and 3:30 p.m. (grades 9-12), at Morphy Recital Hall at the School of Music. Thank you to all teachers who participated and helped out at the auditions, which were held on January 30. This year's Honors Festival had 33 entries and was judged by Brenda Huang.

[Denise Taylor](#)

Performers Supporting Performers

Performers Supporting Performers will meet on **Friday, February 19**, 10:00 a.m., at the home of Cheri Lewis, [1706 Wild Oak Circle, Madison](#). All MAPTA members are invited to come and play a piece or to just listen.

The PSP recital scheduled for Sunday, March 6 has been canceled.

[Ruth Heinecke](#)

Piano PlayTogether 2016: Final Music Selection!

The Music Selection Committee is in the final stage of determining the repertoire for the October Piano PlayTogether. If you have any ideas for piano ensemble pieces that would work well with our ethnic music theme, please forward your ideas to Patty and Lana at: ppt@madisonpianoteachers.org

This year's Piano PlayTogether music will be presented at the General Meeting on **Friday, March 11**, at 9:00 a.m., at Heid Music Store, [7948 Tree Lane, Madison](#). The Piano PlayTogether will take place on **Sunday, October 16**, 2016, with rehearsals on **October 9 & 15**.

[Patty Ladpli](#)

MAPTA After 5

Talk shop (or don't) with your fellow MAPTA members at our next After 5 gathering. Feel free to bring friends, significant others, non-member piano teachers, music appreciators, music educators, etc.

Our March event will feature a **music share and swap**. Have some amazing gem, old or new, that you use in your studio? Bring it to share with the group. Or maybe you have a stack of music in your collection that you don't use anymore—one man's trash is another's treasure. Please RSVP to Mickey Lytle (vp@madisonpianoteachers.org or [608-576-0675](tel:608-576-0675)) by **Thursday, March 10**, so we can reserve adequate space.

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](#)

Have you completed your Super Fun MAPTA Survey yet?

You knew the day would come. It's here. MAPTA needs you.

MAPTA's board needs to know what thrills you. What motivates and inspires you.

What support do you need? What information do you want? How can MAPTA help you be most successful in your business? What kind of continuing education do you crave? What kinds of opportunities are you seeking for your students?

Click [here](#) to begin the short survey. It will be less than five whole minutes of your life you'll never get back. So maybe you want to [put on some music](#) or grab some coffee first. Do it now so you don't have to remember to do it later.

[Mickey Lytle](#)

Piano Guild

Piano Guild has a reputation for having a lengthy syllabus that's difficult for teachers to understand and that it requires students to perform 10 pieces from memory. If that's what

you've heard about Guild, it's not surprising that you haven't been inclined to pursue it! [This article](#) shares information about Piano Guild so you can be more informed about this opportunity for you and your students.

The 2016 Guild Audition dates are: Verona (May 5-6), Sun Prairie (April 15-16).

[Mickey Lytle](#)

February Member Spotlight

Our February through May Nuances will feature Member Spotlights. This month's featured teacher is Anne Robinson, who is a new member to MAPTA this year.

Welcome, Anne!

Anne Robinson has been teaching professionally for the past ten years, providing the Royal Conservatory Music Development Program



to children and adults of all levels. She also specializes in early childhood music learning, advocating the research of Dr. Edwin E. Gordon and the wonderful methods of Irina Gorin and Julie Knerr. Her first experience teaching the piano to her younger sister, Christy, and playing in duets kindled a lifelong passion for educating and performing, and they now give duo concerts in the Madison area while Christy studies piano performance at UW-Madison.

MAPTA has been invaluable in establishing a local studio in Cottage Grove. The many performances opportunities for students and the network of helpful teachers creates a music community that is incredibly vibrant and supportive! Anne also maintains studios at the Steinway & Sons Piano Gallery, Monroe Street Arts Center, and the Elite Artistry Program in Waunakee.

Anne received Merit Scholarships from 2006 to 2011 while attending the University of Missouri-Columbia, MO, where she completed her B.M. in Piano Performance under the instruction of Dr. Peter Miyamoto. She was also a scholarship student, music history teaching assistant, and theory tutor at The Boston Conservatory, MA, while pursuing her M.M. and G.P.D. in Piano Performance from

2011-2015 with Max Levinson. A strong competitor and active performer, Anne garnered multiple awards from WMTA and MTNA while growing up in Prairie Du Chien, received the distinguished Sigma Alpha Iota scholarship award in 2010, won the Boston Conservatory Honors Chamber Music Competition 2015, and has had the privilege of promoting new music in collaboration with composers such as Gunther Schuller and Louis Andriessen. She looks forward to furthering her skills as a performer and pedagogue in Madison.

[Mickey Lytle](#)

Tips on Improving Your Sightreading

Being able to read music well at sight is a skill that just about any musician in any genre should aspire to. The really good sight readers I've played with not only play the music reasonably accurately at first sight, but also, they tend to be able to really make music out of it, really make the notes jump off the page. At the request of my colleagues for this month's issue on Exploring Music Resources, the topic came up and I thought I'd offer some suggestions about improving your students sight-reading. All this is assuming that your students already have a good grasp of the basic fundamental of music reading. This is something they will need to practice frequently as this is a skill you lose easily or gain rather quickly if you follow a consistent method.

One composer that was a great inspiration for me to become a better sight reader is a story when Grieg made a point to meet with Liszt. As the story goes, in April of 1870, Grieg brought his Concerto in A Minor to Franz Liszt for his advice. Liszt's superlative ability to play at sight became an inspiration to many musicians. Grieg brought with him the manuscript of his unpublished Piano Concerto in A Minor to the monastery outside of Rome where Liszt stayed. Grieg had just retrieved it from his Leipzig publishers and wanted to ask Liszt for some tips on the cadenza. When presented to him, Liszt asked Grieg to play for him, to which he declined. Liszt then took the manuscript to the piano and read the concerto at sight, making commentaries to the audience as he went along. There were quite a few musicians present supposedly and witnessed the reading. When he began, he took the first movement too quickly, but after Grieg had corrected him, Liszt went on in fine style and played the difficult cadenza best of all. After the performance, Grieg exclaimed, "He was literally over the whole piano at once, without missing a note, and how did he play? With grandeur, beauty, genius a unique comprehension. I think I laughed—laughed like an idiot." (Grieg left a very full account of two

visits in two letters to his parents, written in Norwegian, dated on February 17, 1870, on the first visit for his Sonata in G for violin and piano.)

IN THE PRACTICE ROOM

It probably comes as no surprise that those who read well spend a good deal of time reading. It's as simple as that. So here are some suggestions about what you can practice to improve: I use Helen Marlais and Olson's *Sight Reading and Rhythm* extensively. I use level 2 A/B as a starting point for teaching. There are short rhythmic activities that will take only minutes for the teacher and student to do together. Students usually enjoy the "Speaking the Lyrics" exercises; they are fun and the idea of subdividing really gets reinforced. I also have them draw Galileo's Pendulum Swing underneath a quarter note to remind them there is an upbeat.

To read the complete article, click [here](#).

Respectfully submitted,
[Gloria Chuang](#)

Parents and Practice

Would you like assistance in communicating with your piano parents to better understand the importance of home practice?

Most of them already know that practice is important! Ask any piano parent if they think their child should practice the piano at home and I'm betting they will say "Yes."

So, it's not so much about helping parents understand the importance of practice as it is helping parents understand piano practice itself.

Piano practice can be a mystery to parents who have never themselves played an instrument.

Soccer practice? Pretty straight-forward... drop your children off at the field, cheer from the sidelines and when a great pass is made or a goal is scored, it's obvious that they're doing well. Dance practice? Again... drop your children off at the studio, peek through the viewing window and if they're in synch with the rest of the class, it's obvious that they're probably doing well.

But piano practice? Well that's a different beast all together! Piano practice drop-off just doesn't exist.

Read more about this [here](#).

[Mickey Lytle](#)

Directory Addendum

MAPTA publishes an addendum of additions, corrections, and changes to its directory every January.

[Attached is the 2016 addendum.](#)

[Mickey Lytle](#)

Board Meeting - October 16, 2015

Heid Music Madison

Alena Harrison, Mickey Lytle, Debbie Yee, Sue Ellen Dubbert, Shad Wenzlaff, Denise Taylor, Linda Johnson

Minutes—Sue Ellen

Minutes from September 18th board meeting read and approved

Treasurer's Report--Debbie

Checking 3442.93

Mon Market 4070.43

Janus 4513.00

Paypal 1181.63

Total 13,977.98

Membership--Mickey

No new members

Mickey changes wording on website to make it clear that new members can join at any time, not prorated

Referral: Has gotten a couple questions about teachers

Communications

Nuances: Stacy--Deadline 21st of the month

Needs extra help—Alena will put in a call to Tim

Webmaster: Adam—a bulletin board has been put on the website (under Other Resources) send announcements to Alena

Mailchimp does not have a registration form—we can pay a one time fee of \$69 for a plug in that will allow us to make registration forms

Fee approved

Piano Play Together

Patty and Lana—close to finishing the music selection, next meeting will be elementary duets, Farley's will donate the pianos, will book with Mitby theater next week

Will be pulling music from different publishers

Continuing Education

Programs--Linda

Next program 10/18 Composition Festival and meeting at 4:00

New meeting for January 8th at Linda's studio, Emily Schultz presenting on NCTM certification process

Looking for master class participants for Feb. program—preferably those with smaller hands (will be on standard piano with option to go to smaller keyboard)

MAPTA After 5--Mickey

12/17/15 at 7:00 at Great Dane, Hilldale

Fall Workshop--Shad

Shad would like to make calls to those who have not registered

Need 20 people to get to lunch minimum—will cancel lunch through Overture

Mickey will take care of a lunch reservation

Need more 1 piano 2 hands, or solo students for the master class

Need to refund those who have sent money for lunch

Performers Supporting Performers—Ruth

Friday, November 20th at Deborah's home

Exploring Music Resources--Gloria

MAPTA membership need to see 5 EMR submissions within the school year

Scholarship--Mickey

No other requests

Recitals Committee:

Composition Fest.--Mike

10/18/15 1:00-4:00

Will discuss this year's C.F. at the next board meeting

Honors Festival—Denise and Shad

Plans for an article to promote the fest in the Nov.
Nuances

To increase registration—have “comments only” option?,
talked with Julie about recital location, the photo policy
release will be at the audition

Young Artist Recitals--Brian

10/25 at St. Mary's Care Center

Adult Music Socials--Cheri

Discussion of fee (along the same vein of YAR). Decided
on no fee since there are no expenses.

Old Business

1. Audit—Alena will follow up on appointment for January
2016 meeting
2. Publicity Chair—vacant, publicize the vacancy for 2015-
2016
3. Insurance review—not completed at time of October
board meeting

New Business

1. We need to follow up on committee vacancies
for next year
2. PO Box—Mickey will set up and update google listing,
the fee will come from the President's budget
3. Committee to explore business sponsorships—Shad
will form a committee to research business sponsorships
for next year's events
4. Future plans for the Composition Festival—to be
discussed at January meeting
5. Should we continue online registration? Board decided
to keep this option.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00

[Sue Ellen Dubbert](#)



Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

