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**November 2017  
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### **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@  
madisonpianoteachers.org](mailto:nuances@madisonpianoteachers.org)

# Nuances

The Newsletter of MAPTA

### **President's Letter**

The season is upon us—we're choosing holiday music for our students to play for their friends and family, and some of us are preparing for holiday recital season. Despite the hustle and bustle of being busy in our professional life as well as our personal lives, it's a great time to



drink it all in. In the spirit of October's program about giving back to our communities, I have an idea for you. Schedule that music sharing time at the local senior home you've always said you'd do, even if it's just for 3-5 of your students who are able to attend. You can fill in some extra time with your own playing, or collaborate with another teacher to make it more fun. One 30-minute outing will do great things for the residents, your students, your own appreciation for what you do...and the reason for the season. Happy Thanksgiving, MAPTA Members. We have so much to be thankful for.

[Mickey Lytle](#)



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## MAPTA Fall Workshop

It's time to get reinvigorated through the Fall Workshop! Nationally acclaimed composer, Wynne-Anne Rossi, will be presenting on "Creative Composition in the Studio" and "American Music: Jazz meets Latin." There will be a unique master class in the afternoon – students either playing their own composition or one of Wynne-Anne's to get input from a fellow composer or THE composer.

**Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Christ Presbyterian Church**

[944 East Gorham Street](#)

**Madison, WI**

**Cpcmadison.org**

**9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Please [click here](#) for the brochure for details and print out the second page and send it to me today to register! Registration materials are due **Friday, November 3**.

[Linda Johnson](#)

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## Fall Adult Music Social

The Fall Adult Music Social will be held on **Sunday, November 19th at 2:00 p.m.** 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 afternoon. Those attending are requested to bring a small plate of cookies or other food to share. Call Cheri Lewis at [608.222.5125](tel:608.222.5125) with any questions. Cheri Lewis will be hosting the event at her home: [1706 Wild Oak Circle, Madison, WI 53713](#).

## Performers Supporting Performers

Performers Supporting Performers' next meeting will be **Friday, Dec. 1, 10 a.m.** at Cheri Lewis' home, [1706 Wild Oak Circle, Madison](#). MAPTA members are invited to play or just listen in this friendly and informal setting.

[Ruth Heinecke](#)

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## MAPTA After 5

MAPTA's next After 5 gathering will be a Lunch Bunch (before 5!) on **Friday, December 1, at noon** at [Bonfyre Grill](#) (Todd Dr exit on the Beltline). This is a non-meeting event for our members to get together socially and enjoy each other's company. Guests are welcome! Please RSVP to Mickey Lytle ([mapta@madisonpianoteachers.org](mailto:mapta@madisonpianoteachers.org)) by **Tuesday, November 28**.

[Mickey Lytle](#)

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## Yummy!

You responded and provided quite a spread for our September meeting potluck! Thanks to all who brought delicious goodies to share. We have some fantastic Betty Crockers in our organization!

The general consensus was that members would like to continue this practice for our remaining meetings for our 50th Anniversary year.

If you'd like to contribute goodies for future meetings, please [click here](#) to sign up. Someone from MAPTA will email you the week before to remind you that you signed up.

[Mickey Lytle](#)

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## MAPTA's Google Calendar

Want to see all of your MAPTA meetings, events, and deadlines in one place? MAPTA now has a **Google calendar**. Never miss an important MAPTA date or deadline again!

Please use the following address to access your calendar in any web browser.

[https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?  
src=h5gbo0kotv888tf1405dil5hr0%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Chicago](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=h5gbo0kotv888tf1405dil5hr0%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Chicago)

Please use the following address to access your calendar from other applications. You can copy and paste this into any calendar product that supports the iCal format.

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/h5gbo0kotv888tf1405dil5hr0%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

[Mickey Lytle](#)

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## MAPTA Teacher Spotlight

Our November MAPTA Teacher Spotlight features Ben Garber, owner of Steinway Piano Gallery!

As a piano performance major, first at the UW School of Music and then at Rice University for Graduate Studies, I knew that I was more interested in teaching and sharing what I learned than in pure performance. After receiving Master's degrees in both Piano



Performance and Piano Technology, I have worked as an independent teacher and concert piano technician for the past twenty-five years. I always have felt that we can really make a difference in people's lives by teaching piano lessons, and I

also enjoy working with customers to do high level piano tuning, voicing, and touch adjustment.

As many of you know, I recently became the owner of the Madison Steinway store. Helping students and customers find the right instrument for their needs and helping customize their instrument to their own playing style has been a new and exciting area for me to use my piano playing and piano technician skills. Because of my wide level of experience with pianos of all kinds, I also do true restorations of older instruments, specializing in Steinways-using all Steinway parts. I still maintain a large studio of over sixty piano students, and continue to do independent piano tuning and service as well. I cannot imagine a life where I am not teaching piano lessons and working on pianos.

The greatest thing about MAPTA has been the opportunity to connect with and become friends with so many other piano teachers in Madison. I find it extremely helpful to be able to call a few other teachers and discuss teaching style or a challenging student situation. One of the hardest things about being an independent piano teacher is that we are always working on our own. It is so important to have other teachers to talk to and ways to improve our skills. I am particularly excited about the changes coming up as we look forward to being a MTNA affiliate. I think this will help us to be even better teachers and form an even stronger teaching community.

Come by anytime if you want to talk or get a cup of coffee!

[Sue Ellen Dubbert](#)

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## Upcoming Concert

The [Salon Piano Series](#) at [Farley's House of Pianos](#) is offering a Piano Masterclass on **Saturday, November 11, at 4:00 p.m.** The well-known Russian pianist Ilya Yakushev, an artist with many awards and honors to his credit, will conduct the masterclass. The three participants who will perform for Mr. Yakushev are former or present students of Christopher Taylor, Jessica Johnson and Martha Fischer. [Click here](#) for program information. All three teachers were former winners of the Concerto Competitions and Beethoven Competitions at the UW-Madison.

The event is free and open to the public.

Ilya Yakushev will be the featured soloist of The Salon Piano Series the following day on **Sunday, November 12 at 4:00 p.m.** in a program of German, Russian, and American composers. The concert is at Farley's House of Pianos and will be followed by a reception.

[Irmgard Bittar](#)

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## MAPTA Directory Additions/Edits

Please add the following to your directory:

**Bill Lutes:** 7321 Whitacre Rd., Madison, WI 53717

**Phone:** 608-833-3548

**E-mail:** wrlutes83@yahoo.com

[Sue Ellen Dubbert](#)

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## Board Meeting Minutes

Are you curious about what happens at our board meetings? Please [click here](#) to check out our most recent board meeting minutes.

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