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**January 2018
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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

The Newsletter of MAPTA

President's Letter

I loved my paper calendar. I always looked forward to choosing a new calendar at the office supply store in December (or sometimes November!) and looking at the beautiful new cover and crisp blank pages. Sure, I was excited to fill it with important phone numbers and dates, students' upcoming lessons, and special occasions. But I really enjoyed those few weeks of the idea of a fresh start, new beginnings, and "nothing" on my calendar...yet.



As we begin 2018, MAPTA is sure to have some exciting months coming up. We're still celebrating the fact that we've been around for 50 years—what an achievement! We're also going through a state of transition as we become MAME. We're anticipating new and exciting programs and colleagues while still preserving the core of what has made MAPTA great all these years. It is the board's hope that all of our current members will become MTNA members and continue to enjoy the professional and personal benefits of our local association. I encourage you to read our emails, ask questions if you have them,

and enjoy this exciting time in MAPTA, our “fresh start” and new beginnings. Happy New Year!

[Mickey Lytle](#)

MAPTA President

Piano Masterclass

A piano masterclass, led by UW Professor Jess Johnson, will take place on **Saturday, January 6 at 5 p.m.** at Steinway Piano Gallery, located at [6629 Mineral Point Rd. Madison, WI 53705](#).

Local advanced students have been selected to perform pieces at the ready or near ready and the class will be sure to impress and educate.

Hope to see you there!

[Jess Salek](#)

Performers Supporting Performers

Performers Supporting Performers will meet on **Friday, January 19, at 10:00 a.m.** at the home of Linda Johnson, [1917 Vondron Road, Madison](#). Plan to join us whether you're interested in playing or just listening.

[Ruth Heinecke](#)

MAPTA Becomes MAME

Our Professional Goals committee has worked all year on researching the pros and cons of MAPTA becoming a local

association of MTNA. In September, the membership voted to become a local association beginning with the 2018-19 fiscal year.

On February 9, 2018, those MAPTA members who have become MTNA members as of that date will be asked to vote on the slate of officers presented for the inaugural year of our new local association, Madison Area Music Educators (MAME). We also encourage nominations for officers; please email Debbie Yee (deb53711@yahoo.com) with your suggestions.

If you are not yet a member of MTNA, we encourage you to take advantage of the 6 month [trial](#) membership offered to new members. This is offered for the period of Jan 1 through June 30. You can enjoy all the [Benefits](#) of MTNA membership and reduced half-year dues. Click on the links for more information and dues rates.

[Click here](#) to find out how to apply and join today!

Professional Goals committee:

Debbie Yee, Denise Taylor, June Zeeh, Lana Robotewskj, Linda Johnson, and Mickey Lytle

[Mickey Lytle](#)

MAPTA Teacher Spotlight

Our January Teacher Spotlight features Renee Farley of Farley's House of Pianos!

I have been a member of MAPTA for many years. I believe I joined during the tenure of Darlene Forsberg as president. I remember attending meetings in the lower level of Bethel Lutheran Church, at Bethany United Methodist Church, at Madison Christian Community and at Christ Presbyterian Church. I have taught piano for 47 happy years. I have many favorite stories from those years that I wouldn't have if I hadn't been so hooked on teaching piano. I like being a part of this network and my only regret is not having been able to give

still more back to MAPTA.

MAPTA has a diverse membership and does a good job of serving this diversity. I think there is something for every teacher. We can pick and choose what works for our individual teaching studios.



I treasure the friends I have in MAPTA. We share a passion for loving to teach students piano skills. We also become a regular part of students' lives, many of whom don't always have a regularly scheduled time with an adult that is 'just theirs.' This is increasingly important as we see students in large schools where they may not have continuity with the same educator. The arts provide this through ensemble experience, and I always tell the parents that the music department becomes a little sub family in their educational years prior to high school graduation. As a parent I never worried about our kids when they were off on a music tour; I knew they were in good hands and what better background for an ensemble experience than piano lessons. Those lessons give the entering instrumental player or singer a head start over their peers who start without that background. That confidence helps them soar.

I also find that MAPTA blends well with Madison Area Friends of Piano. We share the goal of encouraging people to play piano and the events that MAFOP offers provide an additional, important outlet for MAPTA students to participate in. What we all do is to make someone's life better. We help them realize that the piano is their friend for life. At Farley's House of Pianos I witness this on a regular basis. I see adults coming back to study piano, thinking they are back to being a beginner again, but soon realizing that those early skills can return faster than they might think. My office is next to one of our busiest studios and I just love to hear the progress of the students of all ages. I am grateful to work with our teachers at the

store and love to see them participate in MAPTA events with their students. Also, I am grateful for my friends in MAPTA. I learn from my students and from my colleagues. Thank you to all of you who keep this organization vital.

Here's to another 50 years!!

[Renee Farley](#)

Upcoming Workshop

Please see the link below for an upcoming workshop opportunity offered at Viterbo University.

[Well-Balanced Pianist: A Workshop in Optimal Movement and Mindset for Piano Practice and Performance](#)

Dr. Teresa Dybvig, Clinician

Friday – Saturday, February 16 – 17, 2018

Dr. Mary Ellen Hauptert, Coordinator

Viterbo University Fine Arts Center

[900 Viterbo Drive](#)

[La Crosse, WI](#)

MAPTA Directory Additions/Edits

Please change the following to your directory:

Carol Ricker: *E-mail:* carolricker@icloud.com

[Sue Ellen Dubbert](#)

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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