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# Nuances

## The Newsletter of MAME

December 2020

Volume 3, Issue 4

### President's Message

Now that 2020 is beginning to wind down (can't end soon enough, right?), I'm reflecting on how much I've grown and changed as a piano teacher. My goal has been to approach this year with grace and humor, and some days I do better than others. In MAME, we've had some exciting developments – our member Sue Ellen Dubbert has achieved NCTM status ([Nationally Certified Teacher of Music](#)) and our Immediate Past President Mickey Lytle is now the President-Elect of WMTA. Congratulations to both of you! I admire the work it has taken to get you to these points.

As an organization, MAME continues to move forward with flexibility. All remaining events in the 2020-21 year will be virtual. I have to say it was great to see such a healthy community come together for our November Masterclass on Zoom. Thank you to David Barach and Jeff Stanek for organizing it. MAME is quiet in December, but we resume in January with two student events (read below), a board meeting, and in February another Masterclass. I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event.

[Denise Taylor](#)

MAME President

### MAME Honors Festival

The MAME Honors Festival is an opportunity for area piano students to audition for the Honors Recital. This is a competitive event adjudicated by a professional musician. The event is open to piano students of both MAME members and non-members. The Honors Recital will feature selected students to perform in an online recital compiled from the audition videos.

*Due to the COVID-19 cases in Dane County, the church we were going to use for auditions is not open to the public. Keeping in mind the safety of our entrants, we have made the decision to invite the participants to record on their choice of piano. Please see the updated Honors information with the change of venue noted.*

Registration deadline is **January 11th, 2021**. Audition fee is \$25 for MAME member students and \$40 for non-members. Students may enter up to two pieces not to exceed 6 minutes total for evaluation; the fee is the same whether entering one or two pieces. Students in grades 5-12 who are playing at a Magrath Level 6 or higher or WSMA Class A or B are welcome to enter. There are 3 divisions: Junior (grades 5-8), Senior (grades 9-12), and Comments only (grades 5-12, not considered for recital selection).

The code to enter to receive the MAME member fee is: WSMA15

[Jane Peckham & Mickey Lytle](#), co-chairs

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## Young Artist Recitals

At the October MAME board meeting, it was decided that all recital events this year will be held virtually. Therefore, the 3 Young Artist Recitals scheduled for 2021 will be Zoom recitals. The first recital will be held on **Saturday, January 30th**. The registration deadline is **January 16th**. Please submit your students' names, recital selections, and email addresses along with your email address to [yar@madisonmusiceducators.org](mailto:yar@madisonmusiceducators.org). Remember that each teacher should take no more than 10 minutes of the total recital time. Finally, this year's Young Artist Recitals will be at no charge as we do not need to pay for a facility or print programs. Teachers will be expected to participate via Zoom. Please do not submit students if you yourself are unavailable.

[Cynthia Stephan](#) - YAR Facilitator

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## Performers Supporting Performers

Performers Supporting Performers (PSP) will be meeting again on **Friday, January 22nd, at 10 AM** via Zoom. Any MAME members interested in playing in an informal setting are encouraged to attend. Listeners are welcome, too! Please use the link below to access the meeting.

Time: Jan 22, 2021 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73019148064?pwd=UVNEbXEwUjVFMXpINFUvc3hBRFBwQT09>

Meeting ID: 730 1914 8064

Passcode: N40eUB

[Linda Johnson](#)

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## 2021 District Auditions Information

**This information is SPECIFIC to the 2021 audition season, and will be updated on the [WMTA website](#) as soon as possible, if not already.**

1. ALL auditions will be held VIRTUALLY.
  - a. **DISTRICT Auditions** APPLICATION Due Dates: as [listed for your district](#).
  - b. Video & Theory Submissions Accepted: March 11-17, 2021
  - c. Results will be available by April 11, 2021
  - d. **BADGER** Application Due Date: April 20, 2021
  - e. Badger Video Submissions Accepted: April 29-May 5, 2021
  - f. Results will be available by May 22, 2021
2. ALL theory exams will be administered by teachers and uploaded.

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b. Teachers will have Theory exams in hand by March 1, 2021.

c. Exams must be submitted by March 17, 2021.

3. All teachers are responsible to comply with copyright and Sync permissions for music usage. Details on this (and everything else) will be forthcoming.

4. ALL teachers entering students are expected to be willing to assisted with the auditions as requested.

In addition to the information provided in the WMTA State newsletters for August and December, please feel free to contact your local district chair, Emily Schultz, with any questions, at [emilypianostudio@gmail.com](mailto:emilypianostudio@gmail.com).

[Emily Schultz](#)

## Exploring Music Repertoire

by Shad Ryan Wenzlaff

### I. New Repertoire for Early Levels: Focus on Christmas!

Mike Springer's arrangement of 22 carols with Jazz-style accompaniments – 11 in each of 2 levels is worthy of our time. Book 1 is graded early elementary – in this instance, this means tunes are notated on the staff in Middle C position, and Book 2 is Elementary/Late Elementary. In my estimation, none of these tunes is a true "Late" elementary – I'd place them with the Federation Primary 1 and Primary 2 level. In my estimation, none of these arrangements (for the student) even approaches Federation Primary 3, or the equivalent of a Faber Piano Adventures Book 2A, Helen Marlais Succeeding at the Piano Grade 1B in terms of conceptual and pedagogical difficulty. If you have begun to use the Bastien New Traditions All in One Piano Course – your level 1A student will find Book 2 to be reasonable and accessible.

Frankly, for the early elementary student (Book 1), there's not much new with his arrangements of Jolly Old Saint Nicholas, Good King Wenceslas, Jingle Bells, Away in a Manger, We Three Kings of Orient Are, I Saw Three Ships, God Rest Yes Merry Gentlemen, Angels We Have Heard on High O Come, All Ye Faithful, Toyland, and It Came Upon a Midnight Clear. But – what a great collection! For the teacher/parent, however, these are certainly jazzy and exciting duet arrangements. What's more, I will note that I'm excited to assign these for my students whose parent plays with some dexterity. The "teacher part" can often be tough for a parent to decipher. Less so with these – when compared to some of the convoluted "duets" that appear in some of the method books.

For the "Late Elementary" student, Book 2 introduces the 8<sup>th</sup> note, mezzo dynamics, Joy To the World features a dotted quarter/eighth rhythm, and tied notes. Auld Lang Syne requires some musical listening – there is a ritardando noted in this 16 measure tune. As is quite common with most elementary Christmas books, "What Child is This" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem" each requires reading accidentals. Springer arranges it with a swung eighth! Silent Night and Deck the Halls require a simple LH hand crossover.

My only critique is we have to deal with a page turn on "The First Noel" – better editing would have rendered the page turn unnecessary. I know that's a petty comment, but asking a student to navigate a page turn before level 3 or 4 seems entirely unnecessary – in my humble opinion.

Overall – these two terrific new volumes add to our already immense array of elementary level Christmas music. Each is \$7.99 per book – published by Alfred.

Book 1: ISBN: 978-1-4706-4250-1

Book 2: ISBN: 978-1-4706-4251-8

### II. Pupil Savers: Intermediate level students

This month I'm sharing two different resources to help you "save your intermediate" students.

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crafted some extraordinary resources for your intermediate student.

Ward Bowen's "Baroque Homage" appears on p. 20 of Book 3: Intermediate to Late Intermediate of their series "Etudes for Building Piano Technique." What a brilliant way to introduce an intermediate student to the Appoggiatura, Mordent, Trill, and Turn - all in one piece!

I will always advocate for ordering music through our two print music stores in Madison - Heid Music and Ward-Brodt. But it's worth sharing that these resources are available on Kindle via Amazon. I found a print copy of Book 3 at Ward-Brodt which led me to this discovery - ISBN: 978-1-60530-778-7

The second is a 3-part intermediate series published by Faber Music under "Piano Trainer Series". Karen Marshall and Heather Hammond designed "The Intermediate Pianist", billed as an "Intermediate-level piano course incorporating repertoire, technique and musicianship." Published in 2017, I just graduated a student from the series last spring. I especially appreciate in Book 3 (p. 46) "Introducing Fugues." This is a blueprint for the perfect group class. Marshall and Hammond introduce "Frugal Fugue", an 8-bar summary of how a subject is introduced, followed by a compact but compelling answer which cadences on the major dominant. Then a Telemann Fugue is introduced in a well-edited easy to read format. I'm happy to report my student is now starting her first Bach fugue - as far as I'm concerned - truly a pupil saver and inspirer!

More on why I call these pupil savers: they are unpretentious, accessible introductions to the more intricate ideas in music - sequenced to create curiosity and teach a sound pedagogy in 3 reasonable volumes. Resources may be downloaded from <https://www.fabermusic.com/> (price is in euros) and may be special ordered from your favorite retailer (I saw them on the shelf at Heid - but did not see them on my most recent trip in November 2020). **If you have a pupil saver you enjoy, please share it with me and I'll include your review to your credit in a future EMR!**

### III. Underrepresented Composers

Anton Bilotti's name appears on the 2019-20 WSMA Class A list for Solo & Ensemble. I had never before heard of this American piano virtuoso (1906-1963). His "Spanish Dance" (7111 A41 D2) is worth your time. It's an accessible early advanced solo published by Carl Fischer (ISBN: 978-0-8258-2284-1). There's something exciting about this piece written in f minor in 3/8. It's an excellent early-advanced study in voicing, attentive pedaling, modulates to the parallel major in the middle, and I found it fun to place the accent on beat 2.

Other notes on Bilotti: I found the score from "Firefly" on eBay, but it's not available in print currently; Bilotti also wrote a Scherzo for 2 pianos (WorldCat says there are a mere 6 copies in libraries, one of which is at Viterbo in La Crosse), and a solo entitled "A Night in Granada". In "The American Piano Concerto Compendium," William Phemister notes of Bilotti's 1938 piano concerto: "his concerto is not merely a piece for solo instrument, with orchestral accompaniment but a genuinely symphonic composition." If anyone has a lead on finding a recording, I'd love to listen to it [to the best of my knowledge, given a bit of research, no-one has recorded this concerto and it seems it was only performed by the composer himself March 21, 1938 with Leon Barzin and the NY National Orchestral Association.

[Note: The American Piano Concerto Compendium, William Phemister - Rowman and Littlefield, 2018. ISBN: 978-1538-11234-2. Phemister is Professor Emeritus, Music, at Wheaton College.]

[Shad Ryan Wenzlaff](#) - EMR Chair

## NCTM Certification Process

I have recently completed my [NCTM certification](#) projects and would love to share the process with you! The NCTM credential (Nationally Certified Teacher of Music) is granted through MTNA and is an important professional certification, especially for independent music teachers. NCTM status means your teaching is at a competent professional level and has met the five standards of professional teaching set forth by MTNA. The standards pertain to professional preparation, professional teaching

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To become a NCTM, teachers submit an application and have one year to complete five projects. The projects include creating a teaching philosophy statement, submitting teaching video samples and written self-reflections, describing how you create a positive learning environment, detailed analysis of teaching pieces from each musical time period, writing about business and ethical teaching topics, as well as presenting a video of your playing. You can download a very detailed workbook describing the projects from the MTNA website to see if this process might be for you. All projects except the teaching pieces could be started before submitting the application and fee. So, if you think you might need more than one year to complete the projects, you could get started on the other projects ahead of time. Once you submit the application and fee, MTNA will send you the specific teaching pieces that you will analyze and at that point you will have one year to complete the project.

The whole process of completing the NCTM projects was enriching and worthwhile. I've been teaching for fifteen years and this was a great opportunity to solidify my philosophy and stretch myself to articulate my approach to pedagogy, business, and professional conduct. I feel more organized and better able to communicate all aspects of what I do as a teacher, colleague, and business owner.

[Sue Ellen Dubbert](#)

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## Special Thank you

I would like to personally thank my MAME colleagues for their support of the 20th Annual Sonatina Festival. Your kind words of encouragement and understanding of the challenges involved in holding a festival (let alone a virtual one!) are tremendously appreciated.

[Mickey Lytle](#)

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## Welcome New Members!

Welcome Yoo Min Lina Lee and Sarah Elizabeth Prescott!

We look forward to seeing new members at the many events that MAME offers this year!

At present there are a total of 58 members, which includes 3 patron members, 5 student members and 50 active members.

[John Scoville](#)

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## Board Meeting Minutes

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

[Morgan Hansen](#)

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## Additional MAME Resources

Make sure to like and follow us on our [Facebook page](#), and check out our [website](#) and [Google calendar](#).



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Email [mame@madisonmusiceducators.org](mailto:mame@madisonmusiceducators.org) for more information.

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**Submissions:**

Complete submissions of articles, events and other music-themed features are welcome. All submissions are due by the 21st of each month to be considered for publication.

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