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Nuances

The Newsletter of MAME

November 2020
Volume 3, Issue 3

President's Message

Welcome to the November newsletter from Madison Area Music Educators! I'd be willing to bet that most of you, like me, often self-evaluate and wonder how you can improve as a teacher. Have you ever asked your students? (Not me! I prefer to give them the impression that they're the ones in charge of their progress through smart practicing.) But of course I'm constantly learning through various means. One of my favorite ways to enrich my teaching is to watch another teacher give a lesson. I don't think it's just because I'm kicking back, but maybe.... MAME is about to offer two piano masterclasses, one in November, another in February. I encourage you to read details below, get these on your calendar, and attend virtually. I look forward to seeing you there!



[Denise Taylor](#)
MAME President

General Meeting Reminder

A general meeting will PRECEDE the masterclass on **November 14th, 2020, beginning at 3:30 pm**. Click [here](#) for an agenda.

Here is the [link](#) to the Zoom Meeting

[Denise Taylor](#)

Upcoming Masterclass Opportunity for Beginner and Intermediate Students

Saturday, November 14th, 2020, 4:00-5:30 pm - Masterclass for Beginners and Intermediate Piano Students - Anna Reiser, Piano and Taubman Approach at Lawrence Community Music School.

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We are still searching for masterclass students. They can be any age from 4 and up, and pieces can be as easy as half of jingle bells, not memorized, all the way through the intermediate repertoire. Please ask your students, and if they're interested, get in touch ASAP with student age and intended piece to programs@madisonmusiceducators.org to confirm.

Here is the [link](#) to the Zoom Meeting

[David Barach](#) on behalf of the Programming and Masterclass Committee

Performers Supporting Performers

Time: **Nov 20th, 2020 10:00 am** Central Time (US and Canada)

Performers Supporting Performers (PSP) will be meeting again on **Friday, November 20th, 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.

Here is the [link](#) to Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 734 4453 5720

Passcode: 3m8P6R

[Linda Johnson](#)

2021 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.

Safe auditions following public health protocols will be held **January 30th, 2021 from 8:30am to 4:00pm** at Madison Christian Community Church ([7118 Old Sauk Road, Madison, WI 53717](#)). 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).

At the time of the deadline for November Nuances, the registration materials are nearly ready. Please watch your email in early November for an Honors-specific email from MAME with all the details.

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

Exploring Music Repertoire

by **Shad Ryan Wenzlaff**

Over the years, I have inherited thousands of music resources - among them are several issues of "Perry's Musical Magazine" (Perry's, published 1881-1967) and "Etude" Magazine (Presser, 1883-1957). I sometimes spend an evening thumbing through the repertoire found in these frail and crumbling pages. It's a lot of fun to discover what was published and learn what people enjoyed in these bygone eras. For those of us who "tire" of the same music, it may be a fun exercise to search a used bookstore, eBay or your local antiques dealer to find some of these abundant and inexpensive resources - if only to change it up and discover a whole world of repertoire seemingly abandoned.

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our students. [This is how I stumbled on "Ticklin' Toes" by Florence Price - who I wrote about recently for this column.] I'd love to hear from teachers who decide to explore the literature and learn what you discover. Please let me know if this inspires you, and I'll include in a future Nuances essay.

It also strikes me how these piano magazines as music resources have evolved. We find ourselves nearing the close of the first quarter of the 21st century inundated with all sorts of resources - way too many uninspired emails [I hope this is not one of those...] - but allow me to remain positive by drawing attention to the cover of this month's American Music Teacher. It's a panoply of photographs dating to the 1940s amidst the backdrop of the Second World War. I was absolutely compelled to read and re-read this essay. I was struck by these photographs, and Dr. Garik Pedersen's research - "The Victory Vertical Project: A Historical Case study in Recreational Music Making." Pedersen shares the inspired story of the "essential" nature of pianos, "delivered to troops across the globe for the purpose of improving morale by giving soldiers an opportunity to participate actively in music making." This website offers more on this project as well: [HOME | victoryvertical](#)

Garik Pederson concludes this essay with a Gallup Survey statistic: fewer than 15% of Americans play or sing regularly, and 85% of the rest wish they did. Playing with those statistics, in my estimation that amounts to 183 million American adults (over the age of 18) who wish to get more from life by making music. Thus our work continues! May you find inspiration in Pedersen's words & some new-to-you resources this month

[Shad Wenzlaff](#) - EMR Chair

WMTA - MAME Member of the Year

The Board has chosen our Member of the Year, who was recognized at the (virtual) WMTA annual meeting last week. We are recognizing our Treasurer Cynthia Stephan and the work she has put into MAME. Here's a little more about her:

Cynthia started teaching piano lessons when she was 17 because her piano teacher was overbooked and inquired whether she would like to be mentored teaching beginning students. Having ventured into the world of music instruction, Cynthia found she loved it and also became a church pianist, choir director, grade school music teacher, and praise team leader. When Cynthia moved to Madison, she found mentors in MAPTA (the forerunner of MAME) who were highly skilled and incredibly willing to share every aspect of setting up a piano studio in the Madison area. Cynthia says, "throughout various stages of my life, I've still maintained my membership with this fine organization. It has been a blessing to be a board member and especially an executive board member. My experiences in the positions I've held have helped me grow as a musician and teacher. We have some leadership spots open for the coming year. I especially encourage new members to consider stepping into one of these spots. The benefits you receive from being actively involved in decision making within the organization far outweigh the amount of work involved."

Thank you, Cynthia, for your contributions to our organization, and to piano teaching in our community!

[Denise Taylor](#)

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](#)

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

[Mickey Lytle](#)



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Email mame@madisonmusiceducators.org for more information.

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.

Nuances Editor: Yana Avedyan (nuances@madisonmusiceducators.org)

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