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Nuances

The Newsletter of MAME

August/September 2022
Volume 5, Issue 1

President's Message

I hope you enjoy the first Nuances of our member year.

It contains a great deal of important information regarding MAME programming. Please take a few moments to look at the latest events and news. First and foremost, we will kick off the end of summer at Heid Music Friday, September 9, 2022 (10:00-11:30 AM), for Incorporating Composition in the Studio with guest speaker, Sam Ecoff. This will be an interactive event, followed by a new member welcome brown bag lunch at Denise Taylor's home (please RSVP).

Please watch your email for your directory (almost ready to share—it needs one more proofread!). When you receive that, please take a few moments to glance at the many events planned through May 2023 and note them in your calendar. Lina Lee, our programs chairperson, spent the summer diligently planning specific dates for speakers. We have a truly diverse array of events that will appeal widely to our members, and much of our effort was informed by the surveys you completed in the spring. Thank you to our membership chairperson, Jeff Stanek, for offering many hours of your summer to put our program together. And my heartfelt appreciation also goes out to Denise Taylor, for your keen eye in helping us to proofread and sharpen the text of our directory. Many other members of our board put in many volunteer hours with planning. When you meet a board member, I hope you will offer your appreciation for their time and efforts. One additional "kudos" deserves mention by name: Thank you Zachary Preucil for volunteering to conduct the 2021-22 financial audit. MAME is proud of the care taken to account for every dollar of your membership dues. We will review, balance, and approve our budget for the 2022-2023 year at our September 23 board meeting (details will be in the directory).

Please allow me to share one final inspirational thought as we begin our teaching years. Have you ever heard of the [Hibaku piano](#)? Did you know that a few pianos miraculously survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima? They serve as a reminder that music is the universal language of our world. My hope for us each is that we embrace our privilege in passing along the art, knowledge, and wonder of music with this thirst for peace and community to our students and friends. Know that I'm wishing each of you my best for a brilliant year of teaching music.

[Shad Wenzlaff](#)
MAME President

September Workshop: Incorporating Composition into Your Studio, with Sam Ecoff

Our first program of the year will help us all learn about how to teach composition as an integral part of lessons. The details for this event are listed below.

Friday, September 9, 2022, 10:00-11:30 AM
Location: Heid Music, 7948 Tree Lane, Madison, WI 53717

Sam Ecoff is passionate about composition, teaching composition to all his students. In this workshop, Sam will talk about integrating composition into private lessons. He'll share information about why it is important for every student to study composition, some resources teachers can use, and the techniques teachers can use to help their students build a composition's vocabulary. He'll also teach us organic ways to help students learn about orchestration, improvisation, and how to get past writer's block.

Sam has a degree in Music Theory and Composition from UW-Eau Claire and studied music technology at Full Sail Center for the Recording Arts in Winter Park, Florida. He has been teaching private music lessons since 1988 and has been a member of the piano faculty at the Waukesha County Conservatory of Music since 1997.

He is currently serving on the state board of the Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs and WMTA. Sam is past president of the Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs and Milwaukee Area Piano Teachers' Association, he is the past president and founder of the Lake Country Music Club, and he sits on the board of directors of the Junior Composers Institute.

Sam has published three books on music technology and many articles in *Clavier Companion*, *Digital Piano*, and others. He has been a frequent guest lecturer at the Junior Songwriters Institute and Junior Composers Studio.

His compositions have been performed in over 45 countries around the world. His compositions have appeared on *Dancing with the Stars*, *American Idol*, *20/20*, *Dateline NBC*, *The Summer Olympics*, *America's Most Wanted*, and others.

MAME's first program of the year will be fantastic, with such an accomplished musician and teacher as Sam Ecoff. Join us on September 9th!

[Liz Agard](#) and [Lina Lee](#)
Composition Chairperson and Programs Chairperson

New Member Brown Bag Lunch

This welcoming event is for all members, new and old, but new members are especially invited to come and meet colleagues and get to know one another. It will be held at Denise Taylor's house, on **Friday, September 9, at 12 pm** (right after our program with Sam Ecoff at Heid Music). Bring your own bagged lunch. Specific address will be shared after you RSVP to [Denise Taylor](#) or [Lina Lee](#).

[Denise Taylor](#) and [Lina Lee](#)

Performers Supporting Performers (PSP)

All MAME members are welcome to attend Performers Supporting Performers as we start the year with our first meeting on **Friday, September 16th, at 10 AM at the home of Cheri Lewis, 1706 Wild Oak Circle in Madison**. PSP meets informally to play pieces for each other, or just to support others performing as an audience member. The fellowship is always refreshing. If you have ever thought about attending, make this the year that you come to a meeting and see what we're about, and a special welcome back to continuing PSP members! See you on the 16th!

[Linda Johnson](#)
PSP Chairperson

Farley's House of Piano Chamber Music Program

We are pleased to announce that registration is now open for the fall semester of Farley's Chamber Music Program, which will take place from September 11th to November 13th, 2022! Students will receive eight coachings plus a masterclass opportunity with a professional string quartet, and a performance opportunity on Sunday, November 13th at 7 PM. All coachings will be scheduled in one-hour sessions between 5 and 8 PM on Sunday evenings at St. Thomas Aquinas Church (602 Everglade Drive, Madison, WI, 53717).

Registration and tuition is due by Friday, September 2nd.

For complete information, including links to the registration and policy forms, please visit <https://www.farleyspianos.com/lessons/chamber-music-program>.

As always, please feel free to contact us at chamberfarleys@gmail.com if you have any questions. We are looking forward to another productive and enjoyable semester!

Best wishes,

Zachary Preucil and Shannon Farley, Co-Directors

Save the Date! 2022 Sonatina Festival

Save the Date! The 22nd Annual Sonatina Festival will take place in Madison on Saturday, November 12. In-person and pre-recorded entries will again be accepted this year. Please visit www.sonatinafestival.org for more details after September 1.

[Mickey Lytle](#)

Exploring Music Resources

Exploring Music Resources is a regular column of Nuances. If you have a music resource you believe others should know about, please feel free to share your notes with me via email (wenzlaffsh@yahoo.com) before the 15th of the month, and we'll publish it in the upcoming Nuances. Resources need not be new, but they must be "in print" / available for purchase – please include weblinks, etc. as appropriate. Any MAME member and teacher of all instruments are invited to contribute. All of these resources are available in store or for order through Heid Music, at 7948 Tree Lane, Madison, WI 53717. Heid Music offers a teacher discount for all MAME members.

PUPIL SAVERS

These are pieces that motivate a student through a difficult season or are for a student who seems less than enthusiastic or engaged. Have you used any of these?

- [Chrissy Ricker, Let's Quest: Video Game Inspired Solos for Late Beginners](#) (Federation Festival, level E3)
- [Catherine Rollin: Museum Masterpieces \(Books A through Level 4, with several examples on the Federation Festival list\)](#): (Note: I can't wait to play through Book 5, which is forthcoming, and I will review it in detail in a future edition of Nuances.)
- [Ted Cooper, Carnival](#)
- [Juan Cabeza, Piano Train Trips: 18 Piano Etudes](#): also available through [pianosafari.com](#)

INTERMEDIATE STANDARD REPERTOIRE

In upcoming issues, I will highlight lesser known repertoire and underrepresented composers. This month, I'm inspired to talk about a beloved Beethoven Sonatina that, perhaps, is assigned less often than other pieces.

I chanced upon Janna

Williamson's <https://www.jannawilliamson.com/> pedagogical resources while I was lesson planning this summer ([Sonatina in F Major, Anh. 5, No. 2 by Beethoven](#)). Her videos are superb and insightful. It's well worth your time spent exploring her site—she is a consultant, and she offers well-reasoned advice. She cites from *American Music Teacher*, *Clavier Companion*, and other resources, rationally, and to a certain extent, convincingly challenging or nuancing pedagogical opinions published there.

I chose to highlight this one piece because I realized variety in the three editions I own. Janna Williamson helped me sift through my confusion. Her useful suggestions are concise (less than 15 minutes) and the video is full of great suggestions.

My notes on editions:

[Essential Piano Repertoire from the 17th, 18th, and 19th Centuries: Level 4, Keith Snell](#).

I found the slurring to be inconsistent. Example: m. 27-28—the three note slur in m. 27 is not imitated in the phrase that follows. Following Janna Williamson's prompt, I think the slurring is a worthwhile feature making this Sonatina an important repertoire staple.

[Jane Magrath, Masterworks Classics, Level 5, Alfred](#). The challenge with the Magrath edition is all 71 measures are printed *alfred*, too concisely onto 2 pages, making it somewhat difficult to read.

[Dale Tucker, Beethoven – Selected Masterworks, Piano Masters, Alfred](#). I like the way the slurring is edited. The fingerings are logical. (There are minor differences between Tucker and Snell.) An affordable digital copy of Tucker's various edited Beethoven works are also available online.

Does anyone have another edition you prefer? Feel free to share for next month's Nuances (deadline – please email me by Sept. 15).

NEW MATERIALS

Piano Safari continues to impress me with their constantly evolving oeuvre. This summer, a new resource for their [Level 3_early intermediate student was published: "Advancing Pianist"](#). Here's what I like about it:

There is a separate "sight reading" book; and a separate technique book (\$14.95 each, or both for \$26.50, + shipping). The technique book presents major and minor keys with 2 sharps/2 flats. Blocked and broken chord inversions/chord progressions are emphasized. Arpeggi, Hanon exercises, trill, double third, octave and chromatic scales are each presented clearly. I'm using it with an adult student who is "brushing up" on skills learned over a decade ago, and it provides solid structure to our lessons without being too pedantic or overly prescriptive for their needs.

Notes on Piano Safari:

Many Piano Safari materials are available as unlimited digital downloads. Their print materials are well printed and bound well enough so they don't fall apart. From time to time, Piano Safari holds sales online so it's worth being on their mailing list to take advantage of those. The Piano Safari website is chock-full of free advice on how to lesson plan and sound guidance regarding how to structure your lesson. It's worth spending time on their website to glean some very insightful reasoning. I found this assessment of Piano Safari regarding the beginner student on their website: "As a result of our examination and use of various piano methods, we have come to believe that the primary goal of some of the early level methods is not necessarily to teach children to play the piano. Instead, the goal of these methods is to teach children to read music notation at the piano. Because of this intense focus on reading, these methods can be compared to a grammar book intended to teach a student an ancient language." (<https://the-piano-studio.com/piano-safari/>)

[Shad Wenzlaff](#)

Additional MAME Resources

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

[Mickey Lytle](#)



MAME gratefully acknowledges our 2021-22 Sponsors:

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Individuals and Businesses are invited to become Sponsors of MAME. Your support builds our programming and helps us fulfill our mission to cultivate dynamic and impactful music educators in our area. MAME is a 501(c)3 and your sponsorship is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

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.

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