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Nuances

The Newsletter of MAME

November 2022
Volume 5, Issue 3

President's Message

I hope everyone had a productive month of October. I'll take my monthly address to share my most original conversation with a piano student ever—this by teaching a student the concept of the octave.

The conversation (and her lesson) went something like this:

Student: "If 'oct' means '8', then why is October the 10th month?" My response: "Well, you are right, 'oct' means eight. But, in ancient Rome, October was the 8th month."

"Well," she declared, deciding that this was the precise moment for the piano teacher to become the student, and so she proceeded to school me on the ins and outs of the Roman emperors. Then she omitted every 9th- and 10th-measure from her lesson piece, I looked at her somewhat puzzled at first, then realized what she was doing.

"Clever," I pronounced. "In homage to the Roman Emperor Antoninus Pius," she noted. To which I responded, "now, let's play it again with January and February this time." Meanwhile, I thought to myself: I think I unleashed a Kraken—but I'm mixing myth with real life...or am I? Truly, never a dull moment!

May our students continue to keep us on our toes as we enter the festival season!

[Shad Wenzlaff](#)
MAME President

November Workshop: How to Start a Studio —Rachel Fritz

Friday, November 4, 2022, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Heid Music

Presenters: Rachel Fritz, Chief Operations Officer at Wisconsin Conservatory of Music

One of the best ways you can help your studio grow is to think strategically about starting and building a studio, retaining students and other related topics relevant to the business end of managing student enrollment. This workshop will provide great ideas and discuss some strategies to support your studio grow. **Join us this Friday, Nov. 4!**

About Rachel Fritz:

Rachel Fritz participated in the 2017 Community Arts Education Leadership Institute (CAELI), and has served as COO (Chief Operations Officer) for the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, Milwaukee since 2014. Having served on its faculty since 2007, Rachel specializes in instructing young pianists and is certified by the International Piano Teaching Federation. She is past president for WMTA (Wisconsin Music Teachers Association) and remains active with WMTA. Rachel holds a BM from the University of Central Missouri (magna cum laude) and a Master of Music from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

[Lina Lee](#) and [Alissa Freeman](#)
Program & Masterclasses Co-Chairs

MAME Honors Recital: Save the Date!

The Honors Festival is an opportunity for music students of current MAME members and non-MAME members to audition for the Honors Recital. This is a competitive event adjudicated by a professional musician. Our 2023 adjudicator is MAME-member, Jane Peckham, NCTM.

The event is open to all instruments and voice.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for key dates: Auditions (January 28, morning to early-/mid- afternoon) and the Recital (February 5, early to mid-afternoon) will be held at Christ Presbyterian Church (944 E. Gorham St, Madison, 53704)

Registration Deadline: December 30, 2022
Fee: \$28 (MAME members) - \$45 (non-MAME)
Only paper forms will be accepted.

Click on [this link](#) for the registration form and more details.

[Lana Robotowsky](#) and [Shad Wenzlaff](#)
Honors Recital Co-Chairs

MAME Steering Committee Meeting, Nov. 14, 11 a.m.

The MAME Steering Committee will be meeting on November 14th at 11 a.m. at Shad Wenzlaff's Studio, 615 N. Sherman Ave, Suite 21, Madison (upstairs from Ancora Coffee). Andrew Briddell, from the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra Board, will be in attendance and leading a discussion about a future partnership between MAME and WYSO. If you are interested in joining the Steering Committee and helping shape the direction of MAME's future, please come to this meeting and/or contact Lisa Allred or Shad Wenzlaff. We'd love to have you.

[Lisa Allred](#)
Steering Committee Chairperson

Performers Supporting Performers (PSP)

Regular members and anyone interested in the group is welcome to come to our next meeting on Friday, November 11th at 10 a.m. at David Barach's place (820 Williamson St, Apt 106 in Madison). Our recital, coming up in March, will be here before you know it! We look forward to hearing some more great music in November and also getting to share and learn from each other in an informal setting.

[Linda Johnson](#)
PSP Chairperson

Fall Adult Music Social

The Fall Adult Music Social will be held on **Sunday, November 13th at 2:00 p.m.** Please encourage all your adult students to participate in this opportunity. The event is fairly informal and will help musicians at all levels to become more comfortable sharing their pieces with others. Selections 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. Contact Cheri Lewis at 608.222.5125 or at studiolewis@charter.net with any questions.

Cheri Lewis will be hosting the event at her home: **1706 Wild Oak Circle, Madison, WI 53713.**

[Cheri Lewis](#)
Adult Social Chairperson

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We have a deep appreciation for our educational partners and support your teaching endeavors through special discounts, consistent communication, and openness to feedback. We would like to know if there are any music books or instruments that you would like to see offered, so they are consistently available for you and your students. We are frequently updating our shelves with the latest and greatest, so be sure to stop in or look at HeidMusic.com!

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Notes from Oct. 28 WMTA District Auditions Workshop

If you were unable to attend last Friday's workshop about WMTA District Auditions, but would still like to know more about the event and the auditions process, never fear! The notes from that presentation are available by clicking [this link](#). If you have additional questions about District Auditions, reach out to Denise Taylor or John Scoville.

[Denise Taylor](#) and [John Scoville](#)
District Auditions Chairpersons

Exploring Music Resources

Christmas Collections

Willis Music / Hal Leonard published a new collection titled, "[Christmas Pop Favorites for Piano Solo](#)." This 18 piece collection is \$16.99 print or \$13.99 as a digital book.

The arrangements vary in difficulty from mid-late intermediate through early advanced. Melody Bober's "Christmas Time is Here" from *A Charlie Brown Christmas* is, in my opinion, a highlight of the book, featuring simplified rhythms from the jazz-inspired original (note: Key of F Major). "Do You Want to Build a Snowman" from *Frozen* requires an octave reach in the LH, and shifts tempo as does Christophe Beck's original version. I'm not sure my early-intermediate students would find it accessible, but I'm planning to give it a try. Glenda Austin's arrangement of "Feliz Navidad" is definitely a relatively late intermediate arrangement. It was fun to find a reasonable—but not too easy—arrangement of "Mele Kalikimaka" by Randall Hartsell in this collection.

A not-too-old favorite I recently found in the holiday rack at Heid Music was a collection of 18 Christmas carols arranged by Phil Hamm, published by Kjos: [Merry Christmas from Middle C](#). For \$7.95, this was an easy decision to grab for the sometimes-finishy 2nd year elementary student. It delivers what the title promises: arrangements in middle-C position. The teacher duets are well arranged and add flair to the simple student parts.

My favorite "tried and true" beginner method book Christmas supplement is Alfred's Premier Piano Course Christmas 1B (yellow). You certainly don't need to use "Alfred's Premier Piano Course" to add this as a supplement for any 2nd or even 3rd year student. <https://www.alfred.com/premier-piano-course-christmas-1b/p/00-30879/>. At \$7.99, it offers the very readable standards, "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas" and "Jingle Bells," two Nutcracker favorites "Trepak" and "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy," plus a very teachable arrangement of "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year." For the student who can handle both-hand chords and accidentals (flat AND sharp), the Coventry Carol is a lovely simple arrangement in this edition. Note: I've had much success with a special-needs student with this book since accidentals are spelled out (i.e. not in a key signature) - though I will offer that I needed to offer this student a photocopy of the "third pages" for Toyland, It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year, and Angels We Have Heard on High since she *never* turns the page.

Finally, I think pre-reading arrangements are the way to go for Christmas Music for the youngest students who joined your studio in summer or autumn: Music for Little Mozarts (\$5.50) is an Alfred publication staple in my studio: <https://www.alfred.com/music-for-little-mozarts-christmas-fun-book-1/p/00-19720/>

Check out what J.S. Bear, Beethoven Bear and Mozart Mouse are up to - the stories engage the young student. Book 2 brings in "Clara Schumann Cat" alongside elemental note-reading. Book 3 adds characters: Nina Ballerina, Elgar E. Elephant, Pachelbel Penguin, and Professor Haydn Hippo as well as the Music Friends' Nativity Scene, while maintaining readable very basic-level note reading.

[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](#)
Publicity Chairperson



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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: Lisa Allred (nuances@madisonmusiceducators.org)

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