

NVMTA NEWS

Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association
www.nvmta.org

January 2008

Effective Memorization Strategies for Pianists--Guaranteed Results!



Lecture by Linda Apple Monson, 10:45 a.m., January 30
Woman's Club of Arlington, 9:15 Forum; 9:45 Business

How can we teach our students to have truly effective memorization skills in solo piano performance? Learning how to identify which type of memory strategy works best for different students and for diverse repertoire is essential for guaranteed results in performance. Kinesthetic, visual, auditory, and intellectual (conceptual/analytical) memory are very important components that should be reinforced with conscious detail. This lively, interactive, "hands-on" workshop will provide numerous strategies for teaching students of all levels to be properly prepared and truly confident with memorization skills in performance. Performance anxiety issues relating to memorization will also be discussed in this pedagogical workshop. I hope that you'll join us for this informative lecture by one of our own members.

Jim Litzelman, program chair

Dr. Linda Apple Monson, International Steinway Artist, serves as Associate Chair of the Department of Music and Director of Keyboard Studies at George Mason University. In addition, she is Director of Music at Springfield United Methodist Church. Dr. Monson earned three degrees from Peabody Conservatory of Music of Johns Hopkins University and has given numerous performances throughout the United States and Europe as piano soloist, accompanist, and chamber musician. She was recently selected for the Fulbright Senior Specialist Roster in collaboration with the U.S. State Department.

Newsletter News: Online Trial Begins Next Month

The Newsletter you are reading goes out to approximately 400 members and advertisers. The average cost of printing and mailing an 8-page newsletter is \$425. Each issue of the News delivered online rather than in print would save NVMTA about \$375, as well as the time involved in printing/mailing and the resources of paper and ink.

NVMTA News has been available on our website since January 2007. Many members prefer to access it there, as it is easily found and more timely. At the December 5 meeting, members voted to conduct a trial of relying primarily on the online version beginning in February 2008, providing printed copies only to those who specially request them. Jeanne Lowe, who has been affixing labels and mailing printed newsletters, has kindly agreed to send out printed copies to those making special requests. The first class postage required will come out of the savings realized. Members will be asked to evaluate this new procedure in May.

New deadline: Due to the efficiency of email and online publication, the deadline for submitting news items has been changed from the 20th of the preceding month to the 1st of the same month. Thus, items for the February newsletter are due by February 1. The newsletter will be available on www.nvmta.org no later than the 10th of the month.

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Important: If you would like to continue to receive printed copies of NVMTA News by U.S. mail, please send your current address to Editor Martha Smith no later than January 31, 2008. Contact information is on the back page and in Yearbook.

Join NVMTA's Yahoo Group.

Never miss a deadline again! Receive reminders and time sensitive announcements about NVMTA events, concerts, and deadlines. Send a blank email, with no subject and no text to nvmta-subscribe@yahoo.com. Questions? Contact Andrew Horowitz 703-299-3109.

President's Message

At the December General Meeting a motion was passed to include the Judged Recitals under the umbrella of the Competition Oversight Committee. This Committee is in place to assist chairmen of piano competitions, such as the Piano Achievement Competition, the Piano Concerto Competition and the Judged Recitals.

When the chairman or assistant chairman of an event has one or more students enrolled in that event, the Oversight Committee assists in finding and selecting judges, determining the playing order of the entrants, and making sure that NVMTA-approved Balloting Procedures are followed.

The Chairman of the Oversight Committee, Jim Litzelman, asks that members send him names of possible judges for these competitive events. Please contact someone you think would be a good judge in future events and obtain a short bio from them, then send the names and the bios to Jim.

The Oversight committee is meant to be a resource to those who chair our various piano competitions. NVMTA will continue to make every attempt to be sure our competitions are run fairly and operate in a consistent manner with the highest ethical standards. We hope that having a committee of assistance and ready support will encourage members to volunteer to chair and/or work on the committees of our competitive piano events.

With best wishes for the New Year.

Julie Slingerland

Results of Judged Recitals Nov. 11, 2007

Judges were Grace McFarlane Bottelier, Jeffrey Chappell, and Nancy Breth (2 pm only). Forty students from eighteen different studios played.

2 PM Recital Honors

Valerie Chen, student of Silva Blazquez

Helen Jung, violinist, student of Natalia Yampolsky

Honorable Mentions

Roman Kasparian, student of Margarita Gramaticova

Alexandra Zhang, student of Nancy Longmyer

3 PM Recital Honors

Bryan Ho, student of Marjorie Lee

Sooyoun In, student of Nancy Breth

June Kim, student of Hae won Moon

Honorable Mentions

Rena Cai, student of Jun Yang

Paul Li, student of Nancy Breth

4 PM Recital Honorable Mentions

Eric Snow, student of Duwain Dillon

Ellen Howerton, violinist, student of Helen Fall

5 PM Recital Honors

Niki Hua, student of Nancy Breth

Ryo Eugene Kwon, student of James Litzelman

Honorable Mention

Kevin Shu, student of Rosita Kerr Mang

Rosita Kerr Mang and Elizabeth Lane, Co-Chairs

Woodwind Concerto Change

The NVMTA Woodwind Concerto Competition date, time, and place have changed. The competition will be held on Sunday, February 17th, 2008 from 2 PM to 6 PM at the Fairfax Unitarian Church Chapel at 2709 Hunter Mill Rd., Oakton, VA. Everything else on the woodwind concerto page 20 of the yearbook remains the same.

Piano Concerto Festival Notice

Jeri Bennett's correct address for concerto festival applications is 20070 Smith Cir., Ashburn, VA 20147.

Spring Festival Notices

Spring Festival date is March 28, 29, 30

Place: Oakton High School

The online registration project for Spring Festival has been DELAYED. This year, all teachers will use the familiar carbonless forms. All rules and procedures from previous years remain in effect this year. We hope to have a full online system up and running for the 2009 festival. Questions or want to help with this project? Contact: Andrew Horowitz ahorowit@yahoo.com

Concerning the required repertoire this year, be sure you are using the new bulletin 2008-2010. If you do not have one, you can purchase a bulletin from Foxes Music, from Marilynne Jost or Sharon Walker. The cost is \$8.00.



National Certification

What better New Year’s Resolution could you make than to become a nationally certified music teacher, or if you are already an NCTM, to encourage a colleague to become nationally certified?

Misconception #2: “Certification is unnecessary since I have high personal standards and have already established a reputation as a good teacher.”

Response: You and I need to make those high standards known to the world outside our own studios, social circles, and music organizations. The outside world respects titles as indicators of competence and commitment for professionals. Don’t we all like to know we are respected even by people we don’t know personally?

Start NOW by reading the certification information on the MTNA website. Then, if you have any questions, need encouragement, or would like to have a mentor, let me know. I would love to help, as would many of your already certified NVMTA colleagues!

For more inspiration make a practice of reading the certification column in each issue of AMT. Look especially for an article by Martha Smith.

Diane Perett, NVMTA Certification Chair
 (perettduet@aol.com) 703-534-4124

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Fall Festival 2007 Report

Laura Bogart, Martha Smith, Co-Chairs

Thanks to all teachers who judged, audited, provided food or pages, or helped in other ways. Special thanks Nancy Breth and Diane Perett for bequeathing us such a well-organized and well-documented plan and to Shelia Epstein who staged a beautiful refreshment table and luncheon. Of 535 students who entered, 488 students played. Our Guidelines for grading were redefined:

- **Superior** = exceptional performance, exemplary in almost every respect, though not absolutely perfect (these are, after all, students)
- **Excellent** = a performance exhibiting everything except the polish and confidence of a Superior performance.
- **Very Good** = a performance with continuity, but with significant flaws in notes, rhythm, memory, mood or dynamics.
- **Incomplete** = not yet ready for public performance.

The ratings of the two judges were averaged, with the higher rating prevailing over the next rating down. The averaged ratings were as follows in 2007, with comparisons to previous years:

Superiors: 294 (60%)	2006 - 38%	2005 - 63%
Excellent: 154 (32%)	2006 - 47%	2005 - 30%
Very Good: 38 (8%)	2006 - 11%	2005 - 5%
Incomplete: 2 (.4%)	- new this year	

Next year we hope to have a more efficient application process, perhaps online, that will involve less paper and more accuracy. We have made a list of other improvements, such as better directions and a new way of handling scheduling conflicts, and hope to have an even smoother event in 2008. Please contact either of us to voice any concerns you have about Fall Festival.

Lions Clubs Announce Bland Competitions

The annual **Bland Music Scholarship Program** was established in 1948 to assist and promote cultural and educational opportunities for the musically talented youth of Virginia. The program consists of elimination contest starting at the club level and continuing through state finals. State scholarship awards total \$18,000. The **Vienna Lions Club** will be holding its club-level Bland Contest on Saturday, February 23 at 1 p.m. at the Assembly of God Church, 100 Ayr Hill Avenue, Vienna. The contest is open to students attending elementary, junior or senior high school (public, parochial, private or home) and there are vocal and instrumental categories. The registration deadline is February 13. For more information about the Vienna contest contact Peggy Smith 703-938-5829. For information about alternate Bland Contests throughout the area, contact Vickie Yanics 301-449-9153. All contests are held in February and a contestant may enter only one time.

NVMTA Members Perform

If you missed the New Year's Eve Concert on Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center by Pianist **Patty Parker**, soprano **Kathryn Hearden** and cellist Marcio Botelho, the trio will present a concert of Impressionistic music at the National Gallery of Art on Sunday, April 20.

After giving Jazz master classes and performances in Shanghai during January, **Burnett Thompson** returns home for a very busy day. On Sunday, February 17 at 1 pm, Burnett is the soloist in Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra directed by Luis Haza. Also on the program are Bernstein's *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story* and Shuman's *New England Triptych*. George Mason University's Center for the Performing Arts. At 9 pm that Sunday, Feb. 17, **Burnett** and his **New Columbia Orchestra Quintet** will play for the 60th annual George Washington Birthnight Ball at Mount Vernon. For reservations call 703-799-8647. Contact Burnett at burnett@pianojazz.com.

Opportunity for Students

Greenspring Retirement Village would like to arrange programs for their residents given by high school students. This is an opportunity for students to perform and also to receive community service credit. If you have students who are interested, you may call Vanessa Pierce, director of volunteers, at 571 243 4641 (cell phone). The programs will be held on Friday evenings at 6:30 and Saturday afternoons at 2:00.

Nancy Longmyer, Coordinator

By-Law Amendments Pass

All proposed By Law Amendments that were published in the November Newsletter were approved at the General Meeting on December 5. Copies of the revised By Laws will be made available this spring and will be printed in next year's NVMTA Yearbook.

Judged Recitals Chairmen

New Chairmen of the Judged Recitals are Elizabeth Lane and Nancy Breth. Applications for the remaining Judged Recitals and the Honors Recitals should be sent to Elizabeth Lane, 2605 Central Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22302.

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Board Meeting January 16

On Wednesday, January 16th, the NVMTA Executive Board will meet at the George Mason Regional Library at 10:15 am. The library is located in Annandale at 7001 Little River Turnpike.

There will be a review of the 2007-2008 NVMTA year so far and a discussion of new projects and directions for our organization.

Board members (elected officers and chairmen): Please put this on your calendar and plan to attend this important meeting.

Position Open: NVMTA Yearbook Editor

If you are interested in learning more about NVMTA and have some computer skills, this is the job for you! Most of the work comes during the summer months. Many people will assist: Membership Vice-Pres. Amy Rothstein, takes care of all membership listings; Advertising Chairman, Betty Cooley, handles the ad wrap; officers and committee chairs edit event details. Nancy Breth, current Yearbook Chairman, will provide training and Mary Cottrell of Creative Impressions will be providing graphic design and formatting for the 20th consecutive year. The Yearbook Chairman acts as the overall coordinator, but as you can see, there are many people helping. Please call or e-mail Julie Slingerland if you are interested in this position.

Great Piano Teachers Needed!

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Welcome New* and Reinstating Members of NVMTA

Alekseyeva, Marina, 8531 Pepperdine Dr, Vienna 22180. 703-560-7557. Piano, Accompanist.

Aaronstein, Amber-Celeste, PO Box 296, Great Falls 22066. 202-352-6263. Aaronstein@sohlah.com. Piano, Music Ed, Elementary Music.

Allen, Larry, 412 Jackson St., Falls Church 22046. 703-237-9745. 412allen@verizon.net. Piano, Band.

Batts, James, 509 E Fort Ave, Baltimore MD 21230. 410-727-1207. schuppanzigh@aol.com. Violin, Viola, Church.

Benemelis, Isabel, 3403 Kimberly Dr, Falls Church 22042. 703-536-6610.

fallschurchmusicconservatory@hotmail.com. Piano.

***Bley, Elizabeth**, 11514 Turnbridge Ln, Reston 20194. 703-464-5151. Betty.Bley@theclarinetstudio.net. Clarinet.

Byram, Susan, 7605 Old Carolina Rd, Gainesville 20155. 703-743-9744. susieqsmb@cox.net. Piano, Voice, Organ.

Cho, Jinyoung, 15417 White Chapel Ct, Centreville 20120. 703-988-9277. tcho@cox.net. Piano.

Denig, Lynne, 4900 Bexley Ln, Fairfax 22032. 703-425-1234. Violyenne@cox.net. Violin, Viola.

***Doyle, Sherry**, 20479 Greymont Terrace, Ashburn 20147. 703-599-7441. sherry@vocaleasestudio.com. Voice, Music Education.

Frank, Maribeth, 12128 Polo Dr #431, Fairfax 22033. 703-517-1810. Maribeth_f@hotmail.com. Violin, Viola.

Gatch, Barbara J. 5741 Waters Edge Landing Ct, Burke 22015. 703-426-2553. bgatch@firsthorizon.com. Piano.

Hartmann, Andreas, 1530 Spring Gate Dr #9105, McLean 22102. 703-394-4666. andreas@ppiano.com Piano, Theory, Music History.

***Hearden, Kathryn**, 8808 Trafalgar Ct, Springfield 22151. 703-403-4429. kathrynhearden@cox.net. Voice.

Hong, Esther, PO Box 4110, Merrifield 22116-4110. 571-221-5893. Piano.

Jaffee, Sharon, 7006 Spaniel Rd, Springfield 22153. 703-644-0889. skjaffee@juno.com. Piano, Kindermusik. Pre-School Music.

Kim, Christina, 12019 Wandabury Rd, Oakton, VA 22124. 703-716-1214. ckmama3@yahoo.com. Cello, Piano.

***Kim, Jahyoung**, 4602 Luxberry Dr, Fairfax 22032. 703-589-6325. Piano.

Lane, Elizabeth, 2605 Central Ave, Alexandria 22302. 703-549-9082. lizlane@verizon.net. Piano.

Lapple, Judith, 17170 Bold Venture Dr, Leesburg 20176. 571-258-0817. FLUTE1inc@aol.com. Flute.

Lee, Jeannie, 2466 Leyland Ridge Rd, Herndon 20171. 703-803-7365. piano77@cox.net. Piano, Early Childhood, Suzuki Violin.

***LeGrand, Dorothea**, 2841 Rosemary Ln, Falls Church 22042. 703-533-1517. doortje_legrand@yahoo.com. Music Education, Piano, Clarinet.

Mann, Laura, 10208 Bushman Dr #424, Oakton 22124. 703-255-5585. lauraanmann@juno.com. Voice, Opera, Musical Theater.

Mecik, Anna, 12003 St. Helena Dr, Oakton 22124. 703-716-0929. am12003@gmail.com. Piano, Composition.

Moore, Katharine, 20475 Cherrystone Pl, Ashburn 20147. 703-723-9325. moorepianomusic@aol.com. Piano, Theory

Nguyen, Quincy, 21978 Hyde Park Dr, Ashburn 20147. 703-858-0433. qdnguyen7@yahoo.com. Piano.

Oh, Jiyoung, 701 Chetworth Pl, Alexandria 22314. 571-251-1385. jiyoungoh@alumni.indiana.edu. Piano, Theory.

Park, Suzan, 5270 Jule Star Dr, Centreville 20120. 703-869-7696. altoumma@hotmail.com. Piano.

Porter, Natasha, 12349 Folkstone Dr, Oak Hill 20171. 703-716-0002. Natasha@natashaporter.com. Violin, Piano.

***Rogers, Matt**, 4193 University Dr, Fairfax 22030. 703-352-0827. sax4him@earthlink.net. Sax, Clarinet, Flute.

Welcome New* and Reinstating Members of NVMTA (continued)

- Roseberry, Catherine**, 1927 Birch Rd, McLean 22101. 703-532-7591. nadyogi@gmail.com. Piano.
- Smith, Suzanne**, PO Box 3581, Oakton, VA 22124-9581. 703-328-0585. suzannesmithmtbc@aol.com. Music Therapy, Piano.
- Sprague, Ronda**, 9401 Katelyn Court, Manassas Park 20111. 703-393-7080. cmronda@hotmail.com. Piano, Musikgarten.
- Tortolano, Mary Ann**, 7028 Achilles Ct, Alexandria 22315. 703-924-3666. tortolano5@cox.net. Violin, Viola.
- Valdes, Miguel**, PO Box 1365, Falls Church 22041-1365. 703-820-8343. miguelvaldes2@hotmail.com. Piano.
- Vining, Pamela**, 11509 Bertram St., Woodbridge 22192. 703-855-1636. viningplus@cox.net. Piano.
- White, Kathryn**, 3215 Prince William Dr, Fairfax 22031. 703-273-7112. whitefamily99@hotmail.com. Piano, Voice.
- Wiebel, Elizabeth**, 3701 S George Mason Dr #1711N, Falls Church 22041. 703-244-4011. libbywiebel@yahoo.com. Piano.
- Winston, Keith**, 1833 Courser Ct, McLean 22101. 703-356-1799. solorun@gmail.com. Piano, Comp, Class. Guitar.
- ***Yi, Youn**, 12202 Tenbury Terrace, Fairfax 22030. 703-628-7885. yyi@hotmail.com. Flute, Piano.
- Yoo, Hanna**, 6485 Palisades Dr, Centreville 20121. 703-449-0815. hyoo@hotmail.com. Piano, Theory.
- ***Zgonc, Karen**, 22956 Fanshaw Sq, Ashburn 20148. 571-223-5981. kbecka@yahoo.com. Flute, Piano.

NEW address for **Kathleen Berlin** is 710 N. Pelham Street, Alexandria 22304. New home phone: 703-751-0027.

New Year's Resolutions from our members

Some members of NVMTA were asked if they had any resolutions for their independent studios as the New Year started. Inspirational ideas came back. We sometimes think resolutions will fly out the window, but they can be an open doorway to a thoughtful approach to developing our skills and professional attitude. Hope you enjoy reading these resolutions.



Betty Cooley: "I hope to revise the practice log for my students in 2008."

Carol Sikkelee: Wants to emphasize Sight Reading and tells her students: "A day without Sight Reading is like a day without sunshine."

Belinda Stevens: "Not just play repertoire, but to hear (audiate) it, move to it and sing it. And KEEP hearing it, moving to it and singing it."

Laura Marchisotto Bogart: "Compliment each and every (any?) improvement, no matter how slight, that my students make, and to encourage them to apply the highest standards into their music making."

Julie Slingerland: "To see my students more clearly and love them more dearly." (from *Godspell* song). To work with the individual strengths each student brings to the keyboard and realize how lucky I am to work with kids.

Amy Rothstein: "Stay calm, positive and encouraging through the most difficult times (recital/festival preparation). Be as patient as possible with any student who seems to struggle at times. Stay positive and give constructive feedback that's encouraging to a student's overall progress. Be firm in directions, but use positive reinforcement to promote overall success. Be a calm and patient, yet assertive instructor."

What are your teaching resolutions?

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Martha K. Smith, Newsletter Editor
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*Deadline for the February Newsletter is
February 1. Please send items by email
to martha.smith@comcast.net*

Upcoming Events

January

- 11 - 13 Spring Festival Application Turn-In
- 16 NVMTA Board Meeting, 10:15 am, George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale
- 19 Concerto Competition: Strings
- 30 **General Meeting**, Woman's Club of Arlington, see page 1 and take note:
GIGANTIC JANUARY USED MUSIC SALE BLOWOUT, 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
TEACHERS' FORUM, 9:15 AM: "Aspects of Judging," a further exploration of the discussion at our December meeting about the need for information and training for judging in NVMTA festivals and other events. You are invited to contribute your input on judging standards and the problems you have encountered in interpreting your students' judging sheets.
- 31 Deadline for requesting printed copies of NVMTA News, February—May. See page 1.
Deadline for entering Alma Grayce Composition Festival.

February

- 9 Theory Mastery Day
- 9 - 10 Concerto Competition: Piano
- 16 Bach/Baroque Festival and Concert
- 16 Concerto Competition and Festival: Woodwinds
- 27 **General Meeting**, Woman's Club of Arlington