

# NVMTA News

March 7, 2014

## **Concert in Honor of Ruthanne Lodato**

A scholarship in Ruthanne's name is being set up through the Endowment Fund. You may donate money in her memory and/or you may perform in a recital. April 4, 2014 at 7:30 PM is set for the recital at the Lyceum in memory of Ruthanne, with a reception to follow the recital.

If you wish to perform, email your repertoire, composer, and exact timing to Debra Gunnerson at [gunnstudio@aol.com](mailto:gunnstudio@aol.com). A one hour gratis practice time is given performers at the Lyceum between the hours of 10 AM and 5 PM weekdays. Call the Lyceum to schedule.

LET'S GET THE WORD  
OUT!!!!!!

Please donate your time and/or talent to a wonderful musical member, Ruthanne Lodato.

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## **Composition Winners featured with the McLean Orchestra**

**Saturday, March 8, 2014  
3:00 PM, Alden Theatre  
1234 Ingleside Ave,  
McLean, Virginia**

Featured compositions are Sonata #1, orchestrated by Breeskin and written by Jeremy Foster, a violin student of Ronda Cole.

Also featured is a Clarinet Piece for Six Clarinets written by Daniel Schwartz who studies clarinet with Ken Lee and piano and composition with Marilynne Jost.



## *Highlights from the February 19, 2014 Executive Board Meeting*

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- Motion for FTC Compliance: NVMTA will open all events under its administration to non-member teachers for a fee of \$130 per annum for the privilege of entering students into VMTA and NVMTA events.
- Motion to waive NVMTA fee for studio recitals of WCA Reservations Chairman
- Introduction of Revised By-Laws
- Event Chairmen Reports

## NVMTA By-Laws Revision

**This is your chance to have your voice heard as we discuss and vote on the Revised By-Laws!!!**

- **READ** the documents posted on <http://nvmta.org/member-services/by-laws-standing-rules/>
- **THINK** about each proposed change and how it will affect the organization
- **ASK QUESTIONS** of any By-Laws Committee member
- **DISCUSS** the revision with other members
- **ATTEND** the Special Meeting at the Woman's Club of Arlington on April 2, 2014 where we will discuss the By-Laws Revision, article by article
- **VOTE** on the By-Laws Revision at the General Meeting on April 30, 2014

If adopted, the By-Laws Revision will go into effect on May 28, 2014, at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.

## WANTED!!!

*A volunteer to edit this newsletter — please contact Elizabeth Blakeslee at [elizabethblakeslee@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethblakeslee@gmail.com)*

## Upcoming Registration Deadlines

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Monday, March 10, 2014  
*Registration Deadline for String Achievement Awards, April 5, 2014.*

[www.mtfest.com](http://www.mtfest.com)

Thursday, March 27  
*Registration Deadline for General Recitals, April 6, 2014*

[Application General Recitals](#)

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## Upcoming Events

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March 7-9  
Piano Concerto Festival,  
multiple locations

Saturday, March 8  
Composition Competition  
Winners Concert, Alden  
Theater, McLean Community  
Center

Saturday, March 22-  
Wednesday, March 26 MTNA  
National Conference, Chicago,  
IL

Friday March 28-Sunday  
March 30 Spring Festival,  
Oakton HS

Saturday, March 29, 6:30 PM,  
Composition Honors Recital,  
Woman's Club of Arlington

## ***Douglas Harrington, Most Valuable Member January 2014***

Douglas Harrington, Most Valuable Member January 2014, and I shared lunch at Famous Dave's in Oakton, following the NVMTA Executive Board meeting on February 19, 2014, and had a wonderful conversation about music, teaching, NVMTA, and life itself.

### ***What is your musical background?***

I started piano lessons when I was 6 years old, living in Spain. My father was in the military and stationed there. I didn't come from a musical family, though music was always a part of the household. My mother loved Motown, but you never knew what you would hear from the stereo – Sonny and Cher, Hank Williams, Jr., the Mormon Tabernacle Choir – deliciously random. Later, we moved back to the United States and I had several good teachers growing up. I never really wanted to be a professional pianist, though I always knew music would be a big part of my life, and I couldn't imagine life without music and the piano.

I was good at lots of things, but I didn't have a lot of direction in things other than piano. When I was just out of high school, I won a competition and played the first movement of the Saint Saens g minor concerto with the New Orleans Symphony under Andrew Massey. That was a big moment for me, and from there I went to Florida State University and majored in piano performance on scholarship.

### ***What are your favorite pieces to perform or to listen to?***

That is really impossible to answer! Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Debussy, the Schubert Bb trio – easily one of my favorite works. The literature is SO rich. At one point I had a goal to learn one of Bach's Preludes and Fugues every year. I'd be done now if I'd been able to keep that up! Bach is magnificent.

Favorite piece? The Schubert trio, the Berlioz requiem – how it's so tied to the architecture of Les Invalides in Paris, Beethoven's fourth piano concerto, Prokofiev's concerto in g minor. One of my most memorable performances was "Music for a Summer Evening" by George Crumb. I enjoyed working with the other pianist and the percussionists on that great piece, and it was a full year in preparation.

### ***Have you worked outside of music?***

While I was at FSU, I worked at the law school as a research assistant to one of the law professors. That was a very good fit, and after graduating from the School of Music, I took the LSAT and did very well. I moved to the D.C. area to go to law school at George Mason, among other reasons, and though I didn't take that path, I continued to work in law firms as a subcontractor for about ten years. That allowed me to pay my bills and still be able to afford private piano study with Marilyn Neeley, whom I had studied with at FSU, and others.

*You do so much for NVMTA. Can you describe your roles?*

I have chaired Judged Recitals for the last three years, and I'm also co-chair of the Piano Concerto Festival. I am theory liaison to VMTA and I took on the raffle as a fund-raiser for NVMTA. I say this all of the time, but here it seems particularly appropriate – I would not have the quality of studio that I have after only six years of teaching if it hadn't been for two things: NVMTA and all of its offerings and events, and seeing the work of so many wonderful teachers. Nancy Breth taught me so much – she is remarkably generous with her experience. Being able to watch and hear the students of teachers like Marjorie Lee as they evolve has been an education in itself. This organization is a gold mine for anyone willing to open their eyes and ears, and at the very least I am extremely grateful, so why wouldn't I volunteer?

*What do you like about living in the D.C. area? What do you like to do in your spare time?*

Seasons—where I grew up we didn't have four distinct seasons and they are all beautiful. I love to garden, enjoy the wonderful restaurants and culture which the D.C. area offers. I love to read but please don't ask me my favorite book because that is an impossible question to answer! I love movies – one of my all-time favorites is "Babette's Feast," which is a brilliant movie, very mystical and very much like a great musical work.

*What would people be surprised to know about you?*

I love languages and travel. Well that would probably not surprise people. Perhaps they would be surprised to know I used to do professional theater – on the boards, not in the pit! (Actually, on second thought, that probably wouldn't come as much of a surprise either.)

*Do you have any "philosophy of life" you would like to share?*

My teaching philosophy is to provide a nurturing experience that is positive for the child and involves the whole family, but I insist on very high standards and everything begins with skills and artistry. I have a rigorous program of study for my students, but not at the expense of the child. That's a tough row to hoe. As to philosophies of life, I recently heard that to have a good life, do three things: love someone, do something worthwhile, and look forward to things. That's a lot of wisdom in very few words.



Douglas, on the right with his family: husband James Mayo and mother Mary Johnson-Briere