

NVMTA News

September 12, 2014

Executive Board Meeting Sept 3 2014 Highlights

Budget 2014-2015 recommended for approval by the membership

Piano Achievement Awards:

- [Revised repertoire requirements](#) approved

Piano Concerto Festival: Split over two weekends

- March 6-8: Grades 4-12
- March 14: Grades K-3

Advertising Rates approved (contact [Betsy Campeau](#) for details)

Scholarship Endowment Fund:

- Establishment of an annual award of \$800 in memory of Ruthanne Lodato
- Flexibility in the disbursement of needs-based awards

Voice Achievement Awards:

- [Revised repertoire requirements](#) approved

Executive Committee policy recommendations approved:

- Policy approved to make every effort to accommodate all students registering for a given event by the deadline
- A fine of \$50 for any teacher who is tardy for monitoring or judging duties
- NVMTA shall not hire as a judge for a cash-awards competition any musician who has served as an accompanist for an NVMTA cash-awards competition within the previous two years

Jazz Piano Festival approved

General Meeting September 24, 2014

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9:30 Coffee and networking

10:00 Business meeting

10:45 Program:

Practicing Stage Magic *Rosita Mang*

Come to our September program and let's have fun! Many competitions and performances win the audience before the first note sounds. Rosita presents this workshop to all of her students and now she demonstrates to us how posture, carriage, dress and stage deportment enhance performance.



Upcoming Events and Deadlines:

October 2, 2014: Registration Deadline for [Judged Recital](#) (October 12, 2014)

Please note: Registration for Judged Recitals and General Recitals will be done through mtfest.com

October 5, 2014: Luncheon Honoring New Members (2:30) with Activity Fair (4:00)

Please note: ALL members are welcome to this event. For information contact [Amy Rothstein](#)

October 6, 2014: Registration Deadline for [Fall Festival](#) (November 8, 2014)

October 9, 2014: Registration Deadline for [General Recital](#) (October 19, 2014)

October 12, 2014 Judged Recital (2:00)

October 19, 2014 General Recital (2:30)

October 20, 2014 Postmark Deadline for Junior Dues to VFMC

October 25, 2014 Judging Workshop (10:00-12:00) GMU

Please contact [Elizabeth Blakeslee](#) for details

New this year:

Jazz Piano Festival, January 31, 2015

Contact [Katherine Niemann](#), chair, for details

Judged Recital for voice, bowed strings, and woodwinds, April 11, 2015

Contact [Douglas Harrington](#) for details



Congratulations to Oscar Paz Suaznabar!

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation awarded Oscar a \$10,000 Young Artist Scholarship. This fall Oscar, who turns 9 years old in October, performs live on From the Top, Concerts at the Alden Theater, and Young Artist Musicales at George Mason University. He is very appreciative of the support he has received from NVMTA and the MusicLink Foundation.

Congratulations to Eve Ginnett
Most Valuable Member of the Year 2013-2014

By Ann Lee

Eve and I spent a hot afternoon, July 2, lunching at Sisters Thai in The Mosaic. I thought the Mosaic an *a propos* image for the day, as Eve talked about the multi-faceted kaleidoscope of her life and work.

What is your musical background?

I have quite an eclectic background! I was raised in Easton, Maryland, and probably like just about everyone, I started taking piano lessons when I was very young. My mother, who was from Philadelphia, had a wonderful teacher, so I got to hear her play piano all the time. She started the music group in Talbot County, and people would come over to our house and play. From the time I was five or so, I thought, "I have to do this! I just have to do it!" So I started taking lessons, and took them all the way through high school. I also started taking flute lessons in 5th grade, and liked it better than piano at that time – probably because it was easier! I also learned string bass in high school and played with the jazz band. I knew I wanted to major in music fairly early on, about 7th grade. In high school, I was able to take flute lessons in Baltimore from the first chair flutist of the Baltimore Symphony, Britt Johnson. I think he probably thought I was a pretty awful student, but he stuck with me and taught me, mainly, how to play a beautiful melody. I applied to Peabody Conservatory because I thought that was what you were supposed to do, and as luck would have it, they didn't accept me. It's funny about life; you feel so devastated because you don't get something, but it works out for you. I never in my life planned to perform, so why was I applying to Peabody? I ended up studying Music Education at University of Maryland. They had a wonderful department and I studied with Bill Montgomery, a very tough teacher, but I think I was lucky to study with him.

I had thought that I would teach in schools, but like everything else you think you're planning, you discover that life has other plans for you. I married my husband Richard right out of college. He is not a musician – in fact, I refused to date any musician! Richard was in the Air Force and we moved all over the place! During those years I taught private flute and piano lessons. Because of the Air Force, I was introduced to a lot of good musicians and musical opportunities. I directed the *Skylarks*, a women's choral group that performed in the local community. I also started taking piano lessons again from an excellent musician I met at our first "permanent" assignment. When we were transferred to Holland, I found a teacher there my first week, and he was wonderful; he really focused on theory. While in Holland, I also learned Dutch and taught flute in the Dutch Music Schools. We moved back to the States three years later and subsequently lived in Utah, California, and then Northern Virginia. While in VA, I continued to take piano lessons and received my Master's Degree in Piano Performance from George Mason. I thought with my husband being out of the military, we would safely settle. However, before

long, my husband was transferred to England, and we left again. I thought I wouldn't get into teaching there, since it was only supposed to be a 2-year term. I meant simply to enjoy spending time with my sons. In fact, we lived there for 6 years. But like many of the twists in my life, we moved across the street from a concert hall that was being renovated, and I asked to organize regular concerts there. I called all over looking for professional performers, who might enjoy performing. Through that activity, I met Ruth Nye, a fabulous performer who had taught at the Yehudi Menuhin School of Music and teaches at the Royal Academy. I was fortunate to take lessons from her for several years. This is why I say my background is so eclectic; a little of this and that, here and there.

What is your role in NVMTA?

I joined in 1985 or '86, through the encouragement of Marjorie Lee, who I was taking lessons from at the time. I jumped in full force! I immediately put my students Spring Festival, and got involved with scheduling for several years. I also joined other events like Bach-Baroque. I thought once my children were older, I might like to get more deeply involved, maybe as a Chair of an event. But it was about this time that my husband got orders to England.

When we came back to Virginia, I got back into teaching. Someone called to ask if I would co-chair the Bach-Baroque Festival; so I worked on that with Linda Gutterman. When she was ready for a break, we switched places, and I chaired while she co-chaired for several more years. I wanted to be involved with the organization of NVMTA, but I wasn't sure in what capacity. In talking with Elizabeth Blakeslee, I learned that the Treasurer position was opening. I talked with Julie Slingerland and agreed to do it. The requirements have been different than I anticipated, so my approach has been to help out when I'm needed on various events. It has helped me to understand all the working parts of the organization; however, I prefer to simply assist.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

If I have any, I love playing golf! I like the challenge, trying different golf courses, being in the fresh air. I spent a lot of my time in England playing golf. I played in lots of tournaments all over the UK. This is how I met people and enticed them to come to music concerts. I also like playing golf because I do not consider myself to be an athlete, and it has taught me so much about body weight and how one can use it more efficiently. This knowledge has helped tremendously as I teach my students about the importance of weight in playing the piano. It also helps me relate to them and their own sports activities.

I also love having friends over. I have a lot of great friends, and we love having them over for dinner. Most of all, Richard and I love getting together with our sons. One lives in the area, and one is in South Carolina, a wonderful place to visit.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

I'm pretty open. I don't think there's anything that would really surprise anyone!

Do you have a highlight or favorite professional moment?

My emphasis has always been toward teaching, so it would have to do with my students. I feel very proud of them when I hear them play. It takes a lot of years to get students to a good level. Finding the few students and parents who are willing to work with you and develop some discipline is a tough beginning. It takes years to bring up the level of your studio. All of our moving has brought some great adventures, but it has required a great deal of patience to delay my teaching objectives until I could establish my studio and teach the way I would like. I've finally stayed here, in one place, for twelve years, so it's exciting to see what my students have achieved. Most people want to perform, but I just love working with the kids!

Do you have a philosophy of life you'd like to share?

Learn to appreciate and love; tomorrow it can all be taken away. Enjoy life! And every day is a learning experience. You can learn something new every day. I think quality of life has to do with appreciation and learning.



Juliana Kuo, NVMTA Most Valuable Member May 2014

By Ann Lee

Juliana shared her contagious passion for music, teaching and service with me in Fairfax on a warm June morning over coffee and pastries.

What is your musical background?

I grew up and studied piano in Taiwan. After coming to the U.S., I studied at George Mason University. I worked in a law firm as a bi-lingual secretary and had two children during that time as well, so it took me about six years to complete my degrees in Performance and Accompanying. I worked at Mason as a teaching assistant and piano instructor for non-majors. I decided to stay home to raise my children, so I started my own home studio. Twenty-some years have passed by so quickly!

After that, I wanted to get involved in service at GMU. I joined the Board of the Alumni Association to represent the Arts. The father of one of my students learned that I was on the Board, and ended up supporting the University with millions of dollars for minority students. I was stunned. He told me that he had come from a humble childhood, and wanted to help those unable to afford college. Because of this relationship, I was awarded the Alumni Service Award at Mason. His generosity inspired me. I was recruited by the Founder of the Friends of Music at Mason, Alice Heyer, as a steering member. So much has happened since then at Mason through scholarships and donations! I've been here to see it all happen. So other than my teaching, I have enjoyed these projects. It is a wonderful blessing to see the goodness of these people. It benefits the whole community.

What is your role in NVMTA?

I didn't join until '88; someone told me that if I wanted to be a teacher, I needed to join and participate in NVMTA! It's so much fun! My students love it! I have served on the Board and as Historian; I've co-chaired the Fall Festival, Bach Festival, and the Sonata Festival. I've been Sonata Festival chair or co-chair for about 8 years. We started with about 80 students, now it's almost 800!

I'm really surprised to be announced the Member of the Month! I don't feel I deserve it! Lots of teachers devote so much time! I am happy to see the Sonata Festival finished successfully. I feel it's a big accomplishment, not for me, but for the whole team; we're a team.

Do you have a highlight or favorite professional moment?

Well, the Alumni Service Award from Mason in 1999 is one. I was also awarded Outstanding Piano Teacher by the Virginia Governor's School. I have had seven students attend Governor's School, and they awarded me "Most Influential Teacher;" I've gotten it five times.

I also love leading a music trip to Europe every other year over Spring Break. We've traveled six times over the last ten years with my students, their parents, and our friends. Each time, there is a different topic, and we study musicians and their music by traveling to different countries. In 2005, we had 78 in our group to Italy, Austria, and the Czech Republic. In 2015 we will travel to Germany, Czech Republic, Austria and Hungary.

Do you have favorite composers or pieces you like to play?

My favorite composer of course is Chopin, and my favorite piece is his *Ballade* No. 1. I love Fauré as well, and have played quite a lot of his music; a very different style than Chopin, but still very beautiful. I like to play concertos with my students as well. That is really a highlight!

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like oil painting. I also like interior designing; at my house, my students' houses... it's my hobby and gift to them. I serve at my church, and sing in the choir as well.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

I'm just an ordinary teacher! [laughs] I can say that as a foreign teacher here, I am grateful for a job, the ability to serve, and enjoy life here in America. I'm blessed to have so many good friends and to serve in the NVMTA.

Do you have a philosophy of life you'd like to share?

I believe in giving back. We take from our resources, and we get so much; but it is a blessing to give back, and to serve. We are equipped through our service; it benefits us, so it is a two-way street.

And you have to enjoy what you are doing. I feel that sharing music and love with our students is very important. I love to watch them grow; that is the most rewarding thing. No matter what they do in their lives, music is their source of inspiration. That is my philosophy: share the love of music.

Finally, my favorite quote from a German opera house:

Bach gave us God's Word. Mozart gave us God's Laughter. Beethoven gave us God's Fire. God gave us Music so we might pray without words.

