



Segue

Professional Music Teachers of New Mexico, Inc.

February 2008

Ruth Williamson Declared MTNA Foundation Fellow



Thirty-year member and first Executive-Secretary of PMTNM Ruth Williamson of Los Alamos has been named an MTNA Foundation Fellow. She was chosen by a poll of the PMTNM board members, and joins Jane Snow as the second Fellow from New Mexico.

The Music Teachers National Association Fellow program offers a meaningful method for honoring deserving individuals while supporting the efforts of the

MTNA Foundation Fund through a donation to the Foundation Fund in an individual's name. Elsewhere in this publication you will find mention of acquiring the requisite \$1000 in donations to the Foundation which allows our organization to name someone for this honor. The funds may come from one individual's donation or from a group of persons wishing to confer this special honor upon a colleague. Please note that the Fellow distinction may not be established in the contributor's own name. This is an honor bestowed by peers.

In addition to sixteen years service as an officer of PMTNM, Ruth is someone whose clear and unbiased thinking is often sought regarding new ideas and/or controversial matters. And even though she retired from teaching in 1988, her work as a volunteer in bringing music to the elderly and the "handicapped" is recognized throughout the Los

Alamos community. Ruth serves as accompanist and sometimes director of her church choir and also works with the local Home School Association as accompanist. She plays in two piano ensembles, often presenting benefit concerts. Ruth's spirit of caring and giving, as evidenced by her on-going volunteerism, as well as her reputation as a fine musician and wise counselor, ensure her eligibility for the prestigious honor of MTNA Foundation Fellow.

Ruth will be recognized at the 2008 MTNA national conference in Denver, starting March 29. She will receive a complimentary ticket to the Foundation Fund Gala and an attractive MTNA Fellow certificate and pin. Also, new Fellows are prominently recognized in The American Music Teacher magazine, and their names will appear on a plaque located at the MTNA national headquarters.

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DENNIS ALEXANDER * 2008 CONFERENCE CLINICIAN

It was not without a measure of surprise and excitement that we learned last summer, that new member Dennis Alexander was, in fact, THE Dennis Alexander whose compositions and arrangements have been among our regular teaching and playing repertoire for years. It naturally followed that he would be first choice for the next conference and, although it took some juggling of his schedule, he will be doing just that.

Since his affiliation with Alfred Publishing Company in 1986 as a composer and clinician, Dennis Alexander has earned an international reputation as one of North America's most prolific and popular composers of educational piano music for students at all levels. Professor Alexander retired

from his position at the University of Montana in May 1996 where he taught piano performance and piano pedagogy for 24 years. In 1987 he made his debut at Carnegie Recital Hall with violinist Walter Olivares. He moved to Southern California in 1996 and has served on the faculties at Cal State U. Fullerton and Cal State U. Northridge while maintaining an active composing and touring schedule for Alfred Publishing Company. Mr. Alexander currently resides in Albuquerque, NM. His reason for coming to New Mexico? "I missed the 'seasons' living in Palm Springs", he says, adding that the ABQ airport offers many options not available in southern California - an important plus to one who is in demand for educational music

events all around the country.

A former president of the Montana State Music Teachers Association, he is a popular clinician at state and national music teachers conventions. Professor Alexander has toured twice to the Far East, throughout Australia, and will be conducting workshops in South Korea in October, 2008.

Over the years, numerous organizations and state associations have commissioned him to write compositions. One of his most recent and significant contributions to the repertoire is a collection entitled "24 Character Preludes" in all major and minor keys. This collection is also available on CD with Dennis Alexander as soloist. He is also a co-author of the



new Alfred's Premier Piano Course which made its debut in June of 2005 and "Especially for Adults", available last March.



**Professional Music Teachers of
New Mexico, Inc.**
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Affiliated with
Music Teachers National Association

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President's Message . . .



Hello, Everyone...

Our work in PMTNM is all about promoting and supporting the joy of music for our students and ourselves. The state conference in Farmington truly exemplified this idea. All of the workshops and performances were “home-grown”, that is, from among our New Mexico membership whose capabilities and resumes rival almost any set of clinicians.

Please see page 3 for a recap of the events. If you did not attend the 2007 conference, please don't let 2008 slip by. It's to be held in Los Alamos with Charlene Cox-Clifton as chair. The National Conference (MTNA) is in Denver this year, March 29-April

2. *Collaborative Music* is the theme for Pedagogy Saturday and on a similar note, keeping an organization like ours going takes a lot of collaboration and cooperation!

It's not too early to begin preparing students to enter Honors or the MTNA sponsored competitions at Junior, Senior, or College level for 2008. The composition contest is also an MTNA event. Sooner yet is the opportunity for your students to participate in PEP (Performance Evaluation Program) for a critique by a qualified judge in which the student competes only with himself.

As you read through this publication, do take note of the many opportunities provided by PMTNM to “promote and support the joy of music” through membership and participation. Personally, I also believe that we have many, many sincere and capable individuals whose calling is to help make lives better and happier through music.

Several means of disseminating information are available to you. This publication, *SEGUE*, which comes to your door, and, of course, our website, www.pmtnm.net. *SEGUE* recaps recent events, brings news of upcoming events, provides information on PMTNM programs, welcomes new members, encourages active membership and gives you something to read and think about, the “Discussion Corner”. Remember, too, there are many timely and helpful topics on the MTNA website; members, of course, receive a bi-monthly journal, *The American Music Teacher*.

Finally, many thanks to Katie Evilsizer, Conference Chair, and all those who collaborated and cooperated to make 2007 in Farmington another successful and rewarding venture.

Wishing you all a wonderful New Year;

Melissa Toedtman

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Conference Recap



Charlene Cox-Clifton, PMTNM 2007 Teacher of the Year and President Melissa Toedman.

The phrase, "all the way to Farmington" kept cropping up in pre-conference e-mails. And it is a ways but 33 teachers and 53 students made the trip. Here are some of the many treats they enjoyed.

Charlene Cox-Clifton sharing great ideas about combining group and private instruction in her workshop, "The Best of Both Worlds". Creative work is especially adaptable to a group setting, such as composition, making I,IV,V accompaniment figures to folk tunes, scale and arpeggio playing, and playing by ear. Charlene's enthusiasm was contagious when she outlined the concept of "Music Bowl", a quiz game for students which will be the highlight of Student Saturday next year.

Ruth Williamson shared some of her experiences in volunteerism, especially in working with brain-injured persons (the "handicapable", she calls them.). Her advice, "Get out the door and into the community".

Jeanne Grealish's presentation on the human voice, singing and/or speaking, enlightened us on this complicated mechanism with do's and don'ts, anatomical drawings, advice from authorities on how to keep the whole thing healthy, illustrated exercises (the "meltdown" looks appealing) and occasional demonstrations by Jeanne herself, not to mention the copy of Peter Piper's Principles of Plain and Perfect Pronunciation. What allows us to speak and sing surely emanates from the brain but just how we produce middle C for example as opposed to the C an octave higher or any other pitch, short or long, soft or loud, fast or slow, remains "The Miracle of the Human Voice".

The motivation workshop, Tricks That Click, featured tips on ways to re-vitalize students' interest in piano study, while taking into consideration individual levels of ability, age, and life situation. The presenter trio of Lee Egbert, Ron Grinage and Melissa Toedman were joined by nationally known composer Dennis Alexander, who now lives in Albuquerque and is a member of PMTNM, with a few ideas of his own. To get a list of Melissa's STUDENT SAVERS, just email her, melissatoedman@juno.com or call (505) 466-3920.

Michael Mauldin presented the first of the interactive workshops for students and what a delightful experience it was to watch him work with some young composers. While remaining respectful of their efforts, he emphasized the importance of exploring and finding your own ideas. Samuel Wong, the 2007 New

Mexico winner of the MTNA Senior Composition Competition, was there giving us the opportunity to hear Michael's comments on an advanced completed composition as well as those still in the "musical idea" form.

Keith Snell conducted the Piano Master Class with patience and good humor. All of the students left with smiles on their faces.

The Ensemble Recital, though attracting quite a variety of duet music well played. "Can You



Handel It?" was the title of an uproarious and extremely well done skit on the live of George F. Handel. Thanks to Ron Grinage and the Bigel family for this and to Ron, Lela York and Melissa Toedman for taking part in the activity.

Sharon Kunitz shared many suggestions for making the accompanist's job easier and better. Unfortunately, few students were on hand but plenty of teachers took advantage of the opportunity to listen and ask questions.

SEGUE SET TO ROCK ON FOR ANOTHER YEAR

This publication, hopefully an adjunctive (if not wholly interim) answer as to how to make the switch from an all-paper newsletter to an all-electronic one without losing half your members, will again present two offerings a year - at least through 2008.

While some organizations have simply advised their members that this is how it is, sit there and read your computer, others have caved in to the majority and gone back to the printed page delivered to your home, office, or studio. Demographics seem to play a major role in this controversy.

First of all, just what is your attachment to the leadership? If it happens to be monetary and you are an employee chances are pretty darn good you'll plop yourself down in front of the little screen and read every single word of what the hierarchy has to say. But if this is a group of individuals bound together by a common interest, say, bird-watching, you might want an electronic calendar so you won't miss the December count or the next meeting. You might also enjoy reading about recent sightings at your leisure, keeping the printed newsletter in a convenient place to refer to again. Any set of older citizens, members of a small town museum for instance, best just print it out and put it in the mail. While many of these older folks are computer-savvy, they prefer to hold reading material by hand perhaps the better to adjust it to the proper distance from the eyes.

A survey conducted among PMTNM members in late 2006 and early 2007 showed oh, so plainly that the preference of the respondents was a continuation of an electronic billboard to provide dates, deadlines and places of upcoming events but also a printed journal delivered in person by a letter carrier. Both in addition to PMTNM's new website, www.pmtnm.net.

Hence, *SEGUE*, whose mission is to give you a recap of recent past events but first and foremost to alert you to opportunities for participation in our various student programs and conferences, will go on at least for this year. There is always a place for "ain't it great to be a music teacher" stories (like "Special Delivery... Mesa View Middle School to Iraq") and a place for "Letters to the Editor", display ads, AND personal ads, i.e. instrument or music sales. No, you can't advertise your '28 Model T Ford Coupe. Ads must relate to the music business or the feds could lift our non-profit status.

Remember, *SEGUE* is sent to approximately 80 NON-members in hopes they might wish to become members. Please tell us about anyone you would like to have added. (kevilsizer@yahoo.com, or (505) 334-6265.)

2007 PMTNM/MTNA Competition Winners

PMTNM Student Honors

Voice

Level 2

- 1st - Madison Wright (Raabe)
- 2nd - Emily Tooraen (Grealish)

Level 3

- 1st - Dennis Wees (Grealish)

Level 4

- 1st - Rafael Reyes (Carey)

Level 5

- 1st - Alexandra Laughlin (Grealish)
- 2nd - Brianne Guillermo (Carey)

College

- 1st - Michael Stokes (Zander-Wall)

Strings

Level 1

- Jamie Philp, violin (Pack)

Level 4

- Eleanor Stevens, cello (Caron)

Piano

Level 1

- 1st - Gregory Martin (Vetrinskaya)
- 2nd - Aretha Deng (York)
- 3rd - Katherine Wang (Lamb)

Level 2

- 1st - Mengzhe Zhao (Lamb)
- 2nd - Dennis Huang (Blind)
- 3rd - Tyler Bridges (Tankersley)

Level 3

- 1st - Sierra Harland (Gunning)
- 2nd - David Li (Lamb)
- 3rd - Chloe Williamson (Olsen)

Level 4

- 1st - Colin Martin (Gunning)
- 2nd - Debra Cooper (Tankersley)
- 3rd - Kaila Matthews (Helin)

Level 5

- 1st - Samantha Secular (Helin)
- 2nd - Tony Huang (Blind)
- 3rd - Callie Hefner (Tankersley)

College

- 1st - Matthew Monteverde (Olsen)

MTNA Junior Performance

Piano

- Winner - Peter Song (Lamb)
- Alternate - Jin Park (Cox-Clifton)
- Honorable Mention - Justin Fan (Vetrinskaya)
- Honorable Mention - Amy Lin (Rebecca Peterman)

MTNA Senior Performance

Strings

- Representative - Angela Helm, violin (Pack)

Voice

- Winner - Alec Kissinger, baritone (Grealish)
- Alternate - Caitlin Wees (Grealish)

Piano

- Winner - Kathy Lin (Lamb)
- Alternate - Alexina Pepin (Groth)

MTNA Young Artist Performance

Woodwind

- Winner - Ryan Smith (Lau) - saxophone
- Alternate - Mandy Kerzman (Potter) flute
- Honorable Mention: Alaina Diehl (Potter) flute

Piano

- Winner - Lauren Anderson (Steinbach) piano
- Alternate - Phoebe Wong (Spitzer) piano
- Honorable Mention: Shane Summers (Spitzer) piano

Joyce Walker Young Artist Award

- Lauren Anderson (Steinbach)

MTNA Composition Competition

Elementary

- Representative - Celia Flicker (Madland)

High School

- Winner - Samuel Wong (York)
- Honorable Mention: Matthew Hanson (Schneider)

2008 Southwest Division

MTNA Senior Performance

Voice

- Winner - Alec Kissinger (Grealish)

Strings

- Honorable Mention - Angela Helm (Pack)

Young Artist Performance

Woodwind

- Honorable Mention - Ryan Smith (Lau)

Congratulations to all our competitors. And a special thank you to Lela York and Laura Spitzer for hosting the Southwest Division competitions held at New State University.



Alec Kissinger, Samuel Wong, Peter Song, Kathy Lin, Jeanne Grealish



Eleanor Stevens, Jamie Philp, Michael Stokes, Alexandra Laughlin, Rafael Reyes, Dennis Wees, Madison Wright



Lauren Anderson, Matthew Monteverdi, Samantha Secular, Colin Martin, Sierra Harland, Mengzhe Zhao, Gregory Martin



Procrastination. .

(Your editor used to write a monthly column for a hospital newsletter, in-house stuff mostly, and an occasional topic was the fictional local chapter of the Procrastinators Club.... eg, our next meeting will be held as soon as we get around to it, silly stuff. Although we all grew up with adages such as "Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today" many of us do just that, especially if it's a task we're not real sure how to do.)

Last fall a sad thing happened in that a deadline for dues payment came and went and as a result one or more students did not get to participate in a competitive event. In an effort to alert members of these deadlines at an earlier date, *SEGUE* will include as complete and accurate a calendar as possible of dates and deadlines. The deadline for MTNA dues does not appear till the April/May issue of the *American Music Teacher* so that won't be found in this January/February edition - last year's

(2007) was September 15. Failure to pay state and national dues means you and your student(s) simply cannot enter any competitive activity.

Maribeth Gunning, Chair for Honors Piano, has developed a check list specifically for Honors entrants. Here it is in a generic form but will be reconstituted for Honors in the August/September 2008 *SEGUE*

- Pay my state and national dues to MTNA as soon after July 1 as possible. If dues are not paid by the deadline I am not a member in good standing and may not enter students in the district or state auditions.
- Read the rules for entering the particular audition(s); they are found in the PMTNM Handbook.
- Call my District Vice-President if I have questions.
- Sign the student application form but only after reading the rules and making sure my dues are paid. To do otherwise is to make a fraudulent statement.
- Send the application form(s) and fees to

my District V-P (or other appropriate entity as designated in the Handbook) by the date determined.

- Assist my DVP with our district auditions as requested.
- If my student(s) become eligible to compete at the State Level by winning first place in District, register for the State conference.
- Arrange to assist at the State Conference as requested

Other chairs (MTNA competitions especially), chime in, please. Some might call



The Duet Recital was a highlight of the state conference in Farmington.

MEET A WINNER



Paul Thomas, son of Trevor and Rose Thomas of Albuquerque, was awarded both the Danfelser Scholarship and this year's

first Janet Spangenberg Weed Scholarship. Perhaps what most impressed the judges was that his reason for applying centered on wanting to help monetarily with his parents' recent purchase of a used Baldwin grand piano. You see, up till now, Paul and his three siblings were practicing on a 40-year-old Wurlitzer upright and when Paul was getting ready for a competition or a recital, his Mom would have to take him to piano stores to practice. (They probably miss him already!)

Paul is home schooled and is a member St. Bernadette's Catholic Church where he is an altar server and an assistant in religious education. Scouting has been a big part of his life since second grade and has allowed for various positions of leadership. He has

achieved the rank of Life Scout and hopes to complete Eagle Scout before his 16th birthday in June. One of many camping and hiking experiences included a 12-day 85-mile hike while attending Philmont Boy Scout Camp in northern New Mexico

Also a member of Baila! Baila!, a Mexican Ballet Folklorico troupe, Paul finds the rhythm and coordination required for the dances helps him with challenging rhythms and polyrhythms in music. He's a member of an adult advanced group, practices twice a week and performs on average once a month. He describes one dance in which the men have to throw machetes up in the air, bang them together and then flip them over - blindfolded!

Like most teens, Paul would ride his bike and skateboard if he had time but piano practice and school work come first. He likes practicing his guitar and enjoys reading science fiction and fantasies. Family time is good, too, on the weekends, with games or a TV movie.

Paul's teachers are Terri Reck and Dr. Falko Steinbach. He placed first in District Honors last year (2006) and second at the state level. Paul's enthusiasm for playing the piano has fostered his decision to major in

music in college. CONGRATULATIONS, PAUL!

Scholarship Funds Available

Do you have a student who would qualify for either the Danfelser or the Weed Scholarship? More on this in the August/September issue of *Segue*, along with application forms. And – don't forget Music Link, funded through our Memorial Outreach Fund. Chairs for these committees are: Danfelser: Heather Nasi (nasi@cnet.com); Janet S. Weed, Astrid Groth (avgroth@aol.com); MusicLink, Ferrell Roberts (robertsmusic@plateautel.net).

SINCERE SYMPATHY TO . . .

. . . Joan Hines on the loss of her infant grandson.

. . . Michelle Walton, on the loss of her brother.



NEWS FLASH...EXTRA, EXTRA, EXTRA

All students may participate at the first ever MUSIC BOWL. All students will come away as winners. It will be similar to a math or science bowl. There will be teams, random selection, who will compete for the correct answer. It has been designed so that all students will win something and anyone can participate. (Voice, string, woodwind, piano and even percussion students)

To prepare for the competition students will need to know general musical knowledge ... that *yucky stuff* that never sticks, but might if they were going to use it in a competition. There will be questions covering meter & rhythm, key signatures, scales (written or spelled) intervals, chords, music history, signs & terms and ear training.

To give the teachers the parameters for each level a committee decided to use the *Fundamental of Piano Theory* by Keith Snell & Martha Ashleigh. Do not let the word piano rule out anyone because we won't use that part of the book.

- Elementary Level will be Preparatory Book, Book I and II.
- Intermediate Level will be Books III, IV and V.
- Advanced Level will be Book VI through X

An example of a question for Elementary Level would be;

- Put the Key Signature for F Major on a dry erase board. (We would have enough for each team.)
- I am on F. What note would be up 2 whole steps?
- I am in 4/4 time. Please clap the following example.

The committee will put sample questions on the web site each month for each Level. Stay tuned for the latest word.

Charlene Cox-Clifton, Student Activities Chair

Conference Income/Expenses

INCOME:

Conference Registrations	\$5,054
Jr/Sr Entry Rebates	4 9 0
Young Artist Rebates	600
Composition Rebates	125
Honors Fees	1,492

EXPENSES:

Conference	*\$3,509.10
Jr/Sr	717.09
Young Artist	775.97
Composition	167.50
Honors Fees	993.87

**includes no fees or the amount paid to San Juan College*

WELCOME TO ALL THESE NEW MEMBERS IN 2007!!

We are so happy to have you and hope that your membership in PMTNM will be rewarding to you. Please feel free to call on the District Vice-Presidents and various Committee Chairs with any questions or comments.

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UH-oh...

That was the good news. The not-so-good news is that the total number of members remains the same - 135 then, 135 now and that includes five life members and two college students.

The number of senior members increases annually and is now at 31%, that is, almost 1/3 of the membership is (a) paying reduced fees and – an unsubstantiated guess (b) may be less active in both student participation and leadership roles.

Members - Please consider yourself an ambassador for PMTNM, and if you can't sell the program with enthusiasm and a clear conscience, tell Melissa, tell Astrid, tell *SEGUE*, tell somebody!



Special Delivery - Mesa View Middle School to Iraq

This story was sent to us by Les Leach, Coordinator of Music for the Farmington Municipal Schools Elementary Fine Arts Program. It was told by Donna Chrisman, wife of Kurt Chrisman, Orchestra Director at Piedra Vista High School and Mesa View Middle School. Donna teaches Math and Language Arts at MVMS.

During our teaching careers we store in our memory images and stories that we hope to write a book about someday; the absurdities, the funny incidents, the sad stories, happenings that you just can't get out of your head. And wouldn't, even if you could.

December 18 was "winter concert" night for Mesa View students. They would be playing in the Turano-Chrisman* Performance Hall, attached to Piedra Vista High School, on the big stage – awesome. At the morning rehearsal the kids were excited, talkative and wiggly, all these behaviors magnified by the bus trip, the nearness of the upcoming

holiday, and whatever it is that prepares us for a major musical event.

At the middle school level, strings are best tuned by the teacher - a time-consuming and arduous task. And so, Kurt Chrisman moved from one instrument to the next, basses, cellos, violins, violas.

One of the Moms, recruited to help chaperone the event, had her cell phone with her, just in case. Just in case her husband, newly deployed to Iraq, happened to call. And it so happened that he did call, and the mother asked Kurt if her son could leave the stage to talk to his Dad. Kurt, realizing that conversation time with loved ones serving overseas is limited and can be hard to come by, let him go. Two violins later, Dad is asking if his son could play something and that's when Kurt decided to go it one better - both son and orchestra would play. Later, Kurt said it really wasn't their best number. However, played by a school orchestra and

carried half-way around the world made it very extra special to not only the dad in Iraq, but also provided an everlasting memory for the young musicians who played that day.

Who can say what will happen – any time - in that faraway place of volatile unrest but in Farmington, New Mexico, for just a little while, the kids got quiet, the baton came down, and a proud father was sitting in the audience at a Mesa View Middle School orchestra concert

Kurt said the dad was crying when the piece was over. "So was I", wrote Donna, "when I heard the story". Weren't we all?

It could happen only in a music program.

**Named in honor of the late Angelo Turano and Kurt's father, Howard, who chaired the Farmington Schools choral and orchestral programs, respectively, for many, many years.*

SOME LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Officers and District Vice-Presidents remain the same with two exceptions: Karon Raabe was installed as DVP for Southeast replacing Michelle Walton; Margaret Roybal-Wilson was installed as Central District Vice-President replacing Dianne Brehmer Bailey. However, Margaret subsequently decided that family responsibilities would preclude her doing an adequate job of the position. Anne Brady then offered to step in to fill this vacancy. Thanks, Anne. Eric Lau will take over the MTNA Young Artist Competition and Chamber Music Competition from Tatiana Vetrinskaya.

Cheryl Pachak-Brooks will be in charge of the website. No other changes in committee chairs have been reported.



Ruth Williamson installing Patricia Brown, Astrid Groth, Melissa Toedtman, Margaret Roybal-Wilson, Karon Raabe and Doris Tankersley into office.

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IN MEMORIAM

Dr. John Nasi, husband of Heather Nasi, celebrated his 67th birthday on October 26, 2007 in the Intensive Care Unit. Heather provided his favorite "birthday cake" - a cherry pie. John passed away on November 5. He was born in the Territory of Alaska and spent his growing-up years in various parts of the country as his father was with the U.S. Public Health Service, an organization in which John also served following college at Harvard and graduation from the University Of Nebraska School Of Dentistry. John and Heather were married forty-four years. His helpfulness in the community, such as working with the Gallup High School Tennis Team, was acknowledged widely prior to his death, Heather says.

Heather is a past president of PMTNM and currently serves as Northwest District Vice-President and Chair of the Danfelson Scholarship.

DO TRY THIS AT HOME . . .

(Ideas that maybe you hadn't heard about - gleaned from the District Vice-President reports.)

Down Clovis way, EL DESAYUNO CHAPTER OF KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL is sponsoring a Solo Music Festival for young musicians, open to all band students and piano students, grades 6 through 12. Solo selections must be from the classical repertoire or jazz. The event is to be held February 22nd and 23rd at Marshall Auditorium and Clovis High School. Piano participants come from the studios of Doris Tankersley, Ferrell Roberts, and Eunice Schumpert; band students from Clovis High, three middle schools and one elementary school offering band in the 6th grade. Outstanding students from grades 7-12 are awarded certificates. Cheers for Kiwanis!!

Los Alamos students preparing for Honors or any of the MTNA competitions gave a Brown Bag Noon Recital at Fuller Hall. Advance publicity allowed for notice to working folks or anyone else who wanted to come in and have lunch while listening to some very fine young musicians.

Lee Egbert and Stephanie Greene are chairing a Student Teacher Recital. Lee says they've done this for years but perhaps it's new to some of the rest of us. Students audition to play, or may be chosen by the Honors judge or some other adjudicator; teachers do not have to audition. This performance opportunity provides incentive for teachers to prepare a favorite solo work

The Santa Fe "Salon". Keith Snell came up with an idea inspired by the 18th century salons in Europe where high society was invited to hear the best and brightest musical artists of the day. Adapted to inspire 21st century conviviality, the program consists of teachers playing for each other either something they are working on . . . or a polished piece. Dinner and conversation follows. Just picture it . . . a winter Sunday afternoon, snow gently falling, Ron Grinage's studio, a group of near-concert artists creating piano magic, wonderful smells wafting out from the kitchen, how good can it get?

Pat Brown, in Silver City, and her students are participating in a program sponsored by the Literacy Link-Leamos organization, a non-profit tutoring

organization to encourage young readers' awareness of endangered species, both animals and plants. Entitled, "Pat Brown's Keyboarders Pay a Tribute to Endangered Species", the performance is scheduled for February 9th at the Silver City Public Library, and includes "On Eagles Wings" (J.R. Poe), "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" (Weiss et al), "Hoppy Toad Hop" (T. Brown), "Who's Afraid of the Big, Bad Wolf" (Churchill/Ronell), "The Sneaky Salamander" (M. Bober), and "Sunflower Serenade" (Huddleson) to name a few. Students are also writing a research paper about the plant or animal they are depicting in their piece. Pat says they have also temporarily re-titled some other imaginative works to depict local species, buffalo, Gila trout, Black-footed Ferret, Yellow-billed Cookoo, Beautiful Shiner. (Black-footed Ferret . . . that just demands to be put to music!) Congratulations, Pat, on a fantastic Outreach program - a great time for your students in preparation, a wonderful gift to the community! This is an annual event and well-attended, Pat says.

Karon Raabe throws an annual Mothers' Day bash, with dinner and recital. Eighteen of her students participated, the young ladies in formal attire, the young gentlemen in suits. The 2007 event was held at College of the Southwest with 80 people listening to an afternoon of voice, violin and piano music.

In Albuquerque, Amy Greer hosts a monthly discussion group to review literature of interest to music teachers. Books chosen for the next few months are Nurtured by Love by Suzuki; Body and Soul by Frank Conroy; The Rest is Noise by Alex Ross; The Rhythm Inside and Rhythm One on One, both by Julia Block.

Several reports mentioned teachers, Donna Glasgow for one, taking students to play at a retirement home during the holidays, and Michelle Walton's students playing in a mall. That's so nice but it doesn't have to be just at Christmas time!

Remember, Outreach Funds are available for such outings if you'd like to spring for treats afterward . . . Or print up words for a sing-along . . . Or anything that helps to bring the joy of music anyplace it isn't.

More ideas? Please send them to *SEGUE*.

Alec Kissinger Wins at Southwest Division Competition

Alec was the senior high voice winner at State last November, singing "Ein Madchen oder Weibchen" by W.A. Mozart from "The Magic Flute" and "Weep you no more, sad mountains" from "Seven Elizabethan Songs" by Roger Quilter. Congratulations to Alec, his family and his teacher, Jeanne Grealish. He will now compete at the National Conference in Denver, which starts March 29 of this year. Astrid Groth is his accompanist.



Ron Grinage motivates the audience during the presentation "Tricks that Click" at the state conference in Farmington.

A FOND FAREWELL TO . . .

. . . Elizabeth and Dr. George Bunch of Las Vegas who retired and moved to Santa Cruz, California last December. Their son is a professor at Santa Cruz University and the Bunches look forward to some helpful baby-sitting. George, however, has already been called upon to assist in the medical community and since Elizabeth (of course) took her piano and keyboard, it's hard to think she won't somehow be involved in music before long. Elizabeth had not taught for several years but was a major accompanist at Highlands University. She was a long-time member of PMTNM.



THE PEP SQUAD - CHAMPIONS AGAIN

Under the very capable leadership of Sharon Kunitz, PMTNM's Performance Evaluation Program has experienced another impressive year with a total of 226 students from six districts participating. Thirty-one teachers either enrolled students, chaired local events and/or served as evaluators. Auditions were held in Los Alamos, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Las Vegas and Clovis.*

In addition to a ribbon and certificate, students now may earn a trophy (composer statuette) after three years of participation with the first of these having been awarded in 2007. Feedback from both teachers and students gives the new award a hearty thumbs up.

NOW is the time to be preparing students for this program. The Handbook gives all particulars on how to enter students including examples of literature for each level. It's not too early to request a date, either. Just contact Sharon (SLKunitz@aol.com or 505 821 4901. Make sure your students take advantage of this opportunity for growth.

Entry forms are available at www.pmtnm.net or at www.amtadir.org website or just call Sharon – that way you can schedule your date at the same time!

SNELL CONCERT WAS JUST WONDERFUL

Congratulations to Keith Snell on a beautifully played recital of left-hand literature at the 2007 Conference. Few, if any, listening to the recital would have guessed the music was not being played by two very busy hands. And not everyone knew, prior to the performance, that Mr. Snell had been diagnosed with focal dystonia in the right hand back in 1988 thus ending a performance career that had already garnered a formal debut in London, First Prize in an international competition, and a contract with Columbia Artist Management.

Like Leon Fleischer, another prodigy who suffered the same overuse injury to the right hand, Mr. Snell has concentrated on teaching – and exploring the left-hand repertoire. It was nice to see Mr. Fleischer being an honoree of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts earlier this year.

Who among us can truly appreciate the depth of such a blow as loss of the right hand but we can all admire the resolve which allows these fine pianists to pursue a most worthwhile, if secondary, career.

* Breakdown of 2007 PEP Auditions:
Los Alamos, March 9, Charlene Cox-Clifton and Lynn Lamb Chairs; total students 45, participating teachers, Charlene Cox-Clifton, Lynn Lamb, Sarah Kelly, Frances Meier, Janna Warren, Lisa Kerr, Kathleen Clute; judges, Lisa Kerr, Kathleen Clute. Santa Fe, April 28, Ronald Grinage, Chair; total students 41; participating teachers, Ronald Grinage, Gillian McHugh, Sergio Rodriguez, Keith Snell, Laura Stewart, Melissa Toedtmann, Janna Warren; judges, Anne Brady, Charlene Cox-Clifton. Albuquerque, April 27-28, Anne Ferguson-Laird, Chair; total students 87; participating teachers, Anne Ferguson-Laird, Stephen Montoya, Laua Baker, Amy Greer, Sharon Kunitz, Rebecca Peterman, Yerri Reck, Chaio-Li Tsai, Evie Jilek, Annabelle Leviton, Michael Mauldin, Matalie Wham; judges, Ferrell Roberts, Madeline Williamson. Las Vegas, May 5, Linda King, Chair; total students, 28; participating teachers, Linda King, Ann Mishler, Deborah Wagner; judge, Loleta Oleksak. Clovis, May 5, Ferrell Roberts, Chair; total students, 25; participating teacher, Ferrell Roberts; judge, Melissa Toedtmann.

EMPOWERING MUSICIANS: BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT

NEW YORK CITY, JULY 7-9, 2008

Join your colleagues from Canada and the United States for a three day wellness symposium. Hosted by Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) and the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations (CFMTA), this event will offer insight into wellness issues facing musicians.

The corporate sponsor for the event will be the Yamaha Corporation of America and the symposium will take place at its Artist Services Facility, located at 689 Fifth Avenue, in the historic Aeolian Building in midtown Manhattan, New York City, July 7-9. Three internationally acclaimed wellness experts, Alan Fraser, Louise Montello and Carol Montparker, will offer daily workshops from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The remainder of each day will be free for personal activities.

To maintain an intimate learning setting, only 140 registrants will be accepted, so register early to ensure you don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Registration Information

Registration for the event will be \$150 U.S.

There are two convenient options for you to register for the wellness symposium.

- Complete the online registration form at MTNA.org.
- Download a PDF of the registration form at MTNA.org to mail or fax in with payment information.

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Speedy Review of General Membership Meeting Minutes

Although fraught with considerable bickering regarding the website, the printed news, communication venues in general, an objection to honorarium for news editors and the perceived power of the budget committee, those present heard without objection a board decision to pay judges a minimum of \$75 a day, and entertained the idea of holding all conferences in Albuquerque but with planning and responsibility still rotating through the districts.

It is noted that both the Handbook and the By-laws are under revision and are scheduled for inspection by the Board at

its spring meeting. Concern was expressed that members and officers are not referring to the Handbook for information on procedures and responsibilities.

Well-deserved congratulations went to Rebecca Caron who has single-handedly managed the annual raffle to bolster the Student Travel Fund. This year's total was \$768. Rebecca would appreciate a team of helpers next year so she can attend some of the conference activities.

Vice-President, Astrid Groth is responsible for membership and for the MTNA Foundation donations. She is hopeful of raising \$1000 for the Foundation

thus making us eligible to nominate a Fellow, i.e. a way of honoring someone who has been especially helpful to your state organization over the years.

The 2008 Conference and Annual Meeting will be in Los Alamos, Charlene Cox-Clifton chairing.

A complete copy of the minutes were mailed with this edition of *SEQUE*.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND MTNA NATIONAL CONFERENCE



The MTNA National Conference will be held in Denver, Colorado March 29 – April 2 at the Hyatt Regency and the Colorado Convention Center. The theme for Pedagogy Saturday is “Making Music Together: Preparing Students for a Lifetime of Ensemble Experiences”. The conference artist this year is Lang Lang. If you have not attended a national conference this is the year to do so. It is in our backyard... More information is available on the MTNA website and in the past two issues of the *American Music Teacher*.

Our Southwest Division meeting will be held on Sunday, March 30 from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. in Convention Center room 707. Please plan to attend as we install Lezlee Bishop, NCTM, from Salt Lake City as our incoming Southwest Division Director. She takes over from Cheryl Pachak-Brooks, NCTM. A no-host dinner will follow the meeting. For more information please contact Cheryl Pachak-Brooks at Cheryl.Pachak-Brooks@enmu.edu or (575) 356-5284.

The Lighthearted Effect

From Music's ROUG; submitted by Ferrell Roberts and Melissa Toedtman.

A recent report now says that the Mozart Effect is another charming urban legend. The bad news for the hip urban professionals: playing Mozart for your designer baby will not improve his IQ or help him get into that exclusive pre-school. He'll just have to get admitted to Harvard some other way.

Of course, we're all better off for listening to Mozart purely for the pleasure of it.

However, one wonders whether, if playing Mozart sonatas for little Tiffany or Jason could boost their intelligence, what would happen if other composers were played during the kidies' developmental time?

- LISZT EFFECT: Child speaks rapidly and extravagantly, but never really says anything important.
- BRUCKNER EFFECT: Child speaks very slowly and repeats himself frequently. Gains reputation for profundity.
- WAGNER EFFECT: Child becomes a megalomaniac. May eventually marry his sister.
- MAHLER EFFECT: Child continually screams at great length and volume that he's dying.
- SCHOENBERG EFFECT: Child never repeats a word until he's used all the other words in his vocabulary. Sometimes talks backwards. Eventually, people stop listening to him. Child blames them for their inability to understand him.
- IVES EFFECT: Child develops a remarkable ability to carry on several separate conversations at once.
- GLASS EFFECT: The child tends to repeat himself over and over and over and over and over and over and over and over and over and over again.
- STRAVINSKY EFFECT: The child is prone to savage, guttural and profane outbursts that often lead to fighting and pandemonium in the preschool.
- BRAHMS EFFECT: The child is able to speak beautifully as long as his sentences contain a multiple of three words (3, 6, 9, 12, etc.). However, his sentences containing 4 or 8 words are strangely uninspired.
- CAGE EFFECT: Child says nothing for 4 minutes, 33 seconds. (Preferred by 10 out of 9 classroom teachers).



ELECTION FOR SOUTHWEST DIVISION LEADERSHIP UNDERWAY

In accordance with Article VI, Sec. 2 of the MTNA Bylaws, this slate of two candidates per office was prepared by the MTNA Nominating Committee consisting of Paul Stewart, NCTM, Greensboro, North Carolina, chair; David French, Rexburg, Idaho; Michelle Gordon, NCTM, Mattapoisett, Massachusetts; Karen Harrington, NCTM, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Mary Ellen Moore, NCTM, Colorado Springs, Colorado; Cheryl Norman, NCTM, American Fork, Utah; Ruth Pitts, NCTM, Waco, Texas; Karen Thickestun, Nashville, Indiana; Patricia Tuley, NCTM, Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Nancy Whitman, NCTM, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Members will select their division's director-elect, who will become the division director for the 2010–2012 biennium and serve on the MTNA Board of Directors.

Ballots to vote are included in the Feb./March issue of the *American Music Teacher*. You can also vote electronically through the MTNA website or FAX your

ballot to MTNA. The most important thing to do is exercise your right to vote! Ballots must be received at MTNA headquarters by midnight EDT March 10, 2008.

Southwest Division Candidates for Director-Elect

Pierce Emata - Las Vegas, Nevada

Pierce Emata maintains a private teaching studio in Las Vegas, Nevada. He received bachelor's and master's degrees from Indiana University. Emata appeared in the nationally broadcast Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts and is active as a performer. His performances have also been broadcast over NPR. Emata is also active as an adjudicator and has served as a grants advisory panelist for the Indiana Arts Commission. "By availing ourselves of MTNA's resources and opportunities at all levels, we have tools that enables us all to 'become what we are capable of becoming,' in the words of Robert Louis Stevenson,"

he says.

Ethel Iwasaki - Honolulu, Hawaii

Ethel Iwasaki is the immediate past president of the Hawaii MTA and previously served as state president, 1st vice president, 2nd vice president and parliamentarian. She is an officer on the boards of the Honolulu Piano Teachers Association and the Friends of the Royal Hawaiian Band. Iwasaki teaches piano and voice and serves as a church pianist. She holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in music education.

"Since MTNA exists to advance the professionalism of music educators and preservation of music in our society, I believe we must fully support our leaders through involvement and active participation," she says.

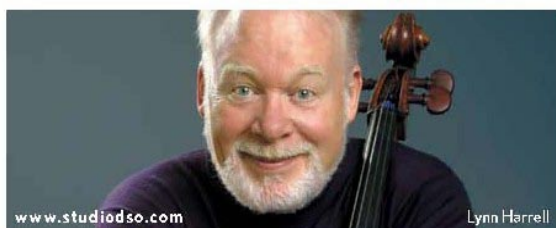
COMMUNITY COLLEGE CELEBRATES NEW CLAVINOVA - from Ferrell Roberts

The music department at Clovis Community College (CCC) has recently acquired a Yamaha CVP-405/403 digital piano lab offering their students a broader and stronger music education. The Clavinova is the next best thing to a real piano. It features an exceptional natural piano touch and expressive response—thanks to the remarkable Graded Hammer keyboard. The CVP-405/403 provides performance functions and expressive power found only on grand pianos, such as having repeated plays of the same note

perfectly articulated, even when playing at high speed or with partial key release. The piano lab at CCC has 12 full keyboard Clavinovas and the teacher's unit. Connected to computers, students can use their flash drives to record themselves then burn to CDs or even print out the music.

After many attempts by CCC and Eleanor McKinney, instructor, to get the lab on the "wish list" sent to the legislature, CCC was granted \$60,000 for the piano lab. CCC is the first college in the United States to have a piano lab of

this caliber according to Yamaha. Dennis Stanfill, educational technology and system design specialist for META Music Education and Technology Associates, presented a workshop for area teachers on November 10th. The training session gave each participant hands-on instruction and activities helping them to be better equipped to reach students of the 21st century at their level of interest.



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Lynn Harrell

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2008 PMTNM CONFERENCE SLATED FOR LOS ALAMOS

Conference Chair Charlene Cox-Clifton says “Who knows what might happen in Los Alamos, the land of discoveries” in promising an exciting conference for this fall leading off with Dennis Alexander as Principal Clinician. She’s also unveiling her answer to our efforts to provide an activity that’s competitive and non-competitive at the same time – read all about it in this issue of *SEGUE*! Complete program and registration info and forms will be in the August/September issue.

COMING EVENTS

MTNA National Conference

March 29-April 2, 2008 - Denver
Complete Information and Registration Forms in
Dec/Jan & Feb/March AMT and at www.MTNA.org

PMTNM Spring Board Meeting

Saturday, April 19, 2008 - 10 A.M.
Home of Astrid Groth
Please send agenda items to Melissa Toedtmann in
writing by April 1.

PMTNM State Conference and Annual Meeting

November 14 – 16, 2008
Los Alamos, N.M.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 1

Agenda items for spring board meeting due to Melissa Toedtmann

August 3

News Items, Letters, Ads For August/September Issue of *SEGUE* to Katie Evilsizer

October 8

Honors – All fees and entries to Maribeth Gunning postmarked on or before October 8.

Danfelter Scholarship - All applications to Heather Nasi on or before October 8.

Janet Weed Scholarship - All applications to Astrid Groth on or before October 8.

October 26

All Officer and Chair Reports to Jeanne Grealish.

Conference Info and Registration will be in August/September *SEGUE*

MTNA Competitions (Young Artist, Chamber Ensemble, Senior, Junior Auditions, Compositions) Entries and Fees: See April/May *American Music Teacher* or MTNA website. Register Online only. Read your PMTNM Handbook under the appropriate heading for additional instructions. See PMTNM Roster for Chairs.