



# Pikes Peak Music Teachers Association Newsletter

November, 2008

PPMTA is a non-profit organization affiliated with Colorado State Music Teachers Association and Music Teachers National Association. Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Calvary United Methodist Church unless noted otherwise. This newsletter is printed as a service to members of PPMTA.

## President's Corner

Are you charged up and ready for the Fall Ensemble Festival? We have over 320 students participating and that number doesn't include students, parents, and teachers who are accompanying. Thank you Kearin, Bonnie, Jodie, and Clara for all your hard work putting this event together!

We had a most enlightening panel discussion at the October General Meeting with members of several college music departments including PPCC, UCCS, Colorado College, CSU Ft. Collins, and CSU Pueblo. They shared information about their current music programs and hopes for the future of their programs. All are expanding to meet our student's needs and are upgrading their facilities as well. The panelists shared requirements for music degrees, information about auditions, scholarship programs, faculty, areas of study, and much more.

Wishing you all a Happy Holiday season. May you cherish each moment with family, friends, and students. May we all take time from our busy schedules to find peace and joy during the holidays.

---Donna

## Festivals

### **Ensemble Festival - Sat., November 8, 2008**

Quick stats: 322 paying students (additional students, parents, and friends also participating as accompanists), 187 ensembles, 23 teachers, and 12 recitals!

The Festival will be held at Calvary United Methodist Church and Colorado Music Studios. Recitals are at 9:00 am, 10:15 am, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm, 2:45 pm, and 4:00 pm. Ensembles entered are piano duets, 1 piano/6 hands and 2 piano/8 hands; piano duos; keyboard ensembles, flute and vocal ensembles.

All PPMTA teachers are invited to enjoy the recitals or help out. It's a great way to get involved and see what these festivals are all about! Contact Bonnie Litten - 719.495.6650 [blittenpiano@hotmail.com](mailto:blittenpiano@hotmail.com); or Kearin Ragsdale - 719.591.9042 [kearinrags2@aol.com](mailto:kearinrags2@aol.com).

## **Competitive Sonatina Festival - Sat. & Sun.,**

**February 7 & 8, 2009**

The Competitive Piano Sonatina Festival auditions will be held on Saturday, February 7, at the Nazarene Bible College at 1111 Academy Park Loop. One PPMTA teacher's home studio (about 10 minutes away from NBC) will also be used for auditions if the projected number of entries is accurate. The Winners' Recitals will be held Sunday, February 8, at Packard Hall on the Colorado College campus.

Please read the festival description carefully and check the sonatina lists in the PPMTA Handbook. Note that the entries are due electronically to Robert Hartley by January 12. Also, a hard copy of the entry form and signature pages with teacher check is to be received by Joan Sawyer by January 12. Plan to get all of the paper work signed by students and parents before the holidays since this deadline is early in January. Contact Joan Sawyer with any questions (471-4145 or [joan@sawyer.ws](mailto:joan@sawyer.ws)).

## **Non-Competitive Sonatina Festival**

**Sat., March 14, 2009**

Whoa, pardner!! Isn't it just a tad too early to be thinking about that Non-Competitive Sonatina festival next spring? Pul-eeze! Let me just get through this Fall Ensemble Festival first!

As a young teacher, ("young" in teaching years and new to PPMTA), I've had so many questions, such as how and when to start preparing myself and my students for these music festivals. So I've lassoed some of those veteran teachers to give us some help.

Hang on to your saddle, friends, and ride on over to your favorite music store or pull your chair up to those new-fangled computers and load your saddle bags up with sonatinas. Fortunately, students love sonatinas almost as much as Christmas music.

And how in the world does a new teacher figure out the sonatina maze? Just grab your PPMTA Handbook (keep that thing handy...it's full of all the good stuff) and flip to page 27 for all the details. And if you need ideas on sonatinas, there are quite a few in the method books, (see p. 2)

## Festivals, Continued

and an extensive list in the PPMTA handbook for the Competitive Sonata Festival...who says we can't get ideas from that list!

Here's the great thing about starting now to prepare our students...less stress and more fun for relaxed riding on the music trails. And those veteran teachers have told me that sonatinas make great recital pieces...those little wranglers will have those recital pieces learned before they even know there is a recital! Can you imagine being so prepared?

And here are a few other things I've learned along the trail while riding with some of those veterans: Start with one student this year. Next year, volunteer to be on a festival committee. How do you think I learned to ride a horse? Get on the danged thing...same goes for festivals. Those veteran teachers will give you a hand, same as they did me. And you'll have a lot of fun...who said work can't be fun? If you still don't know where to start, just call one of us down at the PPMTA Non-Competitive Sonata corral. Grab your PPMTA Handbook and look us up: Donna Caulfield and Susie Marten, our festival chairs, along with Jan Armstrong and June Ewell (your novice partner). We're friendly, so give us a call.

And now, folks, if you'll excuse me, I need to saddle up and ride on over to my favorite music store to start browsing through those sonatinas. See you on the trail!  
—June Ewell, Member

### **Achievement Day - Sat., April 28, 2009**

Never entered students in Achievement Day? It's easy and students love it. The whole day is designed to celebrate each student's musical achievement. Just enter 2-3 students to try it out.

#### **STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Play 2 pieces: one memorized, one with music
2. Take a theory test at the theory level you select
3. Perform 2 other things of their choice: technique, a duet, sing, dance, etc.
4. Complete one "music related activity": an art project, composition, take an additional test, etc

Questions? Contact: Jill Hanrahan, NCTM [mrshans@juno.com](mailto:mrshans@juno.com), or Sylvia Holt, NCTM [dan\\_sylholt@msn.com](mailto:dan_sylholt@msn.com)

#### **MTNA News**

Looking for ways to energize your studio or increase your fees? Through the Discussion Boards on the MTNA website (moderated by the Board Directors and national staff), you can link instantly to 24,000 other teachers throughout the United States. Post your questions or information and hear how others have addressed those same issues. Visit [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org) and select "Discussion Boards" from the Quick Links. (From an MTNA "Important Information for State and Local Presidents", September 15, 2008).



## Holiday Brunch



All PPMTA members are invited to our holiday get-together on December 9 at the home of Janet Davidson, 3102 Wesley Lane. We will meet for business at 9:30 a.m. with brunch to follow at 10. Please bring a dish to share. We will also have a gift exchange. Bring a gift not to exceed \$10 in value. And we will no doubt enjoy some musical performances as well. We always have a good time, so hope you will plan to join us.

Directions for the Brunch/December meeting at 3102 Wesley Lane:

**From Union and Austin Bluffs**, go east on Austin Bluffs, take first right (Brenner Place), then the second left (Wesley Drive) and then the first left which is Wesley Lane. House is at the end of the street.

**From Academy going south**: Go west on Austin Bluffs, left on Morning Sun (just after the light at the shopping center), then left on American, almost immediately right on Van Teylingen, right on Wesley Drive and right on Wesley Lane.

**From Academy going north**: Turn left on North Carefree, right on Van Teylingen, left on Wesley Drive and right on Wesley Lane.

There is a fair amount of parking, but car pooling would be helpful.

### PPMTA Teachers Accepting Students

*All piano unless noted otherwise. Contact Jan Saffir ([jsaffir@truman.edu](mailto:jsaffir@truman.edu)).*

**Holly Aldridge**: 719-227-1497, Downtown; [hollyaldrige@live.com](mailto:hollyaldrige@live.com)

**Bonnie Ackerman**: 719-329-8810, Piano, Organ, Theory. Travels to Students' Homes

**Donna Caulfield**: 596-3958, Power/Barnes

**Lauren Ciborowski**: 633-4240, North Downtown 80907

**Diana Crawford**: 593-8575, Briargate 80920

**Anna Dinsmoor**: 264-0193, Powers/Dublin

**June Ewell**: 481-5893, Monument

**Ben Gahart**: 633-1239, Broadmoor/Skyway (Piano, Organ)

**Susan Hayward**: 599-8388, Rockrimmon

**Sylvia Holt**: 228-1585, Union/Fillmore 80909

**Susan Humphreys**: 719-448-9233, Fillmore/Union

**Rowene Mahoney**: 719-633-8047, Northwest

**Jan Saffir**: 719-282-8589, Near Univ. Park 80918, Piano, Clavinova

**Paul Stephens**: 719-282-8589, Near University Park 80918

**Ellie Stites Swanger**: 719-266-6522, Briargate/Pine Creek/ Blk. Forest

**Brenda Tagen**: 685-3811, Central/Downtown

#### **New Address/Email**

Leonard Rhodes, P.O. Box 6772, Dillon, CO 80435 970-648-6809

Pamela Morris, [pmmorris170@comcast.net](mailto:pmmorris170@comcast.net)

## Marketing Your Music Studio From zero to 54!

I am convinced that marketing your business does make a difference! My husband and I moved to Colorado Springs on June 1, 2007. By September 2007, I was teaching 39 students and one year later I am enjoying teaching 54 students and now have a short waiting list.

I believe there are three keys elements to marketing your studio:

1. Be Professional, 2. Be Proactive, and 3. Be Organized

Being professional means creating a website to gain credibility and provide information to prospective students and parents in our technology driven business world. Business cards are also a must. Always have several on hand and give two to potential students or parents – one for them and one for a friend! It is also important to have a written, detailed studio policy to communicate that you are serious and knowledgeable. Spend time networking by attending PPMTA meetings and other local, state, and national events. I have referred at least 20 students to other teachers in the last two months due to having a full schedule.

Being proactive means advertising! Advertise online, in homeschool newsletters or website ads, at music stores or other local stores like coffee shops and the gym. Perhaps the most important advertising for your studio will be by word of mouth. Develop relationships with your students and their parents by creating positive experiences and interactions. I have gained 24 students due to personal referrals from parents! Don't be afraid to talk about your job whenever possible and appropriate. I gained 6 students from a former piano teacher I met at my gym, from which I gained another 7 students due to personal referrals. Respond quickly to emails and phone calls you receive. Be professional and courteous, gather the information you need and give the information prospective students need. Set up an introductory lesson as soon as possible, or refer the student to another teacher if for any reason you are not able to take them as a student. Also, being organized will allow your business to run smoothly. Create student information sheets, set up an email account dedicated to business use, keep a list of places you have advertised (for future updates), and keep a notebook of records and resources.

A professional, proactive, organized teacher can have a thriving studio by getting ready to advertise, going out and advertising, then responding to advertising.

—Clara Ring, Member

## Announcements

### Another Recital Venue!

Pulpit Rock Church, 301 Austin Bluffs Parkway, has just opened up their west building sanctuary for recitals. The church just purchased an outstanding Yamaha 6'6" grand for the sanctuary. The sanctuary seats 300. There is a large room for receptions directly off the sanctuary, at no

extra charge. If teachers would like to reserve the hall, they should call Sarah Andrews, event coordinator, at 598-6767, ext. 124.

—Mary Beth Shaffer, NCTM

### John Rutter's Gloria

On Friday, November 14 at 7:00 p.m., the combined choirs of First Christian Church and Grace Episcopal Church, directed by Gayle Grace and Deke Polifka with Carol Wilson, organist, are presenting "Gloria in excelsis," a program of music for choir, brass choir, percussion and organ. The concert, which will include John Rutter's Gloria, is being presented in celebration of the presence of music in our lives, and of the joy these two churches have found in the sharing of sacred space. The concert will be held at First Christian Church at 16 E. Platte Ave. A free will offering will be taken.

### Pikes Peak Ringers

On Sunday, November 23 at 3:00 p.m., First Christian Church at Cascade and Platte is presenting the awesome Pikes Peak Ringers, directed by Kevin McChesney. The program, entitled "Symphony of Bronze," will feature Celtic works, transcriptions and hymn arrangements, and the final movement of Kevin McChesney's Ring of Fire, a concerto for handbell choir. Come and bring a friend for an afternoon of music that's as much fun to watch as to hear. A free will offering will be taken. All are invited for a reception following the concert.

### Advertise Your Music Studio

Want to advertise your studio or business in the upcoming Colorado Springs Children's Chorale program at the Pikes Peak Center? This program reaches hundreds of music-devoted families, many of whom want to take instrumental lessons so they can move up to the next choir. Business card ads are \$40, and other sizes are available. Discounts are available for advertising in both Dec. and May programs. Email Katy at [appelhansk@gmail.com](mailto:appelhansk@gmail.com) or call 719-570-6837. Deadline is November 13.

## Recital Room Available!

*Call now to reserve your upcoming recital.*

**573-0755**

Ask for Kathy!

**Centrally located**

**Handicap accessible**

**Seating for over 100**

**Beautiful Facility**

## Colorado Music Studios

3470 West Carefree Circle  
Colorado Springs, CO 80917

## Preparation for Performances and Performance Etiquette

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In order to help our students be successful in their performances, we need to take responsibility to help them develop the skills needed. Here are some thoughts to help in this process.

- Be sure students begin their music well in advance of the event so they have the time needed to prepare and to be secure in their performance.
- Give students opportunities to perform in informal group performances before their big event. Practice performing in front of family members and friends.
- Set high expectations for students regarding performances and etiquette.

•Have a specific dress code for performances such as: semi-formal attire required, no jogging shoes or jeans, no flip-flops, no t-shirts, etc.

•Teach your students how to approach the bench and how to sit down without appearing hurried. They should adjust their bench and be seated before beginning. Take a moment to "prepare" themselves before playing by sitting quietly with their hands in their lap for a moment. When their performance is done – have them wait again for a moment before standing up so as not to appear rushed.

•Help your students to learn not to react if there is a problem or they make that dreaded mistake – it only reinforces the mistake. Help them to learn to keep going no matter what. Practice as if in a performance and push through problems as if they never happened.

•Take a bow! Don't forget to say thank you with a bow after their performance. Just a simple bow from the hips is needed – avoid curtsies to look "professional". Some teachers ask that students bow before their performance. PPMTA does not encourage bowing before performances at PPMTA festivals simply due to time constraints.

•Another part of our job is teaching parents and families about performance etiquette. How often do we have someone say they have to leave immediately after their students' performance. Let them know this is not acceptable. One teacher stated that she has a policy in her studio that students who cannot stay for the entire recital are not allowed to perform. Remind parents not to enter or leave during a performance.

•Lastly, our job is to help our students be successful and there should be consideration about students who want to perform in an event but who are not ready. If they haven't done their job to be properly prepared then perhaps they should wait for the next recital or event. This avoids a poor performance by the student as well as maintains the professionalism of your studio and PPMTA.

—Sara McDaniel, NCTM

## Time for Music Lessons? Where Do You Start?

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*The following is an article by Nancy Kaesler, Immediate Past President of CSMTA, about how folks can go about finding a qualified music teacher. Kathy Hammer, President CSMTA, suggested we share this with our members.*

In case we need a reason, other than a burning desire, to learn to play a musical instrument or to provide an opportunity for our children to do so, there is plenty of evidence around today of the benefits of music study for nearly everyone.

But suppose the decision has already been made in your family to sign up your young child (or yourself) for piano lessons – or flute or cello or guitar or voice. How can you tell ahead of time whether or not a teacher will be the right one? What are the criteria you can use to select a teacher with whom you can expect to have a long standing relationship? And supposing you do not yet have an instrument?

Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), the parent professional organization that has chapters in all 50 states provides some answers to these questions. Its website is [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org). Its Colorado branch is the Colorado State Music Teachers Association (CSMTA), website [www.comusicteachers.net](http://www.comusicteachers.net). Its Colorado Springs affiliate is Pikes Peak Music Teachers Assoc whose website is [www.ppmta.org](http://www.ppmta.org).

After you have checked the above websites and asked your friends for recommendations and received names from music stores, schools, churches, or teacher organizations, it's a good idea to use the rule of three - interview, in person, three different teachers to find one who you think will inspire and nurture your student's musical growth and instill a lifelong love of music. Then find the answers to these questions:

1. What is the teacher's professional and educational experience in music?
2. What is his/her teaching experience? What age groups are taught?
3. How does the teacher participate in ongoing professional development and is the teacher nationally certified?
4. Does he/she have a written studio policy and will he/she review it with you?
5. Does the teacher regularly evaluate student progress?
6. What instructional materials are used?
7. What kinds of music are taught? Are improvisation, theory, composition and technology part of the curriculum? Are group lessons, recitals and other performance opportunities such as festivals and competitions made available?
8. How much practice time is required? How can the parent support practice?
9. What, specifically, does the teacher expect of the parent and the student?
10. If you only have a digital keyboard, does the teacher 'allow' the student to use a digital piano for practice or does he/she require an acoustic piano?

Finding out how a teacher articulates his/her goals and intentions, or style, is of paramount importance. Students and their parents have more choices about how to study instrumental/vocal music than ever before. It is also more possible than ever to make the best choice from the beginning to choose the right teacher rather than settle for someone with less education or background just to "see how the student likes lessons". Good luck in your search for the right teacher.

—Nancy Kaesler, NCTM, Immediate Past President of  
Colorado State Music Teachers Association

## Meeting News

All meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at Calvary United Methodist Church unless noted otherwise. Social Time: 9:00, General Meeting: 9:30, Program: 10:00 - 11:00

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** If either School District 11 and/or 20 close due to bad weather, the meeting will be canceled. Meetings will not be affected should the school districts have delayed starts.

**November 11, 2008 - Stephanie Berg-Oram: "Filling In the Gaps: Where Do I Find the Context?"**

Program on books one might draw on to round out understanding of a style/period/composition/composer/society

**December 9, 2008 - Holiday Brunch at home of Janet**

**Davidson**, 3102 Wesley Ln. 80917.

9:30 Business Meeting

10:00 Brunch

*See feature article on page 2.*

## PPMTA Board and Committees:

### PPMTA BOARD

President: Donna Caulfield 596-3958

Programs: Sara McDaniel 596-9281

Student Activities: Jan Saffir 282-8589

Membership: Jill Hanrahan 282-3929

Publicity: Susan Hayward 599-8388

Secretary: Clara Ring 330-6184

Treasurer: Claire Odermann 330-9292

### COMMITTEES:

Newsletter: Jan Saffir, 282-8589

Handbook: Jan/Bob Armstrong, 550-1845

Website: Barbara Taylor, 488-9040

### BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are scheduled bi-monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at the home of Donna Caulfield unless noted otherwise. Please call Donna to confirm the meeting and location (596-3958). Dates: November 4, 2008, January 6, 2009, March 3, 2009, April 7, 2009.

### PPMTA Newsletter Deadlines

January/February: December 15th, April/May: March 15th