



# Pikes Peak Music Teachers Association

# Newsletter

November/December 2009 PPMTA is a non-profit organization affiliated with Colorado Music Teachers Association and Music Teachers National Association. Meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at Calvary United Methodist Church unless noted otherwise. The newsletter is delivered as a service to members of PPMTA.

## President's Corner

I am grateful that so many of you were able to attend the September brunch and presentation on Latin Music and the October meeting featuring piano music composed by Grace Christus. In November we have two opportunities to be involved: the Latin Music Festival on November 14 and the monthly meeting highlighting Piano Marvel Software with Aaron and Heidi Garner. Thanks to each of you for your support of these enriching opportunities that PPMTA provides.

--Joan Sawyer

## Upcoming Programs

Unless noted otherwise:

- All programs and meetings will be held at Calvary Methodist Church.
- Coffee/Refreshments are at 9:00am. (Please do not bring any food or drink into the sanctuary.) General Meetings are at 9:30am
- Program Presentations begin at 10am.
- **CANCELATION POLICY:** If either District 11 or District 20 has a school closure on the day of a PPMTA meeting, the meeting will be canceled.

- ❖ Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>: **Aaron Garner** will present **Marvel Software**. This is a "hands on" program so it should be lots of fun as well as educational. Plan to attend!!
- ❖ Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>: **Christmas Program and Lunch**. Please RSVP to Carol Van Slooten.
- ❖ Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>: **Caleb Harris**, Professor of Piano, University of Northern Colorado, will present "**Communicating With Singers from the Piano Bench**"
- ❖ Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>: **Lianne Rockley from Rockley Music** in Denver will introduce **new ensemble and solo music**. Trivia etc. with door prizes will be held.

- ❖ Mar. 9<sup>th</sup>: **Town Hall Meeting** with suggestions from the membership for the next year's festivals, etc.
- ❖ April 13<sup>th</sup>: **Lei Weng**, Professor of Piano, University of Northern Colorado will present a **Recital of Piano Music**.
- ❖ May 11<sup>th</sup>: **Brunch and installation of officers**. Brunch to be held at Joan Sawyer's home. Please RSVP to Bonnie Litten.

--Bonnie Litten

## Christmas Program and Lunch

The Festivities, Fun, Food, Familiar Faces and the Freshness of Christmas will be enjoyed at our annual Christmas program and brunch. Come! - Tuesday, December 8, 9:30 a.m. at the home of Carol Van Slooten, 4145 Three Graces Dr., CS/CO 80904.

Carol has two grand pianos, so prepare some classical, sacred, or fun duets; vocal solos, piano solos; let's enjoy the beauty of music together! **Please RSVP by Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>** to Carol, 685-1417 or [carolvs2000@yahoo.com](mailto:carolvs2000@yahoo.com) to let her know if you can come and if you will be performing. She would like to have an idea of our program. Bring a favorite salad or sweet dish to share and a \$10 gift if you'd like to participate in the gift exchange.

Carol lives in Cedar Heights, 15 minutes west of downtown CS. If you are coming from north CS:

1. Take exit 146, Garden of the Gods Rd. and turn RIGHT, west.
2. Go app. 3-4 miles and turn LEFT onto 30th Street.
3. Turn RIGHT into the Garden of the Gods park and always bear right, going past Balanced Rock.
4. At the bottom of the hill, turn RIGHT onto Black Canyon Rd. There will be a sign which says CEDAR HEIGHTS.
5. Go to the guard at the gate and they will send you up the hill. (The roads are well maintained). Go app. 2 miles and take the 5th LEFT, Cathedral Spires.
6. The next LEFT is Three Graces Dr., 2nd house on the left, 4145.

Coming from the south:

1. Take Highway 24, west.
2. Take the 1st Manitou exit, which circles around, stay in your right lane and turn RIGHT at the light (Garden of the Gods Place). Take the next RIGHT, (El Paso Blvd.), the next LEFT (Garden of the Gods), and then bear to the LEFT, Black Canyon Rd., CEDAR HEIGHTS.
3. Follow directions from no. 5, above.

*At this busy, but most precious time of the year, it will be fun to share our joy and passion for our calling and our love of music. We hope all can come!*

*--Bonnie Litten*

## **Non-Competitive Historical Area Festival**

### *Performance Preparation Ideas on Memorization*

Whether working with beginners or advanced students, memorizing pieces on a regular basis gives the teacher and the student a chance to free themselves from the printed page and work the music from the inside out.

Here are a few things you as a teacher can do to help your student memorize.

1. **Start someplace other than the beginning.** Every piano student can start their piece at the beginning, so most of the time memory issues do not appear until about mid-way through a piece. So, go to the last line of the piece (or last page/section for larger works) and practice starting there. If the piece has multiple sections, choose a section that is different from the opening and practice it alone. Look for reasons why this section is different, such as key change, position change, change in melody or accompaniment style. By noticing and discussing changes, your student will more readily remember why the piece is different, rather than worrying about whether he/she can remember "what happens next".
2. **Practice the left hand alone.** A student's ear will guide the melody line, so the right hand part is often the most secure, since most melodies occur in the right hand/treble clef. This leaves the left hand largely on its own, and under nerves, insecure knowledge of the accompaniment can spell memory slips and spiked heart rates. So work the left hand alone by memory by section (or by line, if the piece is short). Again, point out things that change, such as hand position, chord style (broken or solid), and chord progression. Knowing the left hand

independently is especially important in contrapuntal works.

3. **Practice phrases.** In shorter pieces, this may mean pulling out four measures at a time to practice alone without adding anything before or after the section you've pulled out. In longer pieces, this may mean cutting a longer section into phrases that cadence or pause, but that have a definite break or pause of some kind.
4. **Slow practice by memory.** This means not performing a memorized piece every time the student sits down to practice. Ear and finger memory hold up well under practice conditions, giving the student (and the teacher) a false sense of security that the piece is indeed by memory. To test memory, take away the ear/finger crutches by playing the piece at an exaggeratedly slow tempo, so that the student must think about what is coming next, instead of letting feel and patterns take control.
5. **Practice performing.** By the same token, a student must also practice performing straight through a memorized piece to get used to inevitable mistakes and to avoid being thrown by minor slips. So when the student is practicing a performance, **DO NOT STOP FOR MISTAKES.** Jump to the next phrase, line or even page, but keep going. This is where practicing by phrase becomes invaluable. If the student loses the thread of a phrase but knows how the next phrase begins, he/she can jump to the next phrase and maintain the overall line of the piece. This also lowers the stress level of how to handle mistakes. If you have more than one "start place" in a piece, then you won't feel at a loss if (more probably "when") a mistake occurs that throws you off line a bit.
6. **Learning the piece from the "inside out".** Finally, memorizing a piece takes your focus off the written page and re-directs it to the music itself. This may sound oxymoronic, but in fact the teacher and the student will begin hearing and thinking the piece from the inside out. Composer quirks and ingenious deviations will become more prominent, and both teacher and student may find themselves noticing cool harmonic changes, regressions, progressions, contrapuntal interplay – the list is endless – that will cement the piece into mind and body, not just eyeballs and ears.

*--Lynn Maloy*

## CSMTA's New Student Theory Activity

CSMTA's new *Student Theory Activity* (STA) will complement SPA at the State Conference in June.

Study guides are available for Keyboard, Violin, Winds, and Voice. STA is a new statewide theory activity entirely independent of Achievement Day and SPA. The CSMTA Theory Committee has been working hard since the State Conference last June to have this statewide program "up and running" for this teaching year. They will be administering these tests at the 2010 Conference in Northglenn. The deadline for ordering these tests is coming up quickly.

If you have any students who would like to participate in STA this first year, please let me know. I will then get the "Commitment--Order Form" (one for each student) to you. The forms and an \$18 nonrefundable fee for each student need to be returned to Jeanne Zukowski, NCTM (CSMTA VP for Student Activities and Theory Chair) by November 15. This is simply an order form for Jeanne to know the correct levels and numbers of tests needed. The full STA application form will appear in the January Notes and News along with all of the other Conference and SPA application forms. However, the student commitment and test orders must be made now.

I will look forward to hearing from those of you who plan to take advantage of this opportunity for your students.

--Joan Sawyer

## MTNA Certification

If you have a music degree and have been thinking about going through the MTNA National Certification Program, you may want to apply prior to December 31<sup>st</sup>. Just send in your application forms, transcripts and references. Once they are reviewed and confirmed by MTNA, you will simply need to schedule the final test. After January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, everyone will need to create a portfolio describing their teaching philosophy, analyze four songs/pieces from different eras, videotape teaching three lessons, video yourself performing a song/piece, describe business practices, contributions to peers, associations, and continuing education.

See MTNA.org for all the details or contact me with questions.

Whichever process you use, I believe it is always beneficial to take a look at the what, when, where and how you do what you do. Keep what works and try some new things...it is enlightening and stimulating.

--Barbara Taylor

## New Members/Corrections

**Haley Hegeman**, new member. 8855 Hardin Rd., Col. Spgs., 80908. 719.322.4302  
[haleyhegeman@gmail.com](mailto:haleyhegeman@gmail.com). Flute/Piano/  
Voice/Band/Chorus.

**Betsy Johnson**, new member. 7024 Alcove Springs Dr., Col. Spgs, 80923.  
719.649.2521  
[pianoforteplayer@yahoo.com](mailto:pianoforteplayer@yahoo.com). Piano.

**Lori Lane**, new member. 2800 Singletree Rd., Hartsel, CO 80449. 719-836-2039  
[llane@artiosacademies.com](mailto:llane@artiosacademies.com).  
Piano/Voice/Music Education.

As a result of an oversight, **Brenda Tagen** was not listed as NCTM Certified in the Handbook. We apologize!

## PPMTA Teachers Accepting Students

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

- Bonnie Ackerman: 329-8810, Piano, Organ, Theory. Travels to Students' Homes
- Bernardine Barcellos: 380-9689, Barnes/Peterson
- Joan Bradow: 391-9474, Powers/Hancock (voice, piano)
- Eileen Brownson: 637-3376 Murray/ Constitution 80915
- Donna Caulfield: 596-3958, Power/Barnes
- 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)
- Jill Hanrahan: 282-3929, Fountain
- Kathleen Harcourt: 291-0048, 930-0570, Monument/Mount Herman

- Susan Hayward: 310-6462, Rockrimmon, Mountain Shadows, Peregrine (Piano, Voice, Drama)
- Sylvia Holt: 228-1585, Union/Fillmore 80909
- Susan Humphreys: 448-9233, Fillmore/Union
- Rowene Mahoney: 633-8047, Northwest
- Abe Minzer 527-8776, Broadmoor/Skyway
- Nita Propp 599-8220, Peregrine
- Janice Saffir: 282-8589, Austin Bluffs/Acad.
- Paul Stephens: 282-8589, Austin Bluffs/Acad.
- Ellie Stites Swanger: 266-6522, Briargate/Pine Creek/ Black Forest
- Brenda Tagen: 685-3811, Central/Downtown

**Please Read:**

**How to Contact Membership**  
**By Web/Email**

**The PPMTA President will only forward email that pertains directly to MTNA, CSMTA, or PPMTA.** Other options:

1. Contact Robert Hartley (roberthartley@yahoo.com) well ahead of time to have your upcoming event listed on the PPMTA website (http://ppmta.org/Programs\_\_\_Meetings.html).
2. Contact Jan Saffir (jsaffir@truman.edu) by the appropriate deadline to have your item included in the PPMTA Newsletter.

**Meeting Cancellation Policy**

If either District 11 or District 20 has a school closure on the day of a PPMTA meeting, the meeting will be canceled.



**PPMTA Newsletter Deadlines**

January/February: December 15th  
 April/May: March 15th  
 Aug/September: July 15<sup>th</sup>  
 November/December: Oct. 15



The Taylor Memorial Concerts at Grace & St. Stephen's Episcopal Church:  
 The 2009-2010 Season will open with a concert on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. The program, "The Unknown

Masterpiece", features The St. Martin's Chamber Choir from Denver, CO in beautiful a cappella music by composers of the Italian Renaissance. Come enjoy this beautiful music in an inspiring setting. The concert is free and open to the public. Please call Grace at 328-1125 for more information, or check [www.graceststephensepiscopal.org](http://www.graceststephensepiscopal.org)

**Colorado Springs American Guild of Organists:**  
 Celebration of composer Felix Mendelssohn's 200th birthday, featuring works for organ, piano, strings, solo voice and choir. The performance is scheduled for Monday, November 2 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend this free concert, which will be held at the First United Methodist Church at 420 N. Nevada Ave. in Colorado Springs. Questions may be directed to: Carol Wilson at 719.687.8758

**Medieval to Baroque Performance:**  
 On Sunday, November 15 at 3:00 p.m., First Christian Church at Cascade & Platte is presenting "Love: So Fair, So Sweet, So Cruel", played by Amuse, an early instrument ensemble. They will perform music from the Medieval to the Baroque on recorders of all sizes, regal, dulcian, harpsichord and organ. A free will offering will be taken.

**Sacred Music Piano Camp**

First Presbyterian Church will offer its Second Annual Sacred Music Piano Camp July 12-16, 2010. The camp is designed to prepare piano students to be future music leaders of the church and seeks the following goals:

- \* To encourage the performance of sacred keyboard music to the glory of God.
- \* To provide opportunities for students to accompany soloists and congregational singing.
- \* To introduce students to a variety of keyboard experiences—organ, piano, harpsichord, and electronic keyboard.
- \* To develop skills of improvisation.
- \* To offer students a private lesson mentoring experience.
- \* To strengthen students' performance skills through experience in a worship recital at the end of the week.

Please contact Carol Jilling at 598-2689 or [cajilling@comcast.net](mailto:cajilling@comcast.net) for more information.