

Austin District Music Teachers Association

www.austintxmusicteachers.org

December 2008

December Dates

- Dec. 1 **Spring Student Affiliate Enrollment period begins**
- Dec. 1 9:15 Social Holiday Coffee prior to General Meeting
- 9:45 a.m. General Meeting and Teacher Workshop
- Program: President and CEO, International Institute for Young Musicians, "Memorization: Psychological Data and The Power of Efficient Practice: Cure for the Bored-Practice Blues"
- Dec. 6 **Hymn Festival UT: 8:30 am to 6:00 pm.**
- Dec. 7 Honors Recital 2 (For Duet Festival) – Jessen Auditorium 1:00 to 5:30 pm. (Sunday)
- Dec. 15 **Deadline:** January Newsletter items e-mailed by this date. Send to editor: pwong1@austin.rr.com

From the Presidents Desk...

Dear ADMTA Members,

I do hope all members will make plans to attend the meeting on Monday, December 1st. Social Chair Nell Trimble has planned a short holiday brunch for us before the program starts at 9:45. The brunch will start at 9:15 and Nell will be bringing some tasty treats for us. Members are encouraged to bring a holiday dish to share. Plates, napkins and beverages will be provided.

Our program should be excellent! Scott McBride Smith, President and CEO of the International Institute for Young Musicians will be our guest. He will be speaking on "Memorization: Psychological Data and The Power of Efficient Practice: Cure for the Bored-Practice Blues". You don't want to miss this great program! Get there early to enjoy a tasty brunch and the company of fellow members.

As the holidays approach we all have much to be thankful for! Some of our fellow TMTA teachers on the Gulf coast are facing difficult challenges this holiday season. Imagine losing your home, your piano and your students. TMTA is asking for donations to help TMTA members who have lost homes and businesses due to Hurricane Ike. The TMTA Trustees have agreed to utilize the funds from the Teacher Enrichment Grant and the Texas Teaching Fellow Fund for aid to our TMTA teachers in need. You can help by sending a check designated for this purpose to the TMTA office, or by calling the office with your credit card number. Your generosity will help these teachers get back to work spreading the joy of music.

Happy Holidays,

Carol Feist
ADMTA President

SPRING STUDENT AFFILIATE ENROLLMENT

Spring Student Affiliate Enrollment begins December 1, 2008 and runs through January 12, 2009.

There are some necessary changes that need to be made to the SA portion of the website before teachers begin to enroll students. The SA enrollment section will be unlocked at the end of November so our programmer can make the necessary changes. **Please DO NOT enroll your students online until after December 1, 2008. Enrolling students before December 1st will result in your data being deleted.**

If you are a new member in ADMTA and wish to enter students in spring events please contact Buffy Currens at pianobuffy@austin.rr.com, she will create a file for you. All teachers must have an online file before they can start enrolling students.

If you have any questions please contact a member of the web committee.

Sincerely,

Buffy Currens, Ana Ortega and Carol Feist

WILCOX & MAURER CONTEST

The Wilcox and Maurer Contests for high school musicians will take place on Saturday, March 21, 2009 in Jessen Auditorium on the UT campus. The deadline for applying is February 20, 2009. The event is sponsored by the Wednesday Morning Music Club. Prizes range from \$425 to \$850. Please consult the ADMTA web site at www.austintxmusicteachers.org for repertoire, requirements and the application form.

YEARBOOK INFORMATION UPDATE

New Member, **Vernon Moeller**, was listed in the ADMTA yearbook, but his specialization info was somehow accidentally omitted. Please add it to your yearbook. His specialization codes should read: A, Ch, H, I, O, P, Th.

MONTHLY REMINDERS

YEARBOOK CORRECTIONS

If your contact information is not correct in the yearbook please send a correction notice to newsletter editor, Paula Wong pwong1@austin.rr.com. She will announce the change in the newsletter. Also, copy Catherine Davis <catherine@capmusic.com>, Flossie Young <flossiesin2n@austin.rr.com> and Karen White <kwhite@mail.utexas.edu>. It takes all these people to keep our information correct.

TEACHER REFERRAL COMMITTEE

We will not be transferring names from last year's referral list to the new one, so if you would like to be on THIS year's list, please send a new request. If you live in Westlake or North Austin, send your information to Kay Rivers (kay@kayandfriends.com). If you live in South Austin, send your information to Lindy (lindy@peterson5.com).

If you would like to be listed with the Teacher Referral Committee, please use these guidelines for submitting your information:

- Name
- address
- specialization, if any
- telephone number
- email address
- website, if any
- general area in which you live
- any qualifications you would like to list

When referring inquiries to the committee, please do not give Kay's or Lindy's phone numbers unless the person does not have access to email. Email is by far the easiest way to communicate the information to inquirers.

WEB LISTING

Are you looking for some free advertising? The ADMTA website can help. All members are invited to have their name, email address or website address listed by zip code. Check it out, go to austintxmusicteachers.org and click on "Looking for a Teacher". Contact Janet Russell, jrr@suddenlink.net to have you name added.

YEARBOOKS

Everyone needs a yearbook! Do you have yours? It is brimming with information about our organization and its activities. If you need a yearbook this nice person will mail you one.

Brenda Hohman
8005 Buckshot Trail
Austin 78729
<brendahohman@sbcglobal.net>

Send Brenda a check for \$3.50 to cover the cost of mailing. Be sure to include your name and mailing address. They will be mailed only once every two weeks on Fridays, so it may take as long as 2 weeks to get your copy by mail. Meanwhile, the event dates are available online at austintxmusicteachers.org.

CONTACTING YOUR OFFICERS

Please contact these busy people by email. If telephoning, do not call between teaching hours, usually 3:30 -7:30 pm.

MEETING AGENDA

Meeting agenda items may be submitted to Carol Feist: carol@musicroom.net, no later than 5 pm on the Saturday before each monthly meeting. Only items on the agenda will be considered at the monthly meetings.

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR CHANGE. If you have information that needs to be sent out, please mail it to Catherine Davis at catherine@capmusic.com, or send your information to Carol Feist. They will see that it gets sent out. In the meantime, please add the following address to your address book: Austindmta@yahoo.com Some of the blast emails coming from ADMTA are bounced back, especially ones with Road Runner addresses. This address will be the one Catherine uses when she sends out Blast email announcements.

ADMTA TREASURER’S REPORT – 11/17/08

Checking Account	\$11,628.70
Wachovia Securities Account (formerly A.G. Edwards)	\$27,267.41

Janet Russell
ADMTA Treasurer

STUDENT AFFILIATE NEWS

Change can always be invigorating. I love the fall for that very reason. The weather patterns send a signal of change in seasons and celebrations. Fall is a good time for change in your studio also. We have settled into a teaching routine by now and so now might be a good time to be reminded of good teaching practices that we already know but frequently forget. I would like to recommend an excellent, practical type of book to improve your teaching. It is entitled, ‘The Practice Revolution’ – Getting great results from the six days *between* music lessons by Philip Johnston. Here are three excellent suggestions from it.

- Your choice of language in setting tasks can set assumptions about the likelihood of success in completing that task. Use “when”, not “if”. So you wouldn’t tell a student “*If you can learn both pages this week, we’ll be in a good position to speed it up next lesson*”- instead, you’d tell them “*When you come back next lesson with both pages learned, we’ll be in great shape to speed them up.*”
- Because music lessons depend on regular progress, evidence of improvement and achievement are vital feedback for any student, and are central to them feeling good about what they are doing. If you want to make a student smile, make a fuss over something they can do this week that they *couldn’t* do last week-the twin positives of having made the breakthrough in the first place, and then having your teacher praise you for it are powerful motivators for more work.

It is not enough however, for these breakthroughs to be evident only with the benefit of hindsight-there has to be the promise of progress *before* the activity begins. A teaser. Remember, you want the student *heading into* the practice week with enthusiasm, not simply looking back on it with affection. The student has to believe *in advance* that if they practice intelligently this week, improvements will appear in their playing, and they’ll need to know which ones. That they’ll be able to play the new Sonatina from memory. They’ll have learned four brand new scales. They will

have doubled the speed of their etude. They will have mastered that tricky bowing in the passage on page 4. Students who are clear on their goals like this are much more likely to chase them.

☛ As the teacher you're in a great position...each week you have the opportunity to clearly define a fresh set of benefits for your student if they practice. You can tell your students "If you work intelligently this week, here are five things you'll be able to do by next lesson that you currently cannot do now.", and then you describe them in detail. Without any other rewards on offer at all, the student will now be able to see something that is essential to motivation- that their practicing makes a *difference*.

Nothing earth shattering here. Concepts that we already know, but just as the weather is not new, no new elements are introduced; it is how it is stirred up that feels different and signals change and excitement.

All the best,

Tricia Romriell Student Affiliate Chairman

ADMTA DUET FESTIVAL REPORT: held Sat., Nov. 15, 2008

NUMBER OF TEACHERS ENROLLED: 35
NUMBER OF DUETS/TRIOS ENROLLED: 172
NUMBER OF DUETS/TRIOS ACTUALLY PERFORMED: 159

GRADES:

- Superior Plus Plus:** 2
- Superior Plus:** 54
- Superior:** 74
- Superior Minus:** 24
- Excellent Plus:** 4
- No Rating:** 1

JUDGES:

- Anthony Tobin**
- Susan Liu**
- Maimy Fong**
- Payam Susanni**
- Paolo Susanni**

CHAIRPERSONS:

Julia Amada Kruger and Irina Bersuker

MISSING A DUET FESTIVAL BOOK?

This book was left in Judge #5's room last Saturday at the Duet Festival: Please see Festival Chairs if it is yours!
DUET CLASSICS for Piano, Book 3 17 Late intermediate Piano Duets in Their Original Form, Selected and Edited by Gayle Kowalchyk/E.L. Lancaster

Thanks,

Julia Amada Kruger and Irina Bersuker, Festival Chairs

STUDEANT AFFILIATE TREASURER'S REPORT

Student Affiliate Treasurer's Report

Checking Account Balance as of 10/31/08: \$17,144.77
Savings Account Balance as of 10/31/08: \$5,578.71

Ana Ortega
SA Treasurer