

Austin District Music Teachers Association

www.austintxmusicteachers.org

November 2008

November Dates

- Nov. 2** **Fall Theory Test:** UT 12:30 to 6 p.m. (Sunday)
Nov. 3 9:45 a.m. General Meeting
Program: Jessye Whitis, Associate Professor of Music at Mary Hardin-Baylor “Ebony & Ivory: Jazz Piano in the 20th Century.”
Nov. 8 Austin Symphony Youth Auditions– Preliminaries
Nov. 9 Austin Symphony Youth Auditions– Finals (Sunday)
Nov. 10 **Deadline:** Publication Competition – Local Entries
Nov. 15-16 TMTA/MTNA Performance Competitions – Sam Houston State University
Nov. 15 **Duet Festival** – UT 12:30 pm to 6 p.m.
Nov. 17 **Deadline:** Hymn Festival Entries
Nov. 17 **Deadline:** December Newsletter items e-mailed by this date. Send to editor: pwong1@austin.rr.com
Nov. 24 **Deadline:** Honors Recital 2

From the Presidents Desk...

Dear ADMTA Teachers,

Our program this month is titled “Ebony and Ivory: Jazz Piano in the 20th Century” presented by Jessye Whitis, Associate Professor of Music at Mary Hardin-Baylor. The life and compositional characteristics/style of Oscar Peterson, Bill Evans and George Shearing will be discussed, followed by performance of their works. This lecture recital was presented at the 2008 TMTA Convention this past June.

It was recently discovered that many members did not attend enough meetings to remain in good standing this year. Please review the attendance information on page 20 of the yearbook which states: “All members must attend 4 meeting per year to remain in good standing. Any teacher who did not meet the attendance requirement or did not receive a meeting exemption the previous year is not eligible to enter students in the next years fall events. All new members may enter students in SA events their first year of membership.” Remember to sign the attendance book at each meeting. If you are a new member and do not find you name alphabetized with the others, check the back of the attendance book. New members’ names are added to the back of the book as they join.

I hope to see you at the next meeting!

Regards,
Carol Feist
President, ADMTA

IMPORTANT HYMN FESTIVAL INFORMATION

Registration for the Hymn Festival will NOT be done online through the SA website. Since this is an ADMTA event participating students do not need to be enrolled in Student Affiliate. Presently the SA website will not allow students who are not SA members to be added to the Hymn Festival master list online. Here is how to register your students for the Hymn Festival.

Go to austintxmusicteachers.org and scroll down until you see links to the Hymn Festival Critique Sheet and Master List for Events.

Complete and mail to the chairman, (Robert Centeno, PO Box 302305, Austin, TX. 78703), postmarked by the November 17th deadline:

- Master List for Events
- One Hymn Festival critique sheet for each student

One check for fees made payable to the ADMTA. Write the number of entries on the check.

IMPORTANT FOR HYMN FESTIVAL ENTRIES!! NEW ADDRESS & PHONE for Chair, ROBERT CENTENO

The address and phone number for Robert Centeno in the membership roster is outdated. However, the Hymn Festival page of the yearbook (page 33) contains the correct information. Please use page 33 of the yearbook for Hymn Festival entries!

SHEET MUSIC DONATIONS-LAST CHANCE

Remember to bring any music you wish to donate to the November meeting. All music collected will be donated to the Keys of Life Piano Program under the direction of Daphne McDole, who in association with the George Washington Carver Museum provides low cost piano lessons to deserving children. You can you help! Clean out those piano benches, any and all kinds of new or gently used piano books will be appreciated.

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 you 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.

ADMTA TREASURER'S REPORT – 10/18/08

Checking Account \$11,471.08
Wachovia Securities Account (formerly A.G. Edwards) \$27,283.91

Janet Russell
ADMTA Treasurer

STUDENT AFFILIATE NEWS

Things to think about

Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist, but a person who drives a race car not called a racist?
Why is it that if someone tells you that there are 1 billion stars in the universe, you will believe him? But...if someone tells you a wall has wet paint, you will have to touch it to be sure?
Why isn't 11 pronounced onety one like ninety-nine?
If horrific means to make horrible, does terrific mean to make terrible?
Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
When someone asks you, 'A penny for your thoughts,' and you put your two cents in, what happens to the other penny?
If lawyers are disbarred, and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked and drycleaners depressed?
Communication is tricky! Last week as I was teaching a new early advanced transfer student, I was having her sight read for me and after the experience I was explaining how sight-reading is a critical skill. She was nervous but anxious to please and after a bit, in what I thought was a brave and bold moment, said in a very small voice; "Did you mean that you were critical of the way I sight-read?" She only heard the word critical and took it to mean that I was critical of her; not at all what I meant. She actually was a good sight-reader. I complimented her for asking for clarification and rectified her misunderstanding.
How often in dealing with children, youth and adults our meaning gets misconstrued or we flat out don't explain something well? As teachers, we are very comfortable with our subject matter and sometimes assume that what we are saying is very clear. We would do well to remember that those we are teaching are 1) trying to understand what we are saying, 2) trying to replicate the task we have asked them to do in a manner that pleases us; often with us expecting them to fix the thing that they have practiced right on the spot, never mind that it has been ingrained in them by a week of steadily playing it wrong over and over and over again, and 3) besides the basics of correct notation, rhythm, dynamics, they are trying to grasp concepts of expression, touch, meter, and over-all shaping of a piece within the context of the period it was written. Just think of how you approach a staccato marking and the various implications it can have depending on the context and time period of the piece! A multi-faceted, complicated task! It helps to look at things from their perspective now and again.

A Few Words on Monitoring

Our rule is... **If You Have Students You Must Monitor**

How to make that fair? The general guideline is 2 hours of monitoring per every increment of 5 students. I say general because each festival has differing amounts of students which means differing amounts of teachers. The fewer teachers, the more one needs to monitor. The more students, the more one needs to monitor. So that guideline is continually being adjusted. We look at the schedule, look at what we have to work with, apply the general guideline and then try to make it balanced.

Say you request early am to monitor along with 10 other teachers and only 3 want early afternoon. One cannot honor all the requests, someone has to adjust and help cover the afternoon. So there is some give and take within the requests made. I just want to reassure you that we are trying to be fair and to also help you understand that your monitoring hours will most likely differ from festival to festival. Please be patient with us we have new volunteers taking on many of the tasks of this year and know that our goal is to be fair and equitable.

In closing

Congratulations! We had a tremendously successful first year of registering on line! Out of about 160 teachers, only 2 had issues. That is a phenomenal accomplishment. If you see Kathy Rabago be sure and thank her for an excellent website.

Until next month,
Tricia Romriell
Student Affiliate Chairman

JAZZ POP & ROCK FESTIVAL REPORT

On Saturday, 10/11/08, ADMTA Student Affiliate hosted the annual Jazz Pop & Rock Festival. There were a total of 257 entries, 33 participating teachers and 243 participating students. The ratings were as follows: S+, 59 students; S, 102 students, S-, 62 students, E+, 18 students, and E, 2 students. The Judges included: Ana Ortega, Paolo Susanni, Paula Wong, Kay Rivers, and Jodi Blount. Thanks to Chair, Tim Girardot, and his committee for running another successful event!

STUDENT INFORMATION FOR FALL 2008 THEORY TEST

The Fall Theory Test will be held in the UT Music Building during the afternoon on *Sunday November 2, 2008*.

Grades 1, 2, 8-12 will be at 1pm. Grades 3-7 will be at 3pm.

Do not check in at the information desk. Signs will be posted for each grade level with room numbers. Please look for these signs before asking for help. Students are to go directly to their test room. Parents are not permitted to enter the testing room. Students should plan on arriving 10 - 15 minutes before the test is scheduled to begin. Bring TWO sharpened pencils and a good eraser. Students are not allowed to take anything else into the testing room. Scratch paper will be provided.

Top 5 for teachers

1. Students who show up to take the theory test and have not been registered will be sent home.
2. Be sure students bring two pencils and an eraser to the test.
3. Students should know which grade test you signed them up to take and how you spelled their name on the S/A and Theory entry. *Names should match – no nicknames please.*
4. Students do NOT have to check in at the desk.....roll is checked in the classrooms.
5. Students in grades 1-8 are allowed a maximum of 2 hours to take the test. Students in grades 9-12 are allowed a maximum of 3 hours to take their test.

Thank you,
Marti Dudgeon Fall Theory Chair

STUDEANT AFFILIATE TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account Balance as of 8/29/08: \$11,536.58
Savings Account Balance as of 8/29/08: \$5,578.24

Ana Ortega
SA Treasurer

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.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The holidays are on their way. Make plans to join us for a Christmas brunch before the meeting at 9:15 a.m., on Monday, December 1st. If you'd like to bring a dish, consider any of the following: cheeses with crackers, quiche Lorraine, fish such as smoked herring, shrimp, or even sushi, ham roll-ups or little sausages, eggs hard-boiled or deviled, or tiny tea sandwiches. And of course coffee cake and Christmas breads like stollen. And why not chocolate too? It's a party! If you make a special dish you're proud of, you might want to write down the recipe on a 3x5 card to display with your creation. By all means feel free to wear holiday attire. See you then, and meanwhile happy holidays! Nell Trimble, Social Chair.
