

Austin District Music Teachers Association

www.austintxmusicteachers.org

September 2008

September Dates

- Sept. 8** **General Meeting:** 9:45 a.m. @ Strait Music: Yearbook Distribution and Business Meeting
Sept. 9 **Deadline:** TMTA/MTNA All Student Competitions
Sept. 15 **Deadline:** October Newsletter items e-mailed by this date. Send to editor: pwong1@austin.rr.com
Sept. 22 **Deadline:** Jazz, Pop & Rock Festival Entries
Sept. 22 **Deadline:** ***FALL THEORY TEST ENTRIES***
Sept. 22 **Deadline:** Fall Student Affiliate Enrollment Period ends

From the Presidents Desk...

Dear ADMTA Teachers,

Welcome new and returning members, I hope you all had a wonderful summer! ADMTA has an exciting year planned for you. Some outstanding programs have been lined up for our meetings this year and Student Affiliate has some *exciting news* for all teachers. Get ready for a great year! Our first meeting will be Monday, September 8th, 9:45 am at Strait Music, 2428 Ben White Blvd. Keep reading for all the latest news and information regarding ADMTA. See you in September!

Carol Feist
President, ADMTA

YEARBOOKS

Yearbooks will be distributed at the September and October meetings. You need a yearbook! It is brimming with information about our organization and its activities. If you cannot pick one up at the September meeting 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. Yearbooks are available for mailing after the September meeting. 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.

MEETING ATTENDANCE EXEMPTIONS

ADMTA members who cannot attend meetings due to employment other than private teaching on Monday mornings will be granted an exemption from meeting attendance. You must send your request by October 1 to the ADMTA Secretary:

Nancy Driver
ndriver@austin.rr.com
8102 Elkhorn Mountain Tr.
Austin, TX. 78729

Teachers receiving an exemption must do an additional 4 hours of service in lieu of attendance in order to enter their students in ADMTA and Student Affiliate events. Service can be monitoring or helping with other tasks needed to run our organization. Contact the Student Affiliate Chairman, Tricia Romriell tromriell@yahoo.com to see how you can help.

TMTA MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

Did you know that TMTA has an online referral list for teachers and accompanists? TMTA members who would like to be listed online in a specific city in Texas should send contact information to the TMTA Office at www.tmta.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.

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.

TEACHER REFERRAL

If you would like more students, let these people know:

North: Kay Sparks <ks@zeecon.com> 346-3733

South: Lindy Peterson <lindy@peterson5.com> 512-336-5450

Contact them again when you no longer want referrals. PLEASE contact these busy ladies by email, if possible. Request that people seeking a teacher do so as well, if possible. When telephoning, do not call during teaching hours, usually between 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. In addition, if you want your name and email address posted for teacher referral on the ADMTA website, email Janet Russell <jrr@suddenlink.net>, website administrator, and let her know.

COMMISSIONED COMPOSER

At the October meeting we will need to choose our Commissioned Composer Nominee. The Commissioned Composer Program, sponsored by MTNA and TMTA, is dedicated to encouraging the creation of new works by American composers and annually assists its affiliated state associations in the generation and performance of new music through the national composers commissioning program. The TMTA commissioned work premier performance is at the TMTA annual convention.

The nominee has to submit quite a lot of information and materials to TMTA postmarked by October 25, 2008. The forms and information are available at www.tmta.org. If you have a nominee in mind, please seek their permission before they are nominated. Be sure that they can submit the information by the deadline. The nominee does not need to be a member of ADMTA. We are honored to have had two state winners who were nominated by our organization: Donald Grantham – 1992 and Kathryn Mishell – 1997.

ELECTIONS

OOPS! Guess what we forgot to do at the 2008 April general meeting? Elections! The President and Executive Board forgot to activate the nominating committee to present a slate of officers for election at the April meeting. To correct this oversight an election will be held in September. The slate of officers to be voted on is listed below.

President – Carol Feist
First Vice President/Programs – Patryce (Patches) King
Second Vice President/Membership – Jeannie Henselman
Treasurer – Janet Russell
Recording Secretary – Nancy Driver
Historian Sukyee Woo

VISIT the “NEW” STUDENT AFFILIATE WEBSITE!

Guess what up and running but doesn't use gas? The “*New Student Affiliate Website*”!

Yes it's true, Student Affiliate now has a website for enrolling students in Students Affiliate and in many of our events. The best part is that the site is very user friendly and easy to navigate. You do not have to have Excel or Word on your computer to enroll and register students. All you need is access to the World Wide Web. Who among us hasn't toasted a few hours shopping or surfing on the web? It's fun and easy!

This new site is linked to the ADMTA website at www.austintxmusicteachers.org and it is ready for use starting September 2. This website will save teachers, events chairs and officers in our organization so much time. It will also enable us to get statistics and keep records that will help association officers manage the affairs of this organization.

What to Expect

The first thing teachers will be asked to do is enroll their students in Student Affiliate using the new SA website. Thus creating a database from which teachers will later select students to enter each event.

Enrolling a student in Student Affiliate is a two-step process. Once logged on the first page that comes up is the page your teacher information will be entered on. Teacher information is your name, address, phone all those blanks at the top of the master list –remember filling in that information for each and every festival? Well now it will be filled in on the master list for you automatically, every time you enter students in an event. *Sweet!*

After updating your teacher information you will click on the “students” tab and fill out a page of information about each student you are enrolling. After you have enrolled all your students the computer adds your teacher information and the students name and information directly to the enrollment form, names are alphabetized for you, fees are added up automatically. All you have to do is print, enclose a check for fees and send.

Entering events is just as easy, a little typing, a few clicks and your students will be registered for events. Your records of who is enrolled in SA and who has participated in what events will be safe and sound on the web for you to view and print at any time.

How to prepare for SA Enrollment.

1. Make your list of students you wish to enroll in SA. No need to alphabetize the computer will do it for you!
2. Current school grade of each student
3. Students birth date. As in MM/DD/YYYY – ***you must have this information, you cannot enroll a student without it!*** The computer will calculate the students’ age for you.
4. Length of study

How to prepare for JP&R registration.

1. List of students to be registered. No need to alphabetize the computer will do it for you!
2. Playing duration of pieces.
3. Student performance time.
4. Compositions and composers.
5. Teacher monitoring preference (if you are using a substitute select the substitutes monitoring time preference)
6. Teacher pick-up preference.

How to prepare for the Fall Theory Test Registration

1. List of students to be registered.
2. Each student’s test level and school grade only if different from test level.

Complete instructions will be emailed to all teachers September 2 and they are listed in your new 2008-2009 ADMTA Yearbook. So log on and try it out! Need help? There will be two registration coffees to help teachers who would like a little guidance the first time. You are welcome to stop by with your enrollment list and our team consisting of Buffy Currens, Kathy Rabago, Ana Ortega and Carol Feist will be happy to assist you in the enrolling process. Wireless internet is available if you wish to bring your laptop and enroll students on your computer. There will be several computers available for other teachers to use. And coffee! Don’t have time to drop by? Give us a call and we will talk you through the process. Reach Carol @ 963-3653 and Buffy @346-5835. Did I mention coffee?

1st Registration Coffee
Wednesday September 3, 2008
4002 Austin Woods, Austin 78759 – home of Buffy Currens, north central Austin
9:30 am to 11:30 am.

2nd Registration Coffee
Monday September 15
4002 Austin Woods, Austin 78759 – home of Buffy Currens, north central Austin
9:30 am to 11:30 am.

ADMTA Treasurer's Report – 3/24/08

Checking Account \$11,385.17
A.G. Edwards Account \$27,189.33

Janet Russell, ADMTA Treasurer

STUDENT AFFILIATE NEWS

Music is a Thing of Beauty, Depth and Character

Hello fellow teachers of music,
Tricia Romriell here; the new Student Affiliate chair. I had an interesting experience this summer that caused me to reflect and determine why we do what we do. After the discipline and dedication and many hours of practicing for a recital that was a year in the planning and involved other musicians; the one violinist who was to play among other things, the Mendelssohn violin concerto and the Beethoven Sonata in G for violin and piano, canceled two days before the performance. Invitations had been sent, the program printed, two performances scheduled.

It felt like a slap in the face, a complete waste of my time to learn the accompaniments on top of my very busy teaching schedule and the running of a large family. Not to mention the upcoming responsibilities of being the new SA chairman. It caused me to reflect on why we do what we do. Why would we practice for hours with no pay off except the opportunity to play? Why would we cram in not just one more thing, but a big thing that in the immediate end had no reward? I was struggling with these and other thoughts and so I made a list of why we do what we do and why I chose to do even more than I normally do and this is what I came up with.

Music is a Thing of Beauty, Depth and Character

Music uplifts spirits; it motivates us to be good and to do good. Music conveys the beauty of life. It touches hearts and inspires us. Music reflects our emotions. It allows quiet time to listen and feel as the music flows over us. As we listen, it allows us to get lost in our thoughts. We come away glad to be alive, refreshed and renewed. Our spirits are uplifted and there is a buoyancy and joy to living. This is what music does for me.

I shared that with the audience along with the explanation of the changes on the program. The evening ended up a success. We were able to find an excellent piano, cello, violin trio that had just performed and were willing to perform again. We will schedule another recital with a different violinist and will perform that which wasn't performed in the fall. So all was not lost. I was grateful to be able to pause and really give thought as to why we are in the business of teaching and sharing music. I hope you found this insightful as to why you do what you do. I hope we will constantly renew our reasons and remain fresh and excited about music and share that passion with our students and not get bogged down in the business and hard work of doing so.

On to the nuts and bolts of teaching!.....

We have filled 62 volunteer positions within the Student Affiliate chapter to run this organization effectively; all for the betterment of our students and our teaching. A heartfelt thanks for those who have agreed to work so hard in their arena. The Student Affiliate board has been working steadily this summer to get the yearbook ready to print with people staffed and events scheduled. We have been working on budget issues and looking at bylaw issues.

FESTIVAL FEES INCREASE: After meeting as a board, it was unanimously voted upon to raise the festival entry fees to \$10.00, and the ensemble entry fees to \$20.00. This was deemed expedient and necessary after reviewing last years' expenditures and not being able to balance the budget. These fees are still considered extremely low. Especially when compared to other activities such as sports, dance and other wholesome activities our children participate in.

NEW WEBSITE: One very huge and important change that you will enjoy is the new website that Kathy Rabago, past SA chair, has been working on. We are very excited with the look and feel of it and most importantly, the EASE with which to access it and use it....this comment coming from a non computer-savvy person. Thanks so much Kathy for your effort towards it and your continuing effort in this project.

Until next month,
All the best,
Tricia Romriell

Student Affiliate Treasurer's Report

Checking Account Balance as of 7/31/08: \$11,614.67
Savings Account Balance as of 7/31/08: \$5,576.39

Ana Ortega
SA Treasurer
