



AMTA Newsletter

December 2008

Save the Date

December 12, 2008

Holiday Luncheon
Home of Mary TL Williams

January 9, 2008

Kevin Chance
*Beyond Fur Elise:
Stimulating Repertoire for Student
and Teacher*

February 14, 2009

MusicFest
Southern Keyboards

March 14, 2009

AMTA Local Auditions
Southern Keyboards Music Store

March 28-April 1, 2009

MTNA National Conference
Atlanta GA!

April 17-18, 2009

GMTA State Auditions
Kennesaw State University

May 8, 2009

Geoff Haydon

Web of Information

Dear Fellow Members,

The month of December is here! I invite you to come to my home for our annual AMTA Holiday Luncheon. This is a great chance to really get to know our fellow members and share our experiences as teachers with one another.

As president of AMTA, it has been a pleasure to see your involvement as a member. Each day I meet more and more members, and each month there is more news from you that is added to our newsletter. Being a member of this association allows us to be part of a coalition of teachers brought together to support each other, and enrich the musical lives of those we teach. So my thanks go out to all of you for participating!

The GMTA Conference is now behind us. Thanks to the seminars on piano literature, for instance Jane McGraw's "Outside of the Box" session, I was able to bring back so much more to the students of my studio. And from headlining artist, Claude Frank, I was reminded how much gentleness and passion for music can put inspiration in the minds of students.

And from here we move into January, where we have a lecture by Kevin Chance on repertoire. Please note the early date.

I wish everyone the very best this holiday season! See you on the 12th!

Best regards,

Mary TL Williams
President, AMTA

Web Updates

The new website is a great resource for teachers and visiting guests alike. Whether one is looking for a teacher, wishing to join, or adding AMTA dates to their calendar, the website will be viewed by many.

This website is a good chance for everyone to get involved. Just as we are seeing more people submitting articles to the newsletter, there is room for everyone on the site as well.

Please submit any high-quality digital photos you may have of AMTA, of you teaching, or any other relative events.

Additionally, there is a spot on the home page for member commentary. This is your chance to share your good experiences as an AMTA member with visitors to the site.

You may at anytime send comments or pictures for the web to mary@marywilliamspianostudio.com. Thank you for your involvement!

Music for Sale

AMTA member and APS music teacher, Esther Domingo, has a treasure trove of music she is hoping to find a new home for. The music will be sold a discounted rate to raise money for her school's music budget.

Available is music for everything including classical repertoire, sheet music, pop, music for orchestra, band, dulcimer, duets, and more.

Ms. Domingo's collection of music is conveniently housed at Clairemont Baptist Church, on Clairemont between Buford Hwy and Dresden Rd. Contact Ester for more info.

Esther Domingo
(404)725-3610 /
edomingo1@comcast.net

Submit your AMTA newsletter article to:
mary@marywilliamspianostudio.com

December Luncheon

Friday, December 12, 2008 at 10am
2030 Palifox Dr Atlanta GA 30307

The Holiday Luncheon is always a treasured event where members can take the time to get to know one another better, and learn from each other. This is a potluck luncheon, so please bring a dish to pass.

This year the holiday luncheon will be held at the home of AMTA President, Mary Williams. Mary Williams lives in the Atlanta neighborhood of Lake Claire. Listed below are directions to her home:

via I-285

- Exit US-78 toward Atlanta/Decatur
- Merge onto US-78
- Left onto Lakeshore
- Left onto Claire Dr.
- Left onto Palifox Dr.
- 2030 Palifox Drive will be on your left.

via I-75/85

- Exit Freedom Pkwy NE/GA-10
- Merge onto Freedom Pkwy
- Right onto Ponce de Leon
- Right onto Lakeshore
- Left onto Claire Dr.
- Left onto Palifox Dr.
- 2030 Palifox Drive will be on your left.

Suzuki Piano Graduation Recital

The Atlanta Area Suzuki Piano Association will give its biannual Suzuki Piano Graduation Recital at Spivey Hall Jan 18, 2009. (The Spring concert at Spivey Hall will be May 31, 2009). Students age 4 - 17 will perform works by Mozart, Bach, Beethoven, Schumann, Schubert, and Chopin. There will be 2 concerts at 1:00 and 4:00 and tickets may be purchased at Spivey Hall ticket sales. AMTA member Judith Blase will have 4 students performing.

The 13th WPPC

Article submitted by AMTA member, Raisa Parmentier

Ms. Parmentier was a member of the jury in the final round of the 3rd Pianovision International Competition in Sonata category with her student, Saeka Hasegawa – finalist of the Miniature category. October 24, 2008

The 13th WORLD Piano Pedagogy Conference was held on October 22-25 in Dallas, TX this year.

The main device of the conference, “Back To Basics” reflected two meanings: as a teaching from fundamentals and as mastering, returning and sustaining “basics” as a preliminary requirement for success and progress of any level musician.

As usual, the conference was compiled of common formats for any music conference (Lectures, Teaching Demonstrations, Exhibitions) and of quite specific, featuring the only World Piano Pedagogy Conference: Town Hall Meetings with discussion on a specific topic; Minisessions, offering close interactions with presenters in a small group of teachers with questions and exchange of ideas; Open Mic, a discussion forum where everyone is welcome to express their opinions and suggestions; lecture-paper presentation by any teacher who has new interesting thoughts and approaches in the world of the piano pedagogy.

WPPC gives and anticipates maximum involvement and collaboration with the teachers, up to having them an opportunity to participate in jury in the MostWanted Pianovision International Competition (by invitation only for the final round).



PianoWellness Seminar is an inseparable part of each WPPC. This year it featured a presentation of the experienced clinician Sheila Paige. She has a numerous DVDs exploring different aspects of the body–hand–finger motions based on the deep knowledge of the human physiology. She demonstrated work of body in octaves and staccato based on the principals, which can be taught to any age and any level (DVDs available on www.pianowellnessseminar.com “3-D Piano with Fred Karpoff” was offered as a concept of combination Alexander Technique and Feldenkrais (www.fredkarpoff.com) and integrated with the whole body modalities with the new insights on piano playing. (Set of 6 DVD will be released in February 2009.)

Rozalie Levant presented her recently published book “The Anatomy of Musicality” with her own approach to piano pedagogy.

Lectures about different problems of the piano performance have been given through the conference by well-known piano pedagogy faculty of the Music Conservatory at USC John Perry with Artistic Director of Chamber Music in Detmold Hochschule fur Music in Germany Stephen Perry (“Color” Techniques), Manhattan School of Music Phillip Kawin (Basics of Tone Production: No Bones in the Hand, No Stones in the Wrist), Koln Hochschule fur Music in Germany Arbo Valdma (Basic Practicing Techniques for Beginners to Advanced Level).

Independent and faculty of the different Schools of Music presented their Paper and Lectures on the “Tempo”, “Crescendo...”, “Adult and Young Beginners...” and other varies topics as well.

Teaching Demonstrations at the WPPC gives a unique opportunity to observe pedagogical work of two outstanding teachers with one student simultaneously.

One can see and intellectually “digest”, altogether with the student, different techniques and different approaches in achieving of musical goals; sometimes clashing and even controversial but nevertheless enhancing and extremely beneficial for a growing musician. One can see “the boiling pot” of different world ideas that gives an incredibly vivid picture and understanding of the streams and tendencies in the modern piano pedagogy just at once!

Luis de Moura Castro-Arbe Valdma, John Perry-Phillip Kawin, Arbe Valdma-Toma Ungar --- these top quality collaborations enriches you with their invaluable insights of the subtle nuances of piano teaching...(DVD Teaching Demonstrations can be obtained on www.pianovision.com for a very affordable price)

Exhibitions are the most colorful and enjoyable part of the conference. Leading Publishers (Hal Leonard, Faber&Faber, Henle and others) and manufactures presented their products and examined the most popular ones. Among of them – Piano Wizard Wanna Play? game for developing sight-reading; Music for Young Children ages 3 to 10 -- course of a child-centered music-learning system that integrates keyboard, creative movements, rhythm, signing, ear training, music theory and composition; Notes Logic – a game with tactile, visual approach to teaching rhythms and so on...

Apparently it is impossible to describe all events during the conference in a brief article. You just have to be there!

Two Recitals

The month of December is usually full of recitals and other musical performances. Here are two in the AMTA community:

Biennial Winter Piano Studio Recital of Raisa Parmentier

December 17, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.
Steinway Piano Gallery
5950 North Point Pkwy, S.130
Alpharetta GA 30022

In program: from “Mary Had a Little Lamb” to Rachmaninoff and late Beethoven. Casual environment, with reception to follow.

Mary Williams Piano Studio Winter Recital

Monday, December 15, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
Atlanta Public Library
1 Margaret Mitchell Square
Atlanta GA 30303

This will be a recital consisting of primarily elementary level students, many of them first-time performers. Reception to follow.