



AMTA Newsletter

February 2011

Save the Date*

February 12, 2011

Postmark Deadline: Auditions

February 16, 2011

Discount Registration deadline
MTNA Conference

February 27, 2011

MusicFest!
Agnes Scott

March 13, 2011

Local Auditions
Georgia State University

March 26-30, 2011

MTNA National Conference
Milwaukee, WI

April 14, 2011, 10am

Dr. Carol Gingrich
Teaching Intermediate Pianists
Cooper Music

April 15-16, 2011

GMTA Auditions
Kennesaw State University

May 13, 2011, 10am

Aaron Stampfl presentation
Cooper Music

**Visit www.atlmta.org for a complete list of dates*

Approaching Competitions

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the month of February! All I can say is that I hope that no more snow is headed our way.

There are many events going on this month, but perhaps the most important one to our chapter is MusicFest, which will take place on February 27. I am looking forward to meeting your students and seeing you on the campus of Agnes Scott.

Please be advised that the deadline for the AMTA's Spring Auditions is March 13. Please encourage your students to participate! Through my years of teaching and competing I have come to understand that competitions are a necessary part of what we do, and the level of preparation and anticipation help you develop into a better musician. For forms and audition information please consult our website at:

www.atlmta.org/resources

A few exciting performances are going on in town this month: Imogen Cooper is playing a solo recital at Spivey Hall on February 26, starting at 8:15pm. Jean-Yves Thibaudet is performing Liszt's Piano Concerto in E-flat Major on Feb 17-19 at the Woodruff center. Thibaudet is a pianist who has successfully branched out to the genre of jazz music, and has recorded for the soundtracks of a number of movies. His concert attire is designed by fashion icon Vivienne Westwood.

Lastly, we are very grateful to Nancy Edison for hosting our annual luncheon in the month of December. We enjoyed a very hospitable atmosphere and some delicious home made food. Thank you, Nancy!

Sincerely,

Elena Cholakova, AMTA President

Master Class with Vladislav Kovalsky

Submitted by AMTA Secretary, Nancy S. Edison

The master class held on Friday, January 21st at Steinway Galleries was very well done. Vladislav Kovalsky was the clinician and lecturer. His biographical sketch is impressive! He gave a brief lecture on “Sound” as a prerequisite of working on piano touch from the early beginnings of the piano though present day, including Russian weighted touch and wide range of possibilities in dynamics and sonorities.

He guided four students with insight and constructive comments on their compositions that they presented. The four numbers played were: Brahms – “Rhapsody in g minor”, Debussy – “Doctor Gradus at Parnassum”, Schumann – “Sonata Op. 22 mvmt. 1 and Liszt – “La Campanella”. Kovalsky emphasized going to the text for interpretation of the compositions and getting to the heart of what the composer was saying in his score, in regard to the melody, phrase line, pulse, character of the music, and tempo that best portrayed the composer’s intent. When that all happens, the performer is at his optimum level of balance of voicing and interpretation.

Those of you that couldn’t attend this productive time missed a great musical experience!



Calculations for the New Year

Extracted from the blog, *Confessions of a Piano Teacher*, by AMTA member Mary TL Williams. To read more, visit www.marywilliamspianostudio.com



It's easy to let a practice day slip by, isn't it? What's one day, anyway?

Well, let's think about it. What is one day?

Above you see a simple list of days one could practice in a year. Of course, one would need to factor in vacation and all of that, but let's pretend your New Year's resolution is to save money this year and have more staycations than before. As you can see, every day counts.

So when it comes time to perform, the student that practiced the required five days a week is probably going to feel

much better about performing than the person playing only three days a week. The student playing five days a week gets almost a whopping 100 more days of practice a year!

A little math. A big deal.

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

Have Any of You Read . . .

Submitted by AMTA member Mary TL Williams.

There was an article in the Wall Street Journal entitled, “Why Chinese Mothers are Superior.” Did you read it?

The title is very provocative, as is the entire article in my opinion, but it brings up some interesting thoughts about practicing music, and the role which parents play in the music education of their children.

This essay on parenting comes from Amy Chua, who is promoting her new book, *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mom*. It seems as though she is trying to ignite a fire in readers, and it is working, judging by the more than 7500 comments left by online readers.

As a piano teacher, I find this essay hard to ignore, and encourage you to read it. And once you have read it, send us your feedback to be printed in next month’s newsletter.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704111504576059713528698754.html>

