

## **DSMTA Newsletter** **September 2010**

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### **Calendar**

#### **DSMTA Board Meeting**

Tuesday, September 21, 10:30 am  
Wilmington Music School

#### **MTNA Competitions**

Rehearsal Time

Friday, October 29, 6pm to 9pm  
Competitions

Saturday, October 30, 2010 8am to  
2pm University of Delaware

#### **2010 Convention**

Saturday, November 20, 9am to 4pm  
University of Delaware

#### **Board Meeting**

Tuesday, January 18, 2011 10:30 am  
Wilmington Music School

#### **Vocal and Piano Ensemble**

##### **Festivals**

Sunday, February 20 12pm  
University of Delaware

##### **Deadlines**

Piano- January 12, 2011

Vocal-January 19, 2011

##### **Theory Festival**

Sunday March 6, 9am to 4pm  
University of Delaware Deadline

January 26, 2011

##### **Solo Piano Festival**

Sat April 8 and Sun April 9

University of Delaware

Deadline February 23, 2011

##### **Board Meeting**

Tuesday, May 10, 2011 10:30 am  
Wilmington Music School

##### **Special Recital**

Sunday May, 22 12pm

University of Delaware

Deadline

May 4, 2011

### ***A Message from the President ....***

2010 has been a very active year for both the state and local associations and it's only *August!* In between snowstorms, rain and record heat, we have managed to conduct a Piano Marathon, Festivals, Recitals, a Service Recognition luncheon and have competitors at the Regional and National levels.

As you'll read in the Chair reports, there have been successful and well attended Festivals and Recitals. Thanks to all who worked so hard.

The Li sisters made a great showing representing Delaware at the Regional Competitions and the National Junior Competition at the MTNA Conference.

Sadly, we also marked the passing of two lifelong, dedicated teachers: Marge Roddy and Ben Whitten.

The Calendar of Events promises that 2010/2011 will be very active too.

The one event you should save the date for and plan to attend is our Convention, Saturday, November 20, 2010. It will be at the University of Delaware in Newark.

The 2009 Convention received rave reviews. There were nearly 30 members in attendance and I think we can do even better this year. We will keep you updated about the Convention program.

I look forward to this year and working again with all of you.

***Eric Benson***  
***President***



## **REPORTS**

### **DSMTA Theory Festival**

The 2010 DSMTA Theory Festival was held at the University of Delaware on Sunday, March 7. The 22 teachers who enrolled students in the eleven levels of Theory tests worked hard to make this Festival a success. Christine Delbeau, the coordinating chairman of the Festival for this year, engaged the help of 16 University of Delaware student volunteers, all members of the university music fraternity. Their help was greatly appreciated. This year, instead of group aural exams, the aural tests were adjudicated by individual examiners in conjunction with technique and sight-reading exams. We are indebted to Sharon Parker, who led a theory committee in rewriting all eleven levels of the Aural exams for individual testing. Of the 300 students scheduled for the theory exams, 91 earned High Honors in all four areas: Written, Aural, Technique, and Sight reading.

*Submitted by Helen Hoffman*

### **Piano Festival**

The 2010 DSMTA Piano Festival took place on May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. 460 Students and 29 teachers participated. Everything went very well, thanks to all who so willingly helped with the endeavor. You should be proud of the wonderful work that your students performed. This is a very valuable venue for the students and I encourage everyone to continue the good work. Thanks again for a successful Piano Festival and for 2011 please set aside the time to help one of the Festival days. Your participation is critical.

*Submitted by Jean Pyle*

### **NDMTA STUDENT RECITALS**

NDMTA is grateful to the University of Delaware for the use of the new Gore Recital Hall for our student recitals. During the 2009 – 2010 season, we used this magnificent concert hall on four Sunday afternoons: October 25, December 6, February 14, and April 18 and held two or three recitals each day. Throughout the year, there were 102 performances by piano and vocal students, representing 17 teachers. On December 6, we also held a Master Class in Gore Recital Hall. Five piano students, representing three teachers, performed for the clinician, Dr. Richard Veleta from West Chester University. In 2010-2011, we are planning to hold five Student Recitals in addition to a Master Class.

*Submitted by Helen Hoffman*

### **NDMTA PROGRAMS**

Northern Delaware Music Teachers Association is looking forward to two outstanding programs for our 2010-2011 season. On the morning of October 13, Tracy Richardson will host the group in her home for a presentation on Harpsichord Technique and Literature, with an opportunity for teachers to try out her two beautiful harpsichords.

On March 17, Oleg Maslov will present Piano Technique based on the principles of Russian pianist George Kochevitsky. This is rescheduled from the original 2010 snowed-out date and will be held at the Wilmington Music School. All are welcome! Light refreshments will also be served.

*Submitted by Donna Beech*

## Report from SDMTA

February 27<sup>th</sup> was SDMTA's annual **Piano Marathon**, in which over 100 students participated by playing for 3 – 5 minutes at the Dover Mall on a grand piano provided by Jacob's Music. The students were given a framed photo of themselves playing at the marathon and the top fund-raisers received special prizes. Over \$3000 was raised in support of SDMTA's scholarship fund, piano competition and piano camp tuition. SDMTA also contributes toward teacher expenses such as attending MTNA conferences.

The annual **SDMTA Young Artists Piano Competition** was held March 27<sup>th</sup>. Forty-three students competed in six levels ranging from Elementary through Upper Advanced. SDMTA was fortunate in obtaining the expertise of two very excellent judges, Dr. Chen-Li Tzeng and Dr. Jeongseon Choi, both of Gaithersburg. Two winners recitals were held in the evening with three levels in each. All students played in the recitals where the winners were announced and trophies awarded.

The gavel of office was passed from outgoing President Jeff Scott to new SDMTA president Helene Altevogt. SDMTA appreciates the dedication and service given by Jeff to our organization.



Scholarships were awarded to the following 2010 graduates at the SDMTA recital in May:

**Back row:** Terra Tatman, Adam Board, Bethany Myers, Maria Scott

**Front row:** Jamie Gooss, Angela Hui, Katie Davison.

### SDMTA 2010-2011 Calendar

October 24	Recital at Wesley College
December 11	Christmas Party at Helene's. 6 p.m.
January 9	SDMTA Meeting – Joan's house 2 p.m.
February 26	Marathon at Dover Mall
March 6	SDMTA Meeting - Jeff's house 2 p.m.
March 26	Competition - Wesley College
May 1	SDMTA Meeting - Carole Neal's house - 2 p.m.
May 15	Scholarship Recital - Bridgeville

## DSMTA at the MTNA National Conference

DSMTA was ably represented at the 2010 MTNA Conference in Albuquerque, NM this past March. The Li sisters- Angela, flute and Joyce, clarinet, placed 1<sup>st</sup> at the DSMTA Competition in October 2009 as well as the Eastern Division Competition at Ithaca College in January 2010. They both performed in the National Junior Performance Competition at the MTNA Conference where Angela placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. Congratulations to you both! DSMTA was able to provide \$250.00 to each girl to help with their expenses.

Thank you, Angela and Joyce, your teachers- Dr. Lynne Cooksey and Vincent Marinelli as well as your travelling accompanist, Chris McCloskey for representing Delaware so well.



## Marjorie M. Roddy

Age 86, of Wilmington, DE, passed away peacefully on Monday, January 4, 2010 at Churchman Village. Born in Philadelphia, Mrs. Roddy was the daughter of the late James and Madge (Boyle) McNally. She was a graduate of Notre Dame Academy and held a Bachelor of Music degree from Immaculata College. She taught private piano lessons at her home as well as the Wilmington Music School. She was an active member of St. Matthew Church. Mrs. Roddy was predeceased by her husband, Robert, in 1982 and by her son, John in 1999. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Marina; her daughters, Paula Roddy, Mary Anne Malone and her husband Thomas, Marjorie Fahy and her husband, Stephen, and Lori Kledaras and her husband, Peter. Also surviving are her brother, Arthur McNally, five grandchildren and two great-granddaughters

## Treasurer's Report 04-30-10

**Beginning Balance:** \$7,314.36 DE National Bank checking account

**Ending Balance:** \$11,602.72

**Beginning Balance:** \$12,956.76 Fidelity Investment Account

**Ending Balance:** \$14,275.27

<b>Income:</b>	3/2/10 - \$2488.00	Theory Festival
	3/2/10 - \$855.00	Ens. & Vocal Festival
	4/20/10 - \$45.50	theory papers
	4/23/10 - \$4630.00	Solo Piano Festival
	4/30/10 - \$50.00	uncashed check

**\$8018.50 Total income this period**

<b>Expenses:</b>	1/8/10 - \$310.00	Shamrock Printing
	1/13/10 - \$600.00	Ben Whitten- reimburse for web site
	2/8/10 - \$150.00	Don Bristol – Ens. Fest. Judge
	2/24/10 - \$200.00	Blake Smith, Noel Archambeault - Judges
	3/1/10 - \$50.00	Don Bristol – Ens. Fest. Judge
	3/3/10 - \$179.50	Sprint Printing
	3/24/10 - \$7.83	Sprint Printing
	3/24/10 - \$37.07	Kate Regan – Ens. Fest. expenses
	3/24/10 - \$500.00	Angela Li, Joyce Li – MTNA Finalists Award
	3/24/10 - \$100.00	Marge Roddy Memorial/St. Matthews
	4/18/10 - \$171.31	Helen Hoffman – Theory Fest. expenses
	4/18/10 - \$614.20	Champion Trophies
	4/20/10 - \$9.68	Cathy Weber - postage

**\$3032.64 Total expense this period**

*Submitted by June Rietdorf-Treasurer*

## ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL GUIDELINES

Teachers must complete the appropriate application for students in each of the ensemble categories in which they are performing:

### **Duet, Duo Piano, Concerto, Accompanist**

A student may only acquire points on time for each performance area.

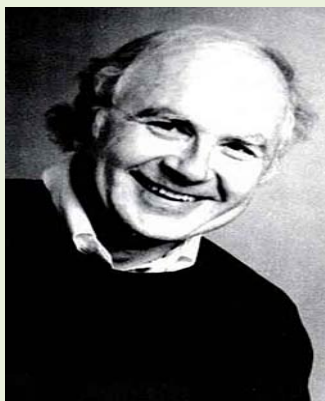
For example, a student who participates in two duets may only receive points from one of them.

Memorization is required for Concerto Soloists only. Students should be categorized as one of four levels:

### **Elementary, Lower Intermediate, Upper Intermediate, Advanced**

A minimum of two contrasting pieces must be performed. Three short pieces are appropriate at the Elementary Level. No arrangements of classical pieces are permitted for Upper Intermediate and Advanced students. Ensemble partners must not be more than one level apart. Teachers may not play with students in the Duet or the Duo Piano events. A teacher may accompany in a Concerto performance. Only active students are eligible to enter all Festivals. (Parents may not perform with students who are not active students of a participating teacher).

*Submitted by Kate Regan*



## *Benjamin Whitten*

Benjamin Whitten, 80, a pianist and teacher who left an indelible impression on thousands of students, died of pulmonary arrest Sunday, June 13, at his Philadelphia home.

"The world of music has certainly lost one of its greatest artists, teachers, and performers," said Timothy Blair, dean of the School of Music at West Chester University, where Mr. Whitten taught for more than three decades. One star pupil was Peter Orth, who now lives in Germany and performs worldwide.

Mr. Whitten received bachelor's and master's degrees in music at the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where he studied with Austin Conradi and Leon Fleisher.

In 1956, Mr. Whitten returned to Baltimore and the Peabody Preparatory for children, where he had been teaching. Three years later, he went to West Chester State Teachers College, now West Chester University.

He performed at local and faculty recitals and in Europe, South America, and Canada.

In the early '70s, he performed at Carnegie Hall. A New York Times review said, "His vitality comes from understanding the music at hand and knowing how to make it come to life."

He retired from West Chester in 1991, but continued to give lessons. Mr. Whitten taught at many other schools, including the University of the Arts, Elizabethtown College, and the Wilmington Music School. The recipient of numerous awards, Mr. Whitten was named teacher of the year several times by the Music Teachers National Association's Pennsylvania and Delaware chapters. In addition to his wife, Mr. Whitten is survived by his sons, Nathaniel and Benjamin; a daughter, Victoria; and two grandchildren.

## **DSMTA Board Meeting May 25, 2010**

Amendments to Jan. 26, 2010 Minutes:

- Remove line about UD scholarship fund coming from Fidelity Account. The amount is wrong.
- \$250 was given to each of the two finalists from DE going to the MTNA competition. Not \$500 each.
- Helen Hoffman is the new Theory Festival Chairperson.
- The cost for the 2009 Convention was \$500. Not \$5,000!

Present on 5/25/10 were:

Kate Regan, Marian Lee, Eric Benson, Helen Hoffmann, June Rietdorf, Joan Craft, Jeanne Pascal, Helene S-Altevogt, Lydia Jacobson, Elayne Penn.

The annual DSMTA convention will be held this year on Saturday, November 20, 2010.

Membership: New list as of May 25, 2010 is 88 members.

Members will be asked at convention if anyone has any objection to their information being on line.

A geographical listing of teachers will be added to the handbook.

Guidelines for the Ensemble Festival were discussed. Joan will enter them into the new handbook. She will look up MTNA wording/rules for arrangements/transcriptions.

### **President's Report:**

If people want Eric to send out info about concerts, they need to get him the information early.

Additions to Website: More links to Guidelines for Festivals and Guidelines for Enrollment.

2010-2011 Calendar: Special meeting the first week of June.

Linda Grant is in charge of rooms at Amy DuPont building only. Laura Kerst-Way can move pianos. She is in charge of everything.

Helen Hoffmann will be the DSMTA contact person for UD.

There were 247 trophies awarded for festivals this year!

Sharon Parker's husband passed away. DSMTA will donate \$50 to the Michael J. Fox Parkinson's Fund in honor of Stuart Parker.

Next board meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2010

*Respectfully submitted by Kate Regan*