



Connecticut State Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

Highlights from the 2007 CSMTA State Convention

by Roxane Lee

Winter 2008

<http://www.csmta.org/>

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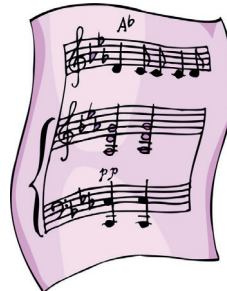
The CT State Music Teachers' Association state convention was held at the Easton Library in Easton, Conn. It was a day of inspiring performances and presentations and gave me an opportunity to network with other independent music teachers and university faculty members. I look forward to attending not just for the educational value but for the positive energy that always fills the space where music teachers gather.

The day began with a performance by Anastasia Seifetdinova, a pianist who is currently pursuing her doctorate at the Hartt School of Music. http://www.seifetdinova.de/biogr_eng.htm. She gave an lightning fast performance of the "Rondo a Capriccio," Beethoven's "Rage Over the Lost Penny," and a beautifully interpreted performance of Chopin's "Scherzo No. 3 in C # minor. In a spirit of camaraderie that occurs when music teachers convene, we sang "Happy Birthday" since it was Anastasia's 27th birthday that day.

A panel discussion followed with Jean Carucci, Education Coordinator of the Stamford Symphony Orchestra, Christopher Thibdeau, cellist, and Diane Wittry, Conductor of the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra. The members of the panel had both diverse backgrounds and job responsibilities. Ms. Carucci has music lessons for five

years and as a parent, donated many hours as a volunteer for the Norwalk Symphony. Mr. Thibdeau, originally from Newtown, CT started cello lessons his first year of high school. Ms. Wittry grew up in a musical family so her home was filled with music.

It was especially interesting to learn about the outreach work of both the Norwalk and Stamford symphonies and "Break of Reality". The Stamford Symphony has a free Sunday program called "Music Kids," which is open to all ages. A symphony member



leads this program, which is a general introduction to the orchestra. The symphony also provides vouchers for schools. The vouchers can be used for to attend performances, and the school can decide the price for the vouchers. The Norwalk Symphony Orchestra has programs that serve the schools in the area. "Break of Reality" has also holds workshops in schools in the NY city area. They can also be found playing in public spaces like the NY subway stations or Central Park. (Incidentally, Mr. Thibdeau shared that street performers in NYC have to

audition before receiving a performance permit.)

John Metz, president of the Middlesex/New London chapter, presented a talk entitled "What My Cleaning Lady Told Me, Thoughts on Technique". John primarily studied harpsichord and returned to piano study in the last few years. He related many statements by accomplished teachers about technique that were direct opposites of each other "Don't look at your hands." "Look at your hands" "It's horrible to play wrong notes" "There is such a thing as a perfect wrong note." He concluded that technique is very personal, and an individual pianist should figure out what works best.

A performance of "Introduction RANT postscript" commissioned by the CSMTA for sisters Sirena and Christine Huang followed. The piece was composed by David Heetderks. The musicians and composer answered questions after the performance.

Kathleen Theisen, NCTM and member of the Fairfield chapter, presented "Music Lessons or Music for Life". She discussed her strategy for giving her students the skills they need to become independent learners and capable musicians. Ms. Theisen shared many of her teaching techniques as well as useful materials. One of the things she focuses on

Hartford Chapter News

The Plainville Choral Society will present Mozart's Piano Concerto in D Minor, K.466.(Romanze) with Maryjane Peluso, piano soloist. Also on the program is John Rutter's Gloria, and Paul Halley's Freedom Trillogy on Friday, March 28th at 7:30 pm, and Saturday, March 29, at 2:00 pm at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Camp St., Bristol, CT. For tickets or more information, call 860-747-8512.

Remy Zhang, 17-year-old student of Edith Sullivan, will be the featured soloist with the Farmington Valley Symphony Orchestra in the Chopin Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11 on Saturday, February 23 at 8 PM at Millard Auditorium of the University of Hartford. Five of her students were winners in the Annual Competition sponsored by the Fairfield Chapter of

CSMTA on January 26 at the Monroe Public Library Auditorium: Michael Mei, 12, of Ridgefield; Connie Zhou, 13, of Westport; Crystal Xue, 15, of Brookfield; Victoria Shih, 15, of Ridgefield; and Bianca Yuh, 17, of New Milford. They were featured performers in the Winners' Recital on February 3 at the Monroe Library Auditorium, where they received their trophy awards. Also, Connie Zhou, pianist, and Katie Zhou, violinist, were selected by competitive audition to perform in the Mid-Season Musicales sponsored by the Associated Music Teachers' League of New York at Christ and St. Stephen's Church in New York City on March 9, performing Mozart's Sonata No. 4 in E minor for Violin and Piano, K. 304. Connie will also perform the Chopin Impromptu in F# major, Op. 36.

Middlesex-New London Chapter News

Eugenie Rocherolle will attend the MTNA annual convention in Denver where she will present her newest publications on the Hal Leonard Showcase, Sunday, March 30 at 1:00. She will also give a mini-session in the Hal

Leonard booth on Monday at 11:30. Eugenie is completing a commission for piano trio from Chamber Music Central of Westport. The work will be premiered in early May by the Trio Esprit.

Fairfield Chapter News

On Saturday, January 26 Fairfield Chapter held their 23rd Annual Winter Competition at the auditorium of Monroe Public Library in Monroe, Conn. 23 students participated and were adjudicated by Estrid Eklof and Will Dushon. Below is the list of 14 students selected to perform in a Winners' Circle program on Sunday, February 3; they will receive certificates and trophies recognizing their achievements.

We are most appreciative of the efforts of Kristen Mosher and Andrew Gordon, Competition Co-Chairs for their effort in making the event run smoothly. Thanks also go to Svitlana Fiorito, Debbie Kahan and Keri Salustri who assisted where needed during the event.

Students of Svitlana Fiorito:

Chelsea Guo

Wendy Hou

Oscar Shen

Stephanie Stich

Emilia Tanu

Annie Zhang

Student of Angela Meyers:

Katharine

Hedlund

Student of Benita Rose:

Aileen Yang

Students of Edith Sullivan:

Michael Mei

Victoria Shih

Bianca Yuh

Crystal Xue

Connie Zhou

Student of Shari Weisz:

Paul Whittingham

In addition, a Master Class is planned for Sunday afternoon, March 2 with Jun Kanno as guest clinician.

Though a date has not been set, a program by Paul Ostrowski is anticipated for April or May.

Also under consideration are plans for a "Meet the Author" gathering in April with Perri Knize talking about her new book "Grand Obsession", another student recital in April or May and a Festival-like competition "Sonat(in)a" in May. And we have discussed the idea of having a Baroque Festival next November.

Election for new Co-Presidents will be held in April of this year.



LEANNE BALDWIN has been named executive director of the Abilene (Tex.) Philharmonic. She holds a masters degree in piano performance from The Hartt School at The University of Hartford, and comes to Abilene with a background in music management and nonprofit consulting. Leanne was one of Luiz de Moura Castro's students at the Hartt school and also opened the very first web site for CSMTA during Bridget de Moura Castro's presidency.

Convention

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immediately is internalizing rhythm. She led the audience in a rhythm exercise where we tapped the pulse of the music while chanting the rhythm of the music, using different syllables for different note values. Of all the methods she has tried for teaching rhythm, this has been the most successful. I found her teaching ideas and suggested materials very useful with my own students.

Gabriel Chodos, faculty member of the New England Conservatory of Music, ended the day with a discussion of Schubert's last 3 sonatas. The audience listened with awestruck silence to Mr. Chodos' sublime performance of Schubert's Sonata in Bb, D 960. It was a perfect ending to a day filled with inspiration and music.



Mark these dates on you calendars!

Middlesex-New London Chapter 2008 Convention "Solid Beginnings," October 4, 2008, at the beautiful Elks Lodge in Westbrook.

Main presenter will be Fei Xu, piano teacher and director of the New Century Conservatory in Chandler, Arizona. (You've seen his picture in the MTNA journal.) Fei's students have won top prizes at state, national and international levels including the MTNA National Baldwin Piano Competition, ILYM International Piano Competition, Stravinsky International Piano Competition and Winner of National Foundation for the Advancement of Arts. Fei's 11 year old student Anna Han will present a short recital. (She is now preparing to enter the Gina Bachauer competition.)

Other presenters would include violin teacher Irene Rissi, voice teacher May Beth Lee, and JazzKids author Willie Myette.

There will be a round-table discussion held by above, with topics addressing various aspects of getting young students off to the best start, with the best foundation for future growth. Then each teacher will present a session on good pedagogic foundations.

Scheduled concerts for the YAPC winners

All concerts are free and open to the public. Several more concerts are planned for the fall:

March 21	2:00	Haven Health Care, West Hartford
March 23	7:30	Sterling Glen
April 8	7:30	The Seabury Bloomfield
April 10	7:30	The McAuley, West Hartford
May 9	7:00	Gloria Dei Lutheran church

World Piano Pedagogy Conference in Dallas Oct 22-25.

The topic is "Back to Basics."

Young Composers Day

Young Composers Day (a non-competitive Hartford Chapter event open to other chapters) will be held on Sunday, March 2, at 3:00 p.m. at South Church in Middletown. Students of any age (through 12th grade) or level may submit original compositions for inclusion in the booklet OPUS 17, and participate in the recital. Compositions may be neatly handwritten or printed on computer—whichever method would provide the most optimal learning experience. Please send compositions, registration form, and \$8 fee payable to Hartford Chapter CSMTA by February 15 to Carolyn Halsted, 18 McKenzie St., Middletown, CT 06457. For more information call 860-343-0677.

Registration Form:

Student's name _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Title of composition(s) _____

I will participate in the March 2 recital.

I cannot participate in the recital but would like my composition(s) included in "Opus 17."

Parent signature _____ Phone _____

Teacher signature _____ Phone _____



Connecticut State Music Teachers Association, Inc.

Young Artist Piano Competition, 2008

In collaboration with I Maestri, London



For high school graduates under the age of 30 by the date of the competition who are currently studying with a CSMTA member and who are enrolled in a Connecticut College/University. Sponsored by The Musical Club of Hartford, Inc. and The Maxwell Shepherd Fund.

Date: Tuesday, March 4

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: Shawn's Pianos, 221 Newfield Ave, West Hartford

Adjudicators:

Maestro George Hlawiczka, London

Jun Kanno, Paris

Paul Ostrovsky, Purchase University

Prizes:

Gold Medal \$1,500 + performance with I Maestri + solo recital opportunities

Silver Medal \$800 + solo recital opportunities

Bronze Medal \$600 + solo recital opportunities

Fee: \$50 per contestant

Repertoire: One complete Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, plus a half-hour solo program containing two additionally contrasting styles.

A preliminary taped round will be called if there are more than 10 applicants. 20 minutes performance time will be allocated to each contestant, the music being selected by the judges in an open formal concert. An accompanist other than the candidate's teacher must be provided. Winners will be announced following a short reception. All contestants must provide their own transportation to and from each performance opportunity. Lodging will be provided in London.

Connecticut State Music Teacher's Association, Inc.

Young Artist Piano Competition In cooperation with I Maestri, London, England
Sponsored by the Musical Club of Hartford, Inc and The Maxwell Shepherd Fund



STUDENT INFORMATION:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Birth date _____ Signature _____

MUSICAL BACKGROUND:

Information will be used in the program and publicity materials. Please attach an additional sheet if necessary.

TEACHER INFORMATION:

Name _____ Signature _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

MUSIC SELECTIONS:

List composer's full name with dates, title with key and opus #. Include movement titles if you do not perform the entire work.

APPLICATION AND FEE:

Mail application and \$50 nonrefundable fee payable to CSMTA to Estrid Eklof, 1297 High Road, Kensington, CT 06037. Applications must be postmarked by February 28, 2008.

David Heetderks and the Shepherd Distinguished Composer of the Year Competition

by *Sima Brodsky*

David Heetderks was our appointed commission composer for 2007. "Introduction, RANT, and Postscript" for violin and piano was premiered at our state convention this past fall. Our performers were violinist Sirena Huang, age 12, and pianist Christine Huang, age 14.

The sisters are Connecticut residents, and each is accomplished in both piano and violin. Sirena has competed in many international competitions, winning numerous top awards. Christine has also won many competitions, local and statewide.

The day proved to be a

rather busy one for the family. Sirena started out in New Haven competing in the New Haven Symphony concerto competition, then rushed over to perform at the convention; from there, she immediately left for New York City for a solo performance with the Long Island Symphony Orchestra that night. She played three different programs that day! She won first place in the New Haven Symphony Orchestra competition.

David Heetderks, who

currently resides in Michigan, made two trips to Connecticut to coach Christine and Sirena, and to attend the premier.

The girls both agreed that the experience was well worth the time and effort.

They also enjoyed working together, as well as

working with an actual living composer!

The work was subsequently recorded and submitted to MTNA

National for participation in the Shepherd Distinguished Composer of the Year Competition.



If your contact information changes, please let us know. We want to keep you up-to-date on CSMTA news. We'll publish your changes here so your fellow teachers can update their address books, too!



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