



# Connecticut State Music Teachers Association

*Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association*

## 2008 World Piano Pedagogy Conference

Winter 2009

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

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by *Debbie Kahan*

I spent a wonderful week in Dallas, Texas, at the World Piano Pedagogy Conference (October 22 - 25), where I had the opportunity to attend sessions led by such well-known pedagogues as Ingrid Clarfield, Luiz deMoura Castro, Jun Kanno, Phillip Kawin, John Perry, Kathleen Riley, Arbo Valdma, William Westney and many other well known experts in the field of Piano Pedagogy, and am still amazed at all of the information and collegiality that was shared during that very special week! Each of these conferences is a special tribute to the efforts of

Director/Founder Benjamin Saver, without whose vision and ability to advance the direction of piano pedagogy, such events might not take place.

This year's theme was "Back to Basics"—basics of technique, coloration, ways of teaching—comprehensive approach to refreshing the abilities of students and teachers alike! Open and mini-sessions were presented each morning starting at 8 am, followed by publishers' showcases between 11:00 am and 12:30 pm. After lunch, open sessions went from 2:00 pm until 4:15 pm, and mini-

sessions were again presented from 4:30 pm until 6:30 pm.

Among the most effective presentations were Phillip Kawin's "The Basics of Tone Production: No Bones in the Fingers, No Stones in the Wrist" and "Basic Techniques for Efficient Practice"; Lynda Metelsky's "Teaching Sonatinas by Clementi"; and Kathleen Riley's "Essential Elements of Piano Technique: Physiology, Mechanics and Piano Technique." Videos of this year's and archived past sessions may be accessed at the Pianovision website,

*See Conference, page 3*



Happy New Year to all of our members and best wishes for a successful and prosperous year! With 2009 ringing in, MTNA would like to help you develop strategies that will help you make it through these challenging times.

MTNA has formed a partnership with Nova Merchant Services, which will allow members' businesses to begin accepting credit cards for payments. This service will ensure consistent payment cycles and will improve the billing process for both your studio and your students. For more information on the potential benefits of taking advantage of this partnership, go to <http://www.mtna.org/Programs/MerchantServices/tabid/598/Default.aspx>.

Another way to sustain business through these tough financial times is to increase services and develop creative marketing strategies like branching out into Recreational Music Making (RMM). This concept focuses on teaching retirees or adults with some disposable income and time. Along with expanding your studio, you also can reach out to this market by visiting country clubs, retirement communities, nursing homes and so on. For more information, check out the special focus on the RMM program and the adult learner at the 2009 MTNA National Conference, or go to <http://members.mtna.org/Conference2009/tracks.html>.

To promote excitement with current students eager to learn and to retain those in your studio who may be ambivalent about continuing, look to develop new programs. Check out MTNA's "Music for Everyone Programs." Maybe you can develop a studio festival or extra recital program! Go to this link for information <http://www.mtna.org/Programs/MusicForEveryone/tabid/280/Default.aspx>.

MTNA continues to work on your behalf as the national mouthpiece for the importance of

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## Members News

### *Eugenie Rocherolle*

Clavier magazine will include a feature article on Eugenie Rocherolle in its March/April issue. It relates to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her publishing piano music and will include pictures, a piece from one of her collections and several surprises.

The premiere of Eugenie's "Piano Trio No. 3: Century Music," commissioned by Chamber Music Central of Westport, will take place on Sunday, March 8, at Trinity Church in Southport at 1:30. The ensemble, Trio Esprit, will also include another piano trio by Eugenie, "An American Rhapsody."

On Saturday, January 17, a song of Eugenie's, entitled "Walkin' Freedom's Road," from her musical *Yankee Stranger*, was performed in Washington, D.C., at the Pen Arts Building, headquarters of the National League of American Pen Women, on an

evening program in honor of the Lincoln Bicentennial. It was sung by Colonel Carlton B. Reid, Jr., of the U.S. Army and a former soloist of the West Point Cadet Glee Club. The song will also be included in the Pen Women's newly published anthology, "Happy Birthday, Mr. Lincoln: A Commemorative Collage," which features poems, essays, art and other musical compositions by Pen Women members.

In early December, Eugenie was a guest of the Music Teachers of Greater Annapolis (MEGA). She conducted a number of her duets in a monster concert, including a commissioned work written especially for the occasion, "Prime Time." (Hal Leonard).

Eugenie's latest CD, "Touch of Blue...and Other Colors" is available from CD Baby (cdbaby.com) or for download at I-tunes, Rhapsody and other sites.

### *Debbie Kahan*

From September 17 through the 20, Paul and Debbie Kahan's apartment resounded gloriously with the music of Soler, Scarlatti and Bach as soloist Barbara Cadranel prepared for the inaugural recital of the Kahans' Richard Kingston instrument which they have had for the past year and a half.

On Saturday afternoon, several of Debbie's younger students participated in a Master Class with Ms. Cadranel and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of working with an expert in order to learn more about the required technique for the harpsichord. Additionally, on Sunday afternoon, Ms. Cadranel gave a private lesson to one of Debbie's gifted students—again, an experience which was totally appreciated and enjoyed!

Saturday afternoon, from 4:15 to 5:00 pm a gathering of more than thirty-five parents and students came to hear a

preview of Ms. Cadranel's performance; several of those in attendance returned for the evening program. Ms. Cadranel played sonatas by Soler and Scarlatti, all chosen to show the varieties of timbres possible on the Kingston instrument, and amazingly decided, as the program progressed, which selections she would play! Her virtuosity was evident as each note rang out with full beauty and clarity—an inspiration to all who heard her.

The Kahans are hoping to host Ms. Cadranel again in late January/early February (date to be decided) in a program of music by J. S. Bach, at which she and Debbie plan to play the second movement of the "Concerto for Two Claviers in C Major."

Plans are also afoot to hold a teachers' workshop on harpsichord technique (which can be adapted for performance on piano, as well as on harpsichord) in addition to a hands-on workshop for interested students. More information about this weekend will be forthcoming as plans develop in the next few weeks.

### *Benita Rose*

Benita Rose and Tony Gibbs, as the Rose-Gibbs Duo, won Third prize in the professional division of the 2008 International Chamber Music and Ensembles Competition, professional division.

Max Philips, student of Benita Rose, won First prize and the Patricia Bellingham Scholarship in the WRAC Young Artists Competition. Aileen Yang (grade 10-12 division) and Cecelia Tamburro (grade 7-9 division), also students of

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## Members

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Benita Rose, won Third prize in their age divisions.

### **Yoshie Akimoto**

Yoshie's student Alex Beyer has taken alternate at the Regional auditions this year.

### **Maxim Vladimiroff**

Maxim Vladimiroff has been appointed the CSMTA commission composer for 2009 by Sima Brodsky.

Vladimiroff is a recent finalist in the William Lincer Chamber Music Competition for composers. He is a graduate of the Gnessin College of Music in Moscow and a student of Dmitri Serov, Yvette Shekhtman and Igor Brill.

In 1999 he attained an MFA degree in music

composition from the University of California, Irvine, and subsequently studied privately with composer Philip Lasser. His works have been performed by the Bachanalia Festival Orchestra, members of the New York New Music Ensemble, the Lafayette College Choir and other artists. His composition "Quid Ploras, Mulier?" for women's choir is published by Treble Clef Music Press.

Vladimiroff teaches piano at his private studio in Brookfield, Conn., and keyboard harmony at the European American Musical Alliance Summer Program in Paris. He is a music director at the Valley Presbyterian Church in Brookfield.

The commission will be premiered at the state convention in Fall of 2009.

## MTNA

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music. In times like these, it is important to remind decision makers that music and the arts have an important and necessary position in all our lives. MTNA will work to assist you in whatever we can and offer ideas and solutions to the independent music teacher.

Also, be sure to attend the 2009 MTNA National Conference in Atlanta,

Georgia, March 28–April 1, at the Westin Peachtree Plaza. This will be MTNA's 123rd National Conference and will once again be the largest gathering of independent and collegiate music teachers in the country. To find out more about the conference or to register, visit <https://members.mtna.org/Conference2009/index.html>. A full schedule is now available. Remember, the early registration deadline is February 16, 2009.

### **Email address changes:**

**Laura Hibbard, Middlesex-New London Chapter,**  
[laurahibbard@mac.com](mailto:laurahibbard@mac.com)

**Edith MacLean, Hartford Chapter,**  
[maclea921@att.net](mailto:maclea921@att.net)

### **New Member:**

**Josi Davis, Voice, Piano, Theory. East Lyme**  
[josi@josiwails.com](mailto:josi@josiwails.com)

## Conference

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though membership may be required for access.

A number of CSMTA members were spotted in attendance—of course, the deMoura Castros, Bridget and Luiz; Ellen Ballard, who was getting around with a bit of difficulty having been hit in her Honda by an 18-wheeler last spring; David Westfall, who presided over a teaching demonstration; and Eugenie Rocherolle, who gave a lovely presentation of her newest selections for Hal Leonard Publishers, and was awarded a special plaque for having composed and published music for the past 30 years—very inspiring! Among other well-known figures on hand for publishers' presentations were Phillip Keveren, Fred Kern and Randall Faber.

I was quite surprised to see Ingrid Clarfield getting around with a cane, and later found out that she had suffered a stroke in March 2007. She has paralysis in her left side which prevented her from use of her left hand, but played a lovely duet with Sigrid Luther as a conclusion to her session, "Developing a Basic Technical/Musical Vocabulary to Inspire Musical Artistry" and has indomitable spirit. She remained at the Conference for a week, looking very chic as she went to dinner with Randall Faber on Friday evening!

Among the most inspiring performances were those given

by Jun Kanno in selections from Messiaen's "Cinq Regards de l'enfant Jesus" and Luiz deMoura Castro's recital of selections he had learned before the age of 8! He must have been quite a child prodigy, though he tells that he was not treated as such—and was called back for at least three encores, the last of which was a rousing rendition of the famous tango "Odéon" by



Nazareth. However, since my husband Paul joined me on Friday evening so we could spend the weekend in Dallas, I missed the "Most Wanted" competitions and final recital, but will access the results at the Pianovision website.

If one feeling pervaded the conference, it was the collegiality of everyone who attended. There was no sense of rank, superiority or difference between teachers and world-acclaimed pedagogues. We were all there to share, learn and respect each other's abilities. When Jun Kanno saw me in the hotel lobby, he greeted me as a longtime friend and asked if my husband would be coming in for the weekend! We also had occasion to share comments after several sessions. Paul and I sat with the deMoura Castros, Jun Kanno, Randall Faber, one of the conference directors, Laura Garritson (doctoral candidate and student of Luiz deMoura Castro) and another couple for the final banquet. I look forward to attending future WPP conferences with as much excitement and anticipation as I had for this year's event.

# Announcements

Child prodigy George Li will be giving a free piano recital at Avon Congregational Church's Fellowship Hall, Sunday, February 22, at 3:00 p.m. He is the winner of several international competitions, has made television appearances, played at Carnegie Hall and is touring internationally as soloist with orchestras. For more information, contact Benita Rose, (860) 423-3248.

**Attention Chapter Reporters**  
**Be sure to get your chapter's good news and announcements to the editor in a timely manner for the newsletter. This way, you can let other chapters know what is happening in your part of the state—as well as brag on your students and announce upcoming activities and contests!**

## Call for Photos!

If you have any photos of state or local chapter events that are suitable for our newsletter or website, please send digital files of those photos to [info@fairfieldcountymusicteachers.com](mailto:info@fairfieldcountymusicteachers.com), or you may mail photos to Kathleen Theisen, 20C Peace Street, Danbury CT 06810. Please include names of all people in the photo, as well as a caption of what was happening at the event. All recognizable faces that are in the photo must be able to sign a release to be included on the website.

*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!*

## MTNA new benefits

Did you know that MTNA offers instrumental insurance to its members? Clarion Associates, Inc., will provide music instrument insurance to MTNA members for 40 percent off the usual premiums.

- Clarion is the largest insurance firm dedicated solely to the needs of musicians
- Clarion is endorsed by more than 24 musicians associations
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For more information about the coverage available to you, visit [www.clarionins.com](http://www.clarionins.com) or call (800) 848-2534.



## The MTNA National Association 2009 Conference

The MTNA National Association 2009 Conference is taking place in Atlanta, March 28 to April 1. Reduced registration and hotel rates are available from MTNA main website (<http://www.mtna.org/>) and also detailed in the last issue of the American Music Teacher. The deadlines for discounted rates are February 16 for pre-registration and February 22 for hotel accommodations.

All state members planning to attend, please contact Steve Oyler ([steven.oyler@yale.edu](mailto:steven.oyler@yale.edu)) to possibly arrange a social hour (cocktails or dinner or lunch) at the conference.

# Young Composers Day

Sunday, March 8, 2 p.m.

South Church, Middletown

Start preparing students now for this non-competitive early spring event run by Hartford Chapter but open to other chapters as well. Students may submit original compositions for inclusion in the Opus booklet and participate in the recital. Manuscripts must be clear, legible and easy to photocopy and may be either handwritten or printed on computer. For more information call Carolyn Halsted at 860-343-0677.

**REGISTRATION FORM:** Submit this form, composition(s), and \$8 registration fee payable to "Hartford Chapter CSMTA" by February 14, 2009, to Carolyn Halsted, 18 McKenzie Street, Middletown, CT 06457.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Composition(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will participate in the March 8 recital.

\_\_\_\_\_ I cannot participate on March 8 but would like my piece(s) to be published in Opus 18.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Janos Lobb in Concert

Janos Lobb of Oxford will be performing in a concert at Carnegie Hall on Sunday, February 8, as one of 32 young musicians from the tri-state area. Presented by the National Music Certificate Program, the concert celebrates the accomplishments of Certificate of Excellence winners in the states of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Janos is a seventh grader at Great Oak Middle School in Oxford and a piano student of Nancy McMillan of Bethlehem.

Every year the National



Music Certificate Program awards Certificates of Excellence to candidates who obtain the highest marks in their grade and subject for their state exams. To qualify for a Certificate of Excellence award, candidates must have obtained a mark of at least 80 percent in their practical examination and have completed

the theory requirements for their respective grades. Of the approximately 100,000 students who participate in examinations in North America every year, just over 700 students achieve this level of recognition.

## Welcome, New State Officers

We are pleased to welcome two new officers to the executive board. Kathleen Theisen is our new vice-president and web administrator, whom many of you may have met at the Fall convention or remember from the 2007 convention as an outstanding presenter. Kathleen has been very active in MTNA in Connecticut and other states and is secretary of the Fairfield Chapter. Felicia Feng Zhang is our new state treasurer. Felicia has been a very active member and is currently Vice-president and shares the Competition Chair for the Western Chapter. Felicia has also been instrumental in the promotion and development of the statewide MAP programs.

We would like to acknowledge the service of our departing officers, giving our thanks and respect to our past president, David Westfall, for maintaining the website since its beginnings, and our thanks and gratitude to Barbara Johnson for her hard work keeping our books in order these many years. We wish them both the best in their future endeavors.



# Plans for MAP in 2008-2009

Note that the New Haven chapter will offer MAP this year, and that MAP at the Western chapter will be held in the fall, resulting in three seasons of MAP!

## **March 28 - New Haven area (contact Linda Franklin-Briggs for exact location)**

Linda Franklin-Briggs, Chair

Postmarked registration deadline: Feb. 9

## **April 4 - First Congregational Church, Madison**

Joyce Baxter, Chair

Postmarked registration deadline: Feb. 17

## **April 18 - Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford**

Christine Brodzik, Chair

Postmarked registration deadline: March 2

## **November 14, 2009 - St. James' Church, Southbury**

Felicia Feng Zhang, Chair

Postmarked registration deadline: Sept. 28

Teachers from any chapter may register students for any of these dates. Registration forms, guidelines and rules, and an order form for materials are available at [www.csmta.org/](http://www.csmta.org/) or from Linda MacGougan, state chair, at [macgougans@comcast.net](mailto:macgougans@comcast.net). Please contact Linda MacGougan or local chairs if you have any questions about the program.

## MAP 2009 Registration

2009 Date	Postmarked Reg. Date (Postmark)	Place	Chapter	Local Chair
March 28	Feb. 9	(Contact Linda F-Briggs)	New Haven	Linda Franklin-Briggs
April 4	Feb. 17	First Congregational Church, Madison	Middlesex/NL	Joyce Baxter
April 18	March 2	Asylum Hill Congregational Church	Hartford	Christine Brodzik
Nov.14	Sept. 28	St. James' Church,	Western	Felicia Feng Zhang

## Guidelines and Rules

### Registration

Teachers may register students at any of the MAP sites; use a separate registration form for each place and send it to the local chair. (You may make multiple copies of the form.) Be sure to note the deadlines for submission.

Teachers entering students in the audition are expected to assist on audition day. Please indicate your preferred time on the registration form. (A teacher registering students in two places need only volunteer in one of them.)

Once the audition schedule has been set (shortly after the registration deadline), no changes in audition times can be made by the chairs. If you need to change an audition time for a student, arrange to switch times with another of your own students, preferably a student of a similar level (so the lengths of the auditions are the same). Then notify the chair, at least a week in advance, so the schedule can be corrected and the adjudicator can be given the appropriate materials.

On the registration form, indicate which students are eligible for the 5-year plaque. Any student who has completed 5 years of MAP successfully is eligible for a plaque. The 5 years need not be consecutive. Students may have done the full MAP or theory only. After the exams are corrected, and after the state chair has verified 5 years of successful participation, the teacher will be sent the plaque to present to the student.

### Full MAP (Performance Audition and Theory Exam)

A student should plan to spend at least 1-1/2 to 2 hours

doing the full MAP. This includes arriving 15 minutes early to register, 15-20 minutes for the performance audition (depending on the level), and about 45 minutes for the theory test. The time allotted for the performance audition includes keyboard skills, sight reading and transposition, and rhythm as well as repertoire.

Levels 1 and 2 - 15 minutes

Levels 3 and 4 - 18 minutes

Levels 5 - 10 - 20 minutes

The non-repertoire portion of the audition takes 5 to 10 minutes, depending mostly on the proficiency of the student. Please consider the time available when selecting repertoire. All music must be in the original for the piano; no arrangements or simplifications are permitted.

In keyboard skills, although the student must prepare all the required keys, s/he will be tested in only 1 or 2 keys.

### In playing of repertoire:

- Eliminate repeats when possible.
- Judge may need to halt the performance of a piece to stay within the allotted audition time.
- Students must provide a copy of the music for the judge. No Xeroxes allowed unless accompanied by a letter from the publisher.
- Please number the measures at the beginning of each line.

### Theory exam only:

Theory exams are not scheduled for a specific time. The local chair will designate hours on MAP day during which exams may be taken and notify teachers.



Winter Days will soon  
give way  
To Spring's Bright  
Rays!



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