



---

# NEWSLETTER

September 30, 2011

*A note from the CSMTA President...*

It has become a habit of mine to compile and edit the CSMTA newsletters on airplanes and in airports. This issue of the CSMTA Newsletter is a slight exception; written on the road, it was accomplished while I was 'home' in the Midwest, helping my parents during and after my father's surgery this past week. It was a week where I canceled all lessons and asked colleagues to cover three classes at WCSU. Those of you who know me realize that it is rare that I take a day off for any reason. Taking a week off is unprecedented. It was a week where music seemed a little less important than everything else. I was in awe of the surgeon who performed my father's brain surgery on Tuesday; in fact, I made a comment to the surgeon on Thursday (as my dad was being discharged from the hospital, only 48 hours after the operation!) about his ability to perform 'miracle surgery.' He brushed aside my comment and said that he thought it was more of a miracle that I take groups of people and get them to make music together in a choir. At first, I was struck by that comment from a world-famous surgeon, but since that time, I have given more thought to what he said. What we do on a daily basis with our music students changes lives. We get piano students to play scales and pieces by Mozart or Elton John, singers to find their way through the 24 Italian Songs and Broadway scores, instrumentalists to play pieces by Hindemith or Creston and ensembles to play and sing together, in time and in tune. Our young students compose, improvise and learn (willingly or unwillingly sometimes!) how to *practice* their art. We do all of this to make the world a better place through music, or sometimes, just to be true to the composer's wishes. We also do it to make the world more 'human' and more real. We do it for the sake of the music. We do it just because we are human beings. We do it because we want to share our love of music with the next generation. This brings me to John Miller. John had stepped forward in August to offer his assistance as Treasurer of CSMTA. John's goal in working with youth was that of someone who was educating human beings, not just teaching music. It was with an extremely heavy heart that I reported to you recently that John passed away in September. For all of us who knew John, his passing came as a complete shock. He was vibrant and full of life. He had a great laugh that none of us will forget. I still have cupcakes in my freezer that he brought over to my house when I cooked dinner for him on the night we went through all of the CSMTA paperwork and I downloaded and installed Quick Books for him on his Mac before I showed him the 'ropes' of 'keeping the books' for our group. I remember his awe when I showed him a variety of historic tunings available on my new Avant Grand. Hearing Bach in mean tone tuning or Kirnberger tuning changes how we hear the music. John suggested that I give a workshop at my house where I play a few pieces in different tunings so that teachers can hear music as the composers heard it or as performers heard it as our instruments changed. I plan to do that workshop! John was a miracle in the lives of so many youth. His impact was far-reaching and went way beyond the city of New Haven and the campuses at Yale and Hartt. We mourn his passing and are grateful to have known him. There will be a memorial concert for John at the Yale School of Music on Sunday, October 30 at 4:00 PM. Further information is on page 13 of this newsletter. Even if you didn't know John, I am sure you will be moved by the expression of love from his friends, colleagues, students and family. He was a miracle in the lives of so many. So are each of you. I hope you all recognize the impact of your teaching, composing and performing on the lives of your students, their families and the community and revel in the fact that every day, there are small miracles that happen during your collaboration with your students!

Sincerely,

*Kathleen Theisen, NCTM, CSMTA President.*



---

***INSIDE THIS ISSUE...***

- 1 President's Letter
- 2 CSMTA Concerto Competition - June 16, 2012
- 3 CSMTA Lending Library
- 2, 9, 10 CSMTA State Conference - October 29, 2011
- 3 WCSU Professional Development Day - November 8, 2011
- 4,5,6 Musicianship Achievement Program
- 7 Horowitz Concert Series at Yale
- 7 MTNA Eastern Division Meeting - Oct. 16, 2011
- 8 Hartt honors Luiz de Moura Castro
- 12, 13 In Memoriam: John Miller, CSMTA Treasurer
- 14 Fairfield Chapter hosts Vassily Primakov in Recital - Nov. 5, 2011
- 15 Proposed amendment to the CSMTA Constitution
- 15 Member News: Benita Rose to perform Liszt *Totentanz* - Oct. 30, 2011
- 16 Looking Ahead...
- 17 CSMTA Calendar of Events 2011-2012
- 18 CSMTA Leadership



---

**CSMTA State Conference**  
**Saturday, October 29, 2011**

***hosted by the New Haven Chapter***

The New Haven Chapter has organized a wonderful conference, which will be held on Saturday, October 29, 2011, in Branford, Connecticut. The guest speakers will include: Peggy Baird on "Improving Your Piano Recital from beginning to middle to end." Paul Sheftel will be speaking about technology and composition woven in with pedagogy. Robert Blocker: Dean of Yale Music School, and Joyce Grill, will also be presenters. Complete information was emailed to you in early September, at which time it was also posted on the CSMTA website: [www.csmta.org](http://www.csmta.org). We have included the complete schedule and registration form in this newsletter, as well (see pages 9 and 10). We hope to see you at the conference!

---

**CSMTA Concerto Competition**  
**June 16, 2012**

The CSMTA Concerto Competition was reinstated in 2011, thanks to the volunteer work of Simy Brodsky. Four teachers entered students into the competition in 2011. The winner, Ethan Wu, will perform with Maestro John Eells and the Farmington Valley Symphony Orchestra during the 2012-2013 season.

The 2012 Concerto Competition will be held on June 16, 2012, at the Hartt School of Music. It is open to students in grades 9-12 on all instruments & voice. Please consider entering your students into this event. Complete information is available on our website.



**CSMTA MEMBERS:**  
**Double-check your email & phone number!**

Please take a moment to check your listing in the teacher directory at [www.csmta.org](http://www.csmta.org)

If there is an error in the directory or you do not wish to be included in this online directory, please send an email to: [connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com](mailto:connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com)

---

**WCSU Professional Development Day for Music Educators**  
**Tuesday, November 8**  
**7:30 AM - 3:30 PM**

On Tuesday, November 8 (Election Day), Western Connecticut State University Department of Music will hold its second annual Professional Development Day for Music Educators. Workshops will be offered throughout the day from 8:00 AM until 3:30 PM. Cost is only \$15 per person, which includes lunch. All attendees receive .6 CEUs. Workshops include: Reading sessions of new publications for band, jazz band, choir and orchestra; string pedagogy, brass pedagogy, percussion pedagogy, double reed pedagogy, single reed pedagogy, jazz pedagogy, jazz improvisation, percussion pedagogy, instrumental conducting, choral conducting, class piano pedagogy, instrument repair, technology workshop (Finale, Garage Band), singing games, folk dances, general music, pop music in the general music classroom, leadership and the music dept, CCT and TEAM. WCSU, 181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810 [www.wcsu.edu/music](http://www.wcsu.edu/music) Registration forms are available here: [www.wcsu.edu/music/forms/2011pdregistration.pdf](http://www.wcsu.edu/music/forms/2011pdregistration.pdf)

---

**CSMTA Lending Library...**  
***A gift from the family of Marion Cantor***

At the end of June, CSMTA received a donation of twenty-eight boxes of piano and organ music from the family of Marion Cantor. Marion was a piano teacher in Ellington, CT for about 40 years. We are considering starting a lending library of these materials, which would be available to teachers for perusal and loan. Currently, the music is in boxes and has not yet been catalogued. We are investigating possible places to house this collection. If you know of a local town library or college library that would be willing to house this collection, please contact Kathleen Theisen. If you would like to assist with cataloguing or deciding which music can go to needy music schools, we would love your help! This is a note from Marion's son, Michael: "My sisters and I truly hope that my mom's piano (and organ) teaching legacy will live on through her music library being used by teachers and students for years to come." We are so sorry for the Cantor family's loss and hope that Marion's legacy can and will live on within the CSMTA membership through this gift of music.

---



## Musicianship Achievement Program

for more info: [www.csmta.org](http://www.csmta.org) and go to 'STUDENT ACTIVITIES' page

The Musicianship Achievement Program (MAP) is a guide to the study of music for CSMTA-member teachers and their students in the pre-college years. The materials included at every level divide into the general areas of theory and performance. This well-integrated program is designed to be flexible enough to serve the needs of all students without compromising high standards and offers a complete pre-college theory course together with a performance opportunity. The student is made to feel proud of his/her accomplishments. The teacher has another organizational and motivating tool to use. The parents are able to follow their child's progress at first hand and in close detail. All teachers are encouraged to consider MAP as a part of every student's course of study.

The student participates in yearly auditions. MAP is a non-competitive event to recognize the individual achievement of a student in the areas of theory (written and aural awareness) and performance (keyboard skills and playing of several memorized pieces). A written and aural theory exam covering all aspects of musical study is graded and certificates are awarded in three categories: Pass, Honors, and High Honors. In addition, students who have participated successfully for five years are awarded a plaque; students who complete level 10 are given a special trophy. (See Guidelines and Rules for information on eligibility.)

The student is also given the opportunity to demonstrate keyboard skills and performance ability for a qualified judge. Although this is not graded, the student does receive the written comments of the judge and a pin in recognition of participation. Students may choose to take only the theory exam or to participate in the full program. There are no rules governing age and levels.

## 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 (full or theory only) is eligible for a plaque; the 5 years need not be consecutive. Also, students who complete MAP with successful participation in Level 10 plus a minimum of 5 years of participation (as described above) will receive a special trophy. After the exams are corrected, and after the state chair has verified eligibility for either the plaque or trophy, the teacher will be sent the awards 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 through 10 - 20 minutes

The non-repertoire portion of the audition takes 5 - 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, he or she will be tested in only one or two 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.

## **MAP FAQ's**

**How do I order materials for MAP?** Forms are available on our website.

**How do I register for MAP?** Registration form is found on page 6 of this newsletter. It is also downloadable from our website.

**What are the dates and sites for MAP?** The dates are listed in the calendar on page 17 of this newsletter. They are also on our website.

### **News?**

Do you have news to share with CSMTA members? Please submit newsletter items to:  
[connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com](mailto:connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com)

Please indicate NEWSLETTER in the subject line.

The next deadline is November 15, 2011



**Registration Form – MAP 2011-12**

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

Site of MAP \_\_\_\_\_ Date of MAP \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Use a separate sheet for each date and/or place)

(Please Print Clearly)  
Students' Names

<u>Students' Names</u>	<u>Level (1-10)</u>	<u>Full MAP</u>	<u>Theory Only</u>	<u>5th-year</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Number of full MAP students, levels 1&2 \_\_\_\_\_ at \$22 each: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 levels 3&4 \_\_\_\_\_ at \$24 each: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 levels 5 - 7 \_\_\_\_\_ at \$26 each: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 levels 8 - 10 \_\_\_\_\_ at \$28 each: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**full MAP TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of theory only students, levels 1 - 4 \_\_\_\_\_ at \$13 each: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 levels 5 - 7 \_\_\_\_\_ at \$15 each: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 levels 8 - 10 \_\_\_\_\_ at \$17 each: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**theory only TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Teachers should collect the fees from their students and mail one check (payable to CSMTA) to the local MAP chair with this form. Fees are non-refundable and non-transferable to a different date.*

**I am available to help:** morning \_\_\_\_\_ afternoon \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this form to the local MAP chair:**

- For Nov. 12 MAP (postmarked deadline 10/7) - Amy Vinisko, 50 Old Turnpike Rd., Bantam 06750
- For March 17 MAP (postmarked deadline 1/30) - Suzan Korman, 100 Old Maids Lane, S. Glastonbury 06073
- For March 31 MAP (postmarked deadline 2/13) - Joyce Baxter, 53 Stanton Road, Clinton 06413
- For May 12 MAP (postmarked deadline 3/26) - Linda Franklin-Biggs, 3 Donna Lane, Branford 06405



**Horowitz Concert Series at Yale School of Music - Discount for CSMTA Members  
(Note: this was also emailed to CSMTA members on September 28)**

I am writing to offer you a special discount for the Horowitz Piano Series at the Yale School of Music. The 2011–2012 season begins next Wednesday, October 5, and offers an unusually wide range of repertoire. Nine events include a performance by Yefim Bronfman; a multimedia presentation of Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition by the Russian-French virtuoso Mikhail Rudy with images by Wassily Kandinsky; recitals by faculty members of the Yale School of Music; and a traversal of complete piano sonatas by Sergei Prokofiev. More information on the series is available online: <http://music.yale.edu/concerts/horowitz.html>

I invite you to subscribe to the series at a special CSMTA price of \$50 for the full 2011–2012 season. Please note that for this offer, which is half the price of single tickets, seating is available only in certain sections. To get the CSMTA discount, please call Danielle Heller at 203-432-4397 by Wednesday, October 5, and mention this email. I look forward to seeing you at this year's concerts.

With best regards,  
Boris Berman  
Professor of Piano, Yale School of Music  
Artistic Director, Horowitz Piano Series

---

**MTNA Eastern Division Meeting!  
Sunday, October 16, 2011  
8:00-9:30 PM  
Conference Call**

The Eastern Division of MTNA, of which Connecticut is a member, will be hold its first-ever EASTERN DIVISION CONFERENCE CALL on Sunday, October 16, 2011. This meeting was called by our Division Director, Diane Birr, so that state presidents, officers and members may discuss our vision for the future of MTNA. The meeting was, at first, called to discuss our division's response to the national board decision to cut the non-piano competitions. However, we'd like to use the meeting as a stepping stone to discuss other aspects of MTNA. What would you like to see within your organization? More of what? Less of what? I have heard some members say they dislike the competitions and would like to see more 'fun' events. I have heard others say they would like to see more competitions.

---



# Hartt Honors Luiz de Moura Castro

## October 7-9, 2011

You are cordially invited to join in Hartt's celebration of one of its legendary faculty members, Luiz de Moura Castro, with a weekend full of festivities, October 7 through October 9. Students, alumni, and faculty perform in honor of the renowned piano professor's 70th birthday and 35th year teaching at The Hartt School.

On Friday, October 7, the Hartt Wind Ensemble concert kicks off Hartt's celebration of Luiz de Moura Castro. On this concert, Luiz shares his extraordinary talent with the Hartt community by playing the George Gershwin masterpiece Rhapsody in Blue. Also featured on this concert is Igor Stravinsky's hallmark work Symphonies of Wind Instruments and a new arrangement of Leonard Bernstein's On the Waterfront. This concert is at 7:30 PM in Millard Auditorium. Admission is \$20 with discounts available for seniors, students and groups.

The festivities continue on Saturday, October 8, with a day filled of celebration and music. In collaboration with the Hartford chapter of the American Liszt Society and commemorating the 200th anniversary of Liszt's birth, alumni of Luiz De Moura Castro perform a Liszt two-piano concert in honor of De Moura Castro. The concert is at 2:00 PM in Millard Auditorium and admission is free. A special dinner in Luiz's honor takes place at the University's 1877 Club at 6:00 PM. Dinner tickets are \$39 and can be purchased through the Box Office. Immediately following the dinner, Luiz and friends perform a recital at 7:30 PM, in Millard Auditorium. Admission is \$20 with discounts available for seniors, students, and groups.

To conclude the weekend's festivities, in conjunction with the Hartford chapter of the American Liszt Society, former students of Hartt faculty member Luiz De Moura Castro perform a Liszt concert commemorating the 200th anniversary of Liszt's birth on Sunday, October 9, at 2:00 PM, at St. James Church, 3 Mountain Road, Farmington, CT. A suggested donation at the door of \$15 for adults, \$10 for students, and \$25 for families.

Reservations for all ticketed Hartt events are available through the University Box Office in Lincoln Theater, 860.768.4228 or 800.274.8587. Box office hours are Monday through Friday, 10 AM to 6 PM. Tickets may be purchased anytime at [www.hartford.edu/hartt](http://www.hartford.edu/hartt).

Discounts are available for seniors, students, educators, and University alumni. All University of Hartford faculty, staff, and students are entitled to one free ticket per event with valid University of Hartford ID. Group discounts are available for parties of 10 or more.



## Connecticut State Music Teachers Association, Inc.

[www.csmta.org](http://www.csmta.org)

*affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.*

### 2011 Annual State Conference

First Congregational Church, 1009 Main Street, Branford, CT 06405

#### MORNING SESSION

- 8:15-8:45 Registration, Browse Exhibits & "Coffee And..."
- 8:45-8:50 Welcoming Remarks  
Linda Franklin-Biggs, President, New Haven Chapter  
Kathleen Theisen, NCTM, President, Connecticut State Music Teachers Association
- 8:50-9:30 Dr. Robert Blocker, Dean, Yale School of Music  
Lecture and Q&A
- 9:30-11:00 Joyce Grill, NCTM, Past-President, Wisconsin State Music Teachers Association  
"From Alfred, Bastien, Clark to Albeniz, Brahms, Chopin. How Do We Get There?"
- 11:00-11:15 BREAK. Browse exhibits
- 11:15-11:30 Piano Performance featuring CSMTA Competition Winners
- 11:30-12:30 CATERED LUNCH BUFFET

#### AFTERNOON SESSION

- 12:30-12:45 CSMTA Annual Meeting  
Kathleen Theisen, NCTM, President, Connecticut State Music Teachers Association
- 12:45-2:15 Peggy Flanagan Baird, Huntsville, Alabama Music Teachers Association  
"Improving Your Recital from Beginning, to Middle, to End"  
Lecture and Performance  
Ingeborg Schimmer, Piano
- 2:15-3:30 Joyce Grill, NCTM, Past-President, Wisconsin State Music Teachers Association  
"Pedagogy This and That"
- 3:30-3:45 BREAK. Browse exhibits
- 3:45-5:15 Paul Sheftel, Juilliard School, New York, NY  
"Technology Meets Piano Pedagogy"  
Lecture and Demonstration
- 5:15 Concluding remarks and time to browse exhibits  
  
End of Conference



Connecticut State Music Teachers Association, Inc.

[www.csmta.org](http://www.csmta.org)

[connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com](mailto:connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com)

affiliated with Music Teachers National Association

**2011 Annual CSMTA State Conference**

First Congregational Church, 1009 Main Street, Branford, CT 06405  
 Saturday, October 29, 2011

**EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 14, 2011**

**ALL REGISTRATION FEES AND MEAL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE**

*Please print clearly:*

NAME		
PREFERRED NAME ON BADGE		
PHONE	EMAIL	
STREET		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
I BELONG TO THE FOLLOWING LOCAL CHAPTER(S)		
SPECIAL DIETARY NEED REQUEST		

**FULL REGISTRATION INCLUDES FULL PROGRAM AND MEALS**

	ON OR BEFORE OCT 14	AFTER OCT 14	AMOUNT
MTNA MEMBER or MEMBER of other professional music teachers association	\$50	\$55	\$
Non-member	\$55	\$60	\$
Conference Exhibitor	\$50	\$55	\$
Student (no lunch)	FREE	FREE	\$
Student (includes lunch)	\$20	\$20	\$
<b>TOTAL FEE ENCLOSED</b>			\$

**PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO *CSMTA, INC.***

*Mail form and payment to:*

Linda Franklin-Biggs, President, New Haven Chapter  
 3 Donna Lane  
 Branford, CT 06405

Telephone: (203) 481-5970 email: [lindafb@snet.net](mailto:lindafb@snet.net)

**NO REFUNDS**

For office use only: CHECK #	AMOUNT \$	DATE RECEIVED
Date acknowledgement sent:		



## **RENEW YOUR MTNA/CSMTA MEMBERSHIP!**

Did you know that the MTNA/CSMTA membership “year” runs from July 1 until June 30 of each year? Paying dues on time assures that you will continue to receive important correspondence from your national, state and local associations. If you haven’t yet paid your dues, please do it right away so that you can have your information included in our printed directory. We hope to have the directories in your hands at the state conference. (Directories will be mailed to members who don’t attend the conference.) Paying your dues today will ensure that you will be included in the published directory and that your information will remain in our online teacher directory, found at: [www.csmta.org](http://www.csmta.org). Please check the directory to see if your listing appears correctly. If you don’t have an email address listed, please consider adding it to our database so that you may receive emails from CSMTA. Additionally, if you would like any of your information deleted from the online listing, please let me know. If you teach in two cities and would like to be listed in both, send that info, as well. Send all of your changes to: [connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com](mailto:connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com)

Many thanks to the members who have already paid their dues!

---

### **Request for ‘stories’ pertaining to music teaching**

Dear MTNA Member:

I think we need a chicken-soup-for-the-soul-like book for music teachers! During my years of membership in MTNA, I have heard many wonderful personal stories that have inspired me to create a collection of stories from music teachers, especially those with private studios. Most of us have a wealth of memories of weird/touching/funny things that have been said to us as well as of unique experiences we have had during our teaching careers. You may even recall your own least professional, funny, or embarrassing moment as a teacher (I have a humdinger!). I plan to publish the best of these stories and hope that everyone reading this will be willing to share one or more special stories; anywhere from one sentence to a few pages would be fine. Here are some types of stories to consider:

- Funny things said by students, parents, family, or acquaintances
- Embarrassing, funny, or special things you did as a teacher
- Sad, touching, rewarding, funny stories from teaching
- Ironic or unbelievable event
- Stories about some stereotype others have of the independent music teacher
- Any story you think other teachers would enjoy hearing

Please send your stories to: [beth.klingenstein@vcsu.edu](mailto:beth.klingenstein@vcsu.edu) OR Beth Gigante Klingenstein, 341 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NW, Valley City, ND 58072

No real names of students, parents, or others will be used in the stories. If I may use your name, please send your name, contact information, and state along with the story. If you wish to remain anonymous, please indicate your state only. I look forward to hearing from you. I am excited to share the stories I already have; I can’t wait to hear yours!

Beth Gigante Klingenstein, NCTM

Author of *The Independent Piano Teacher's Studio Handbook* and *A Business Guide for the Music Teacher*

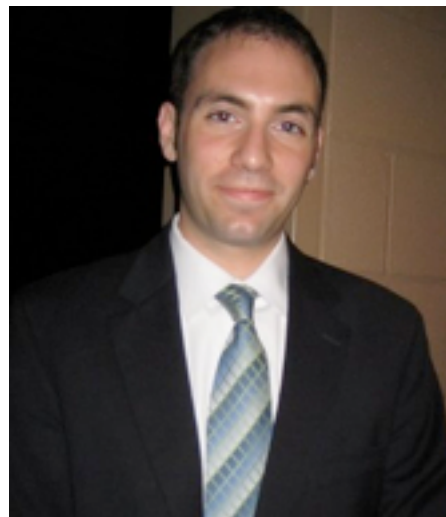
---



## **In memoriam...John R. Miller 1981-2011**

John R Miller, a resident of New Haven, Connecticut, died Thursday, September 15, 2011 in New Haven. He was 29. Son of Richard and Vee Miller of Poughkeepsie, he was born November 17, 1981 in Poughkeepsie, New York.

John earned his undergraduate degree at the Hartt School of Music. He joined the staff of the Yale School of Music immediately after earning a master's degree in trombone performance from the school in 2007. Around that time, Miller also started the middle school music program at the John C. Daniels School of International Communication and served as its band director. To help fund the band program, Miller secured a grant from the VHI Save the Music Foundation, which provides money to help schools establish music programs.



Colleagues and friends from around New Haven and Yale called Miller's death a huge loss for both communities. Miller led the Music in Schools initiative, a program that sends Yale School of Music graduate students to New Haven public schools to provide music lessons for children. Those who knew Miller well praised his ability to inspire a genuine love of music in his students. "He was so compelling and passionate about music education," said William Purvis, director of the Yale collection of musical instruments. "[For him,] the point was not training musicians, but training human beings."

Gina Wells, principal of the John C. Daniels School, said Miller was personally invested in his students' success. Miller often drove his students to auditions, she said, and would counsel them as they considered which high school was best for them. Even after his students left the John C. Daniels School, Miller kept in touch with them. "He became the heart and soul of the music program [at the John C. Daniels School] that is now widely acclaimed," Wells said.

Miller used creative tactics to engage students, said Vincent Onepo, MUS '73, a retired spokesperson for the Yale School of Music who came to campus Thursday after learning of Miller's death. Though music was his passion, Miller blended multiple disciplines in his lessons, Onepo said, and even asked his School of Music tutors to compose music based on stories that the New Haven students had written in English class, and on illustrations they had drawn in art class. The tutors and students would play the resulting score together, Onepo said.

Relationships with students and colleagues were a priority for Miller, who made a genuine effort to get to know those encountered in the course of his work. Last fall, Miller officially stepped down from his post as band director at the John C. Daniels School to focus on Yale outreach projects at other New Haven public schools, Wells said.

Ellen Maust, facilitator of music for New Haven Public Schools, said that before Miller took over the School of Music's tutoring programs, few New Haven students earned spots in selective music festivals. But



she said over 40 city students qualified for the most recent Connecticut Music Educators Association Southern Regional Middle School Concert Festival — more than ever before.

“We show that music is about expressing yourself and collaborating with so many other mediums,” Miller said during one visit to Lincoln-Bassett School in Newhallville. “When you combine them together, the experience students can have is tremendous.”

Dean of the School of Music Robert Blocker, who knew Miller both as a student and a staff member, said he is confident that Miller’s work will continue to benefit New Haven youth even after his death. “John gave us a strong foundation for our music program in the New Haven schools, and we will build on that foundation,” Blocker said. “We will build on it, first of all, because children in New Haven schools deserve music in their lives.”

John was a member of CSMTA and had recently accepted the position as CSMTA State Treasurer. He also served on the board of the Connecticut Music Educators Association (CMEA).

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in John's name may be made to John Miller Instrument Fund for New Haven Public Schools, Office of the Dean, Yale School of Music, PO Box 208246, New Haven, CT 06520-8246.

*[This article was compiled from several sources.]*

---

**Yale School of Music**  
**Memorial Concert for John Miller ‘07MM**  
**Sunday, October 30, 2011**  
**4:00 PM**

**Free & Open to the Public**

Details will be available soon on the Yale School of Music website:

[www.Yale.edu/music](http://www.Yale.edu/music)

---



## FAIRFIELD CHAPTER NEWS

**The Fairfield Chapter of the Connecticut State Music Teachers Association, Inc., will sponsor Vassily Primakov, pianist, in concert, on Saturday, November 5, 2011, at 7:00 PM at the First Congregational Church of Darien, 14 Brookside Road, Darien, Connecticut.** The program will feature Barcarolle, op. 60 by Chopin, the 24 Preludes, op. 28 by Chopin, and twelve Preludes chosen from op. 23, 32 and op. 3, no. 2 by Rachmaninoff. Tickets are available at the door for \$15 for adults (\$12 discount tickets) and \$5 (\$2 discount tickets) for students. Please visit the Fairfield Chapter website for more info: [www.fairfieldcountymusicteachers.com](http://www.fairfieldcountymusicteachers.com). EMAIL Rena Kerimova to reserve your tickets: [rkerimova@gmail.com](mailto:rkerimova@gmail.com). Discount tickets are available for students (and their families) who study with members of the Fairfield Chapter of CSMTA. For a list of chapter members, please visit the 'Find a Teacher' page on the CSMTA website: <http://csmta.org/findteacher.php?field=&chapter=Fairfield&firstName=&lastName=&zip=&button=Find+Teachers>

In recent years, **Vassily Primakov** has been hailed as a pianist of world class importance. *Gramophone* wrote that "Primakov's empathy with Chopin's spirit could hardly be more complete," and the *American Record Guide* stated: "Since Gilels, how many pianists have the right touch? In Chopin, no one currently playing sounds as good as this! This is a great Chopin pianist." *Music Web-International* called Primakov's Chopin concertos CD "one of the great Chopin recordings of recent times. These are performances of extraordinary power and beauty." In 1999, as a teen-aged prizewinner of the Cleveland International Piano Competition, Primakov was praised by Donald Rosenberg of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*: "How many pianists can make a line sing as the 19-year-old Moscow native did on this occasion? Every poignant phrase took ethereal wing. Elsewhere the music soared with all of the turbulence and poetic vibrancy it possesses. We will be hearing much from this remarkable musician."

His first piano studies were with his mother, Marina Primakova. He entered Moscow's Central Special Music School at the age of eleven as a pupil of Vera Gornostaeva, and at 17 came to New York to pursue studies at the Juilliard School with the noted pianist, Jerome Lowenthal. At Juilliard Mr. Primakov won the William Petschek Piano Recital Award, which presented his debut recital at Alice Tully Hall, and while at Juilliard, aided by a Susan W. Rose Career Grant, he won both the Silver Medal and the Audience Prize in the 2002 Gina Bachauer International Artists Piano Competition. Later that year Primakov won First Prize in the 2002 Young Concert Artists (YCA) International Auditions. In 2007 he was named the Classical Recording Foundation's "Young Artist of the Year." In 2009, Primakov's Chopin Mazurkas recording was named "Best of the Year" by National Public Radio and that same year he began recording the 27 Mozart piano concertos in Denmark. BBC Music Magazine (November, 2010) praised the first volume of Primakov's Mozart concertos: "The piano playing is of exceptional quality: refined, multi-coloured, elegant of phrase and immaculately balanced, both in itself and in relation to the effortlessly stylish orchestra. The rhythm is both shapely and dynamic, the articulation a model of subtlety. By almost every objective criterion, Vassily Primakov is a Mozartian to the manner born, fit to stand as a role model to a new generation.

### Discography on Bridge Records:

Mozart. Piano Concertos 24-27 (2 CD set)  
Beethoven. Sonatas op. 57 "Appassionata"; op. 14-1 and op. 111  
Schubert. Impromptus and Dances  
Schumann. Carnaval; Kreisleriana; Arabeske  
Chopin. Piano Concertos 1 & 2  
Chopin. 21 Mazurkas  
Dvorak. Piano Concerto op. 33; Poetic Tone Pictures op. 85  
Tchaikovsky. The Seasons op. 37-bis and Grand Sonata op. 37  
Live in Concert: Schubert, Brahms, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff  
DVD: Vassily Primakov plays Chopin, Brahms and Scriabin





## **Proposed amendment to the CSMTA Constitution**

**This will be voted upon at the CSMTA Annual Meeting (held at the State Conference)  
Saturday, October 29, 2011, after lunch**

**(This was emailed to members of record on Thursday, September 29, 2011)**

Dear CSMTA Members,

The CSMTA Executive Board would like to propose an amendment to the CSMTA CONSTITUTION regarding when the Executive Board shall meet. This will be voted upon by the members at the ANNUAL MEETING at the State Conference on Saturday, October 29, 2011. I have included the original language and the proposed change. The Board's reasoning for suggesting the change is that calling a meeting within 30 days following the conference places the meeting in the middle of several holidays, juries at the universities, holiday recitals for private studios, major church responsibilities, etc. It's a difficult time to meet. The Board prefers to meet in January when we can have more members present at the meetings, whether they are in person or on Skype. Please contact any board member if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns.

### **ARTICLE VIII Meetings**

#### **NOW READS:**

Section 4. There shall be a minimum of three (3) CSMTA Executive Board meetings per year, one of which shall be within thirty (30) days following the Annual Meeting. Regularly scheduled or special meetings of the Board may be called by the President.

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** (omit the necessity for a meeting within thirty days following the Annual Meeting)

Section 4. There shall be a minimum of three (3) CSMTA Executive Board meetings per year. Regularly scheduled or special meetings of the Board may be called by the President.

---

## **CSMTA Member News**

### **BENITA ROSE to perform Liszt *Totentanz***

Benita Rose, Pianist

Liszt: *Totentanz*

Willimantic Orchestra

Sunday, October 30, 2011

3:00 PM

Eastern Connecticut State University Shafer Hall

High Street, Windham Street

Willimantic, Connecticut

*no tickets required; donations accepted at the door*

---



## Looking ahead...

### **CSMTA Board voted to create new event for 2013....**

The CSMTA Executive Board voted at the Sept. 19, 2011 meeting to start a new competition for all instruments and voice. The projected date of the competition will be February or March of 2013. The reasoning for the board's decision is that we would like to create more opportunities for all young musicians in Connecticut! This is also in light of the recent MTNA national board decision to cut the competitions for brass, woodwind, voice and strings, starting with the 2013-14 competition year. The national board had previously eliminated the percussion and organ competitions. Starting a new statewide competition for all instruments will reach more young musicians throughout Connecticut and embrace the teaching of all music! Our plan is to call this the "CSMTA YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION." It will be open to young musicians, age 18-26, who study with a member of CSMTA. The Board is asking for a few members to step forward to serve on a committee to generate the structure of this competition and determine a budget and potential funding sources/advertisers/partners. If you teach young musicians in this age group and if you are willing to donate a bit of your time to get this new competition off the ground, please contact Kathleen Theisen.

### **and...the board is asking, "What if we did this!?"**

The CSMTA Board is also discussing the possibility of reinstating the (noncompetitive) Contemporary Showcase or creating an "online" performance competition for students of all ages. For the online event, students would first post recordings/videos online for the preliminary round. Those performances would be judged and finalists or winners would be chosen from that round. Finals and concerts would be performed *live*. These events are still in the 'what if' stages. We would love to get your comments! Please email your thoughts to: [connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com](mailto:connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com) or speak with any board member.

### **MTNA National Conference... March 2012 in NY City**

The MTNA national conference will be held in NY City in the spring of 2012. I hope that you will be able to attend all or part of this fantastic conference, especially since it's in our 'backyard!' See our calendar for dates or check the MTNA website for complete info: [www.mtna.net](http://www.mtna.net). In 2013, the conference will be held at Disney in Anaheim, California, so it looks like 2012 is our chance to attend a 'local' national conference!

---

## **DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN FIND EVERYTHING ONLINE?**

[WWW.CSMTA.ORG](http://WWW.CSMTA.ORG)



You can find all of this on the CSMTA website...

minutes of board meetings, bylaws, list of officers for state and chapters with links to email, searchable teacher database which lists email & phone for all members as well as subjects taught (search by chapter is now available!), conference bulletins, photos, videos, downloadable income and expense forms for committee chairs and officers, lists of competition winners, lists of state and national student activities and links to all of the chapter websites. Would you like something else to appear on the website? Let us know!



## 2011-2012 CSMTA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, September 13, 2011	Deadline for MTNA Competitions
Thursday, September 15, 2011	Deadline for CSMTA Fall Newsletter
Monday, September 19, 2011. 12:00-1:20 PM	CSMTA State Board Meeting; Online, via Skype
Friday, October 7, 2011	Postmark Deadline for the Nov. 12 MAP Auditions
Sunday, October 16, 2011. 8:00-9:30PM	MTNA Eastern Division meeting, via conference call
Saturday, October 29, 2011. 8:00AM-5:15PM	CSMTA Annual State Conference and Annual Meeting First Congregational Church, Branford; Sponsored by New Haven Chapter
Sunday, October 30, 2011. 4:00 PM	Memorial Concert for John Miller Yale School of Music, Morse Recital Hall
Saturday, November 5, 2011. 1:00 PM	State level of the MTNA Performance Competitions Hartt School of Music, Hartford
Saturday, November 12, 2011	MAP Auditions, St. James Lutheran, Southbury (Western Chapter)
Tuesday, November 15, 2011	Deadline for CSMTA Winter Newsletter
Monday, January 23, 2012. 12:00-1:00PM	CSMTA State Board Meeting; Online, via Skype
Monday, January 30, 2012	Postmark Deadline for the March 17 MAP Auditions
Monday, February 13, 2012	Postmark Deadline for the March 31 MAP Auditions
Thursday, March 1, 2012	Deadline for CSMTA Spring Newsletter
Saturday, March 17, 2012	MAP Auditions (Hartford Chapter)
March 24-28, 2012	MTNA National Conference, New York City
Monday, March 26, 2012	Postmark Deadline for the May 12 MAP Auditions
Saturday, March 31, 2012	MAP Auditions (Middlesex/New London Chapter)
Saturday, May 12, 2012	MAP Auditions, Branford (New Haven Chapter)
Monday, May 21, 2012. 12:00-1:00PM	CSMTA State Board Meeting; Online, via Skype
Saturday, June 16, 2012. Afternoon	CSMTA Concerto Competition for students in Grades 9-12 Hartt School of Music
August 15, 2012	Deadline for September Newsletter
September 11, 2012	Deadline for the MTNA National Performance Competitions
SAVE THE DATE: March 9-13, 2013	MTNA National Conference, Anaheim, CA (Disneyland Hotel)
SAVE THE DATE: March 22-26, 2014	MTNA National Conference, Chicago, IL



# CSMTA Leadership

WEBSITE: [www.csmta.org](http://www.csmta.org)

EMAIL: [connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com](mailto:connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com)

## Officers

President	Kathleen Theisen, NCTM
President-Elect	David Westfall
Vice-President	Tienni Chen
Recording Secretary	Roxane Lee, NCTM
Treasurer	OPEN/Kathleen Theisen, Acting Treasurer
Immediate Past President	Steven Oyler

## Executive Board Members

Archivist	Edith Sullivan, NCTM
Certification	Sharon Girard, NCTM
College Faculty	Bridget de Moura Castro
Commissions	Sima Brodsky
Community Outreach	Lean-Cheng Tan

## MTNA Competition Coordinators

Competition Chair	Margreet Francis
Chamber Music	David Westfall
Composition	Carolyn Halsted
Junior	David Westfall
Senior and Young Artist	Margreet Francis

## State Coordinators

Contemporary Showcase	Committee, TBA
Foundation	Diane Ransom
Local Chapters	OPEN
Membership	Steven Oyler
Newsletter	Kathleen Theisen, NCTM
Paranov Award	Neal Larrabee
Theory (MAP)	Linda MacGougan
Website Administrator	Kathleen Theisen, NCTM
CSMTA Concerto Competition (Grades 9-12)	Sima Brodsky
Young Artist Piano Competition	Bridget de Moura Castro
Young Artist Competition (Ages 18-26, Starting Feb. 2013)	Committee, TBA



## News?

Do you have news to share with CSMTA members? Please submit newsletter items to:

[connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com](mailto:connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com)

Please indicate NEWSLETTER in the subject line.

The next deadline is November 15, 2011

Connecticut State Music Teachers Association, Inc

Kathleen Theisen, NCTM, President

PO Box 1163

Greenwich CT 06836

WEBSITE: [www.csmta.org](http://www.csmta.org)

EMAIL: [connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com](mailto:connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com)

*CSMTA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization*