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# NEWSLETTER

*A note from the CSMTA President...*

Greetings! As we all approach the holidays, I thought it was a good time to send out a short newsletter to let you know about the 2011 events planned within CSMTA.



As you have read in the two previous newsletters, MTNA has partnered with several other music organizations to promote collaborative music throughout the worldwide music community in the upcoming year. January 22, 2011 will be a world-wide day of collaborative music. CSMTA is planning an all-day event on January 22 at the Danbury Fair Mall. A few other venues may happen throughout Connecticut later in the Spring of 2011, so if you cannot participate in the January 22 event in Danbury, keep preparing your collaborative music for a later event! A registration form is available in the newsletter and on the CSMTA website. Your form must be *received* by January 4, 2011. No late forms can be accepted.

The CSMTA Concerto Competition has been reinstated for 2011. Sima Brodsky has graciously agreed to chair this event! The competition will be open to all instruments and voice. The winner will appear with the Farmington Valley Symphony.

We welcome Tienni Chen to the position of Vice-President and David Westfall to the position of President-Elect to serve out the remainder of the 2009-2011 term. Many thanks to both of them for their service. We are still in need of a member to take over the Newsletter (immediately) and the Teacher Directory (for 2011). If you love to write and edit, please consider giving of your time.

If you have ideas for CSMTA events or would like to contribute your time and talent within CSMTA, please contact a board member with your ideas or contact CSMTA via email: [connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com](mailto:connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com)

A heartfelt thank you and congratulations to the Hartford Chapter for an excellent state conference. So many positive comments were overheard throughout the day! Everyone left with something that will impact their teaching or performing.

Regards,  
Kathleen Theisen NCTM, CSMTA President

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## **MTNA Competition Results**

The state level competitions were held on November 21 in Hartford. Winners and state representatives will advance to the MTNA Division Competitions in January. Teachers names are listed in parentheses. Many thanks to David Westfall, Margreet Francis and Carolyn Halsted, who chair the MTNA competitions within the Connecticut State Music Teachers Association.

### **MTNA Junior Piano Performance Competition**

Representative: Annling Wang (Svitlana Fiorito)

### **MTNA Junior String Performance Competition**

Representative: Emily Nishiwaki (Janice Lamarre)

### **MTNA Senior Composition Competition**

Winner: Felix Jarrar (Burton Hatheway)

Honorable Mention: Gregory Schaefer (Paul Levi)

### **MTNA Senior Piano Competition**

Winner: Alex Beyer (Yoshie Akimoto)

Alternate: Angela Chen (Fabio Witkowski)

Honorable Mention: Esther Woo (Gisele Witkowski)

### **MTNA Senior String Performance Competition**

Winner: Lillian Lee (Annie Trepanier)

Alternate: Gunnar Moll (Teri Einfeldt)

### **MTNA Young Artist Piano Performance Competition**

Representative: Stefan Gurtner (David Westfall/ Luiz de Moura Castro)

### **MTNA Young Artist Woodwind Performance Competition**

Winner: Carin Powell, Flute (Barbara Hopkins)

Alternate: Sophie Roy, Flute (Barbara Hopkins)

### **MTNA Chamber Music Competition**

Winner: Arioso Trio (Carrie Koffman)

*Anthony Speranza / Saxophone; Kendra Emery / Saxophone; Cihan Yucel / Piano*

Alternate: Ineo Saxophone Quartet (Carrie Koffman)

*Mallory Kokus / tenor saxophone; Kindall NeSmith / alto saxophone; Joseph Abad / soprano saxophone;  
Andrew Studenski / baritone saxophone*



**CONNECTICUT STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**Affiliated with Music Teachers' National Association**

**2010 Annual CSMTA Business Meeting**

**October 30, 2010**

**South Church**

**New Britain CT**

**Kathleen Theisen, CSMTA President, called the meeting to order. The minutes from the 2009 CSMTA business meeting were read by Roxane Lee, CSMTA Recording Secretary. Diane Cooke made a motion to approve the minutes. Jane Bugbee seconded the motion.**

**The treasurer's report was presented to the membership. Kathleen Theisen noted that the conference expenses and income were not part of this report. The treasurer's report was accepted by unanimous vote.**

**Kathleen Theisen reported the following:**

- Board meetings are held online in Skype and the minutes of the meetings are available on the CSMTA website.
- The CSMTA has 501(c)(3) status has been attained and the relevant forms have been filed annually.
- Tracy Ellwanger attained the MTNA's NCTM certification in 2010.
- An online teacher discussion group open to teachers in several states will be established by Kathleen.
- The MAP dates have been posted on the CSMTA website and have been sent by postcard to all members.
- The CSMTA teacher directory will be sent in one week to members.
- The CSMTA Board has decided that members who wish to receive printed copies of the newsletter must send a check for \$5 per year to the CSMTA.
- The MTNA division and national meeting dates were announced.
- Tienni Chen is the new Vice-President of the CSMTA
- The concerto competition has been cancelled due to the lack of the chair. If someone is willing to chair the event, it will be re-instated. The Contemporary Showcase will replace the Concerto Competition in 2010.
- The MTNA's International Day of Collaborative Music is January 22, 2011. This event is open to all teachers. Several venues are planned throughout the state in Danbury, Hartford and Middlesex/New London. The Danbury Fair Mall has been secured for this event. Information will be available online and in the newsletter.
- The Hartford chapter has attained 501(c)(3) status. Two other chapters have begun the process of filing for their non-profit status.

**Sharon Girard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by MaryAnn Ganz. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 P. M.**

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**UPDATE SINCE THE MEETING:** The Concerto Competition will be reinstated in the Spring of 2011.

**UPDATE SINCE THE MEETING:** The Membership Directory will be arriving in your mailbox shortly!



## Chapter News

### NEW HAVEN CHAPTER

The New Haven Chapter held its first meeting of the new season on August 25. Plans were put into place for the upcoming year - including programs, dates and venues. Twenty-two ensembles performed to a packed house at the annual Ensemble Festival on November 12 at the Whitney Center. It was well-received by the "standing room only" crowd! Kudos to those who worked on this year's annual convention in New Britain. New Haven is looking forward to hosting the state conference next year. Our next event is the "Competition by Recorded Audition." Winners of this competition will perform in concert after the new year.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Franklin-Biggs, President of the New Haven Chapter

### WESTERN CHAPTER

The Western Chapter of the CSMTA elected a new board at its September meeting. The officers and chairpersons include: Co-Presidents: Roxane Lee, NCTM and Beate Neblett; Vice President: Felicia Zhang; Secretary: Diane Cooke; Treasurer: Cassia Verzello; Membership Chair: Max Vladimiroff; Webmaster: Jennifer Wojcik; MAP and Competition Chair: Felicia Zhang; Recital Coordinator: Max Vladimiroff. The board wishes to thank Pat Kendziorski for her many years of service as the treasurer for this chapter. The following events are planned for 2010-2011:

**Nov. 14, 2010:** WCMTA Student Recital

**Dec. 5, 2010:** Two Great Romantics: Schumann and Chopin: A Bicentennial Celebration and Recital by Students of WCMTA Members Both recitals will be held at Valley Presbyterian Church, 21 W. Whisconier Rd., Brookfield. Chair: Max Vladimiroff.

**January 29, 2011:** MAP, St. James Lutheran Church, 111 Peter Rd., Southbury. Chair: Felicia Zhang **March 12, 2011: Select Student Auditions**

**March 19, 2011: Select Student Audition Recital**

**Ensemble Festival:** Date and Time: TBD. Chair: Diane Cooke

### MIDDLESEX/NEW LONDON CHAPTER

The Middlesex/New London Chapter is proud to announce the first annual New London Piano Festival on March 12 on the campus of Connecticut College in New London. For more details see <http://msnlmta.com/new-london-piano-festival/>

Also we are announcing the Karen Nelson Scholarship The audition will be May 7. Again, see our exciting website for more details. <http://msnlmta.com/>

General chapter notes: At our November meeting, jazz artist Kit Johnson gave a superb presentation on teaching improvisation. Our chapter had about thirty students participate in our annual Halloween Recital, and we are looking forward to our annual "Joy to the World" recital on December 11.

### FAIRFIELD CHAPTER

The Fairfield Chapter is hosting student recitals on December 4th, April 10 and May 14. We will also be hosting our Annual Winter Competition on Saturday, January 29, 2011.



## CSMTA Member News

In August 2010, **Roxane Lee, NCTM**, Recording Secretary of the CSMTA and Co-President of the Western Chapter, was offered a position as adjunct professor in the music department at Valley City State University.

**Roxane Lee's** student, **Charlie Cao**, was awarded the Early Bach Plaque from the National Guild of Piano Teachers Guild Auditions in May 2010 by performing at 15 piece memorized Bach program and achieving a superior rating.

**Liz Stillman**, student of **Kathleen Theisen, NCTM**, was a featured singer/dancer on the Office Max/Stage Door Manor Float in the 2010 Macy's Thanksgiving Parade in NY City.

The National Guild of Piano Teachers renewed **Felicia Feng Zhang's** American College of Musician Certification, the highest honor any Guild teacher can attain. She first received the award in 2007-2008 for her professionalism in teaching and for sending more than 25 students who won the special Bach, Sonatina and Sonata Plaque international programs. Felicia was also awarded the Certificate of Excellence in teaching and achievement from the American Protégé Association and American Development of Talents and Gifts Association.

**Clara Tu**, age 6, passed Level 8 of the National Music Certificate with honor in piano performance. **Angus Li**, age 11, passed Level 7 with high honors. Both students study with **Felicia Feng Zhang**.

Three students from **Felicia Feng Zhang's** Studio won the Special Plaque Medal from National Guild of Piano Teachers in 2010. **Julia Yu**, New Milford, age 11 and **Minna Holleck**, Southbury, age 10, both won Sonatina Special Plaque Medal with Superior Plus grade. **Clara Tu**, age 7, won the Early Bach Medal with Superior Plus grade. In May, all three students performed 15 movements or pieces by memory for an adjudicator. Their names and pictures were published in National Piano Notes Magazine.

**Edith Sullivan's** student, **Connie Zhou**, a junior at Staples High School in Westport, attended the Piano Academy at Indiana University, Bloomington directed by Karen Taylor this past summer, where she was selected to perform in the master class with renowned pianist Andre Watts and in the final Honors Recital of the camp session. Connie Zhou also was the pianist in the chamber music ensemble of the Leon TEC Showcase Concert for Outstanding Young Musicians presented on October 22 at the Unitarian Church in Westport in the Beethoven Trio in B-flat major, Op. 11 and the Mozart Piano Quartet in G minor with Sam Weiser, violinist, Jedrik Chao, violist, and Jefferson Zhang, cellist. Twelve-year-old **Alicia Wang** of Brookfield has been selected a finalist in the annual concerto competition sponsored by the Danbury Symphony Orchestra and will perform in the finals on November 6 at the Danbury Music Centre.



*The performers of the TEC Showcase Concert are (from left):*

*Jedrik Chao, violist, Sam Weiser, violinist, Connie Zhou, pianist, Dr. Leon Tec, and Jefferson Zhang, cellist*

**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 directory, please send an email to:  
[connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com](mailto:connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com)



## **West Point Band: Young Artist Solo Competition**

The West Point Band is pleased to announce its 18th annual Young Artist Solo Competition. Finals will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2011 (snow date: January 22) in Egner Hall on the campus of the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY. Competition winners will be featured soloists with the West Point Band on our annual Young Artist Concert scheduled for Saturday, April 16, 2011 at 3:00 p.m., in West Point's Eisenhower Hall Ballroom.

Candidates should choose their repertoire from our list of currently available solo works with band accompaniment. We strongly encourage the use of an accompanist for the audition.

This is an extraordinary opportunity for talented 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade musicians and we look forward to applications from your students. We have been fortunate in past years to hear a number of gifted students and expect this year's response to be equally competitive. Please limit entries to those **woodwind, brass, percussion, and piano students in grades 10-12.**

Point of contact for the band is Sergeant First Class Diana Cassar-Uhl, (845) 938-2445, or by e-mail at [Diana.Cassar-Uhl@usma.edu](mailto:Diana.Cassar-Uhl@usma.edu). Please ensure your students deliver applications for screening before the December 28, 2010 deadline. Students will be notified by email of their application status in early January, 2011. Please feel free to call or email Sergeant First Class Cassar-Uhl with any concerns or questions.

The application form and repertoire list are available by contacting Sergeant First Class Cassar-Uhl.

Sincerely,

Sergeant First Class Diana Cassar-Uhl  
Education Outreach Noncommissioned Officer-In-Charge

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### **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 February 1, 2011

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## 2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, December 13, 2010	Registration Deadline for Western Chapter MAP
Tuesday, January 4, 2011	Registration Deadline for International Day of Collaborative Music
Friday, Jan. 7 and Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011	MTNA Division Competitions, Rowan University, Glassboro NJ
Saturday, January 22, 2011	MTNA <i>International Day of Collaborative Music</i> Danbury Fair Mall, Danbury
Saturday, January 29, 2011	Western Chapter MAP, St. James Lutheran Church, Southbury
Monday, February 14, 2011	Registration Deadline for Middlesex/New London Chapter MAP
Monday, February 21, 2011	Registration Deadline for Hartford Chapter MAP
Monday, March 14, 2011	Registration Deadline for New Haven Chapter MAP
March 26-30, 2011	MTNA National Conference and Competition National Finals, Milwaukee, WI
Saturday, April 2, 2011	Middlesex/New London MAP, First Congregational Church, Madison
Saturday, April 9, 2011	Hartford Chapter MAP, Asylum Hill Congregational Church
Saturday, April 30, 2011	New Haven Chapter MAP, First Congregational Church, Branford
SPRING: Deadline TBA	Deadline for CSMTA Concerto Competition
Tuesday, September 13, 2011	Deadline for MTNA Competitions
SAVE THE DATE: March 2012	MTNA National Conference, New York City



# 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	Felicia Feng Zhang
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
Concerto Competition	Sima Brodsky
Young Artist Piano Competition	Bridget de Moura Castro, Estrid Eklof

## State Coordinators

Contemporary Showcase	Tienni Chen, John Metz, Kathleen Theisen
Foundation	Diane Ransom
International Day of Collaborative Music	Kathleen Theisen, Keri Salustri, John Metz
Local Chapters	Carolyn Halsted
Membership	Steven Oyler
Newsletter	Kathleen Theisen, NCTM
Paranov Award	Neal Larrabee
Theory (MAP)	Linda MacGougan
Website Administrator	Kathleen Theisen, NCTM



CSMTA International Day of Collaborative Music  
Registration Deadline: January 4, 2011  
[www.csmta.org](http://www.csmta.org)

**Connecticut State Music Teachers Association, Inc.**  
[www.csmta.org](http://www.csmta.org)  
**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COLLABORATIVE MUSIC**  
**January 22, 2011 at the Danbury Fair Mall**

**REGISTRATION FORM – PAGE ONE**

Teacher/Performer/CSMTA Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of participating ensembles: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please enclose a separate copy of page 2 for EACH group)

Total amount of TIME for ALL of your participating ensembles \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional) Donation enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

*PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CSMTA, Inc.  
CSMTA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.  
Donations may be deductible for tax purposes. Please consult your tax professional for further information.  
We kindly ask that you send \$1 or more per student to offset the costs associated with this event. Any  
funds collected in excess of expenses for this event will be used for student scholarships.*

**DEADLINE:**  
Registration must be RECEIVED no later than: Jan. 4, 2011

Please mail both pages of the registration form  
(fill out a copy of page 2 for EACH ensemble)

to:  
Kathleen Theisen NCTM  
Connecticut State Music Teachers Association  
PO Box 1163  
Greenwich CT 06810

For more information, send an EMAIL:  
[connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com](mailto:connecticutmusicteachers@gmail.com)



CSMTA International Day of Collaborative Music  
Registration Deadline: January 4, 2011  
[www.csmta.org](http://www.csmta.org)

**Connecticut State Music Teachers Association, Inc. [www.csmta.org](http://www.csmta.org)**  
**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COLLABORATIVE MUSIC: January 22, 2011 at the Danbury Fair Mall**  
**REGISTRATION FORM – PAGE TWO**

**Ensemble name (if applicable)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of ensemble:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(jazz combo, string quartet, piano 4-hands, etc)

**Names of performers (and instrument/voice):**  
(Please list additional names of ensemble members on the back of this sheet)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Set-up needs (1 piano, 2 pianos, microphones, amplifier, etc):**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Please note: Music stands and at least two pianos or keyboards will be provided. The Mall will also be setting up the stage, microphones, sound system, and more. Other equipment that is needed (such as guitar amplifiers) must be provided by the performers.*

**Preferred performance time** (list 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> choices) for THIS ensemble:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 930-1130am
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1130am-130pm
- \_\_\_\_\_ 130-330pm
- \_\_\_\_\_ 330-530pm
- \_\_\_\_\_ 530-730pm
- \_\_\_\_\_ 730-930pm

1<sup>st</sup> Selection TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

Composer: \_\_\_\_\_ Performance time: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Selection TITLE (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Composer: \_\_\_\_\_ Performance time: \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Selection TITLE (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Composer: \_\_\_\_\_ Performance time: \_\_\_\_\_

4<sup>th</sup> Selection TITLE (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Composer: \_\_\_\_\_ Performance time: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list additional selections on the back.

**Please use one copy of page two for EACH ENSEMBLE**



## **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!



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Connecticut State Music Teachers Association, Inc  
Kathleen Theisen, NCTM, President  
PO Box 1163  
Greenwich CT 06836  
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