



RMTA Spring Newsletter 2014

Letter from the President

Dear RMTA members and friends,

As the beautiful flowers and sunshine begin to come out, I can feel a hope that spring is here to stay! I hope that you have had a terrific season with your students!

Over the last few winter months, RMTA has held several great events for our teachers and students. These included our January Potluck Breakfast meeting at Fay Barss' house, our RMTA Playathon at Regency Mall, the VMTA Theory Skills and Sightreading tests, and our Bach Competition. Thanks to all the committee chairmen, teachers, and students who have made these events possible!

The MTNA 2014 National Conference was held in Chicago, Illinois from March 22-26th. It was an amazing event with fantastic speakers, exhibits, and performers. And, at a special business meeting that week, RMTA received the 2014 MTNA Local Association of the Year Award!! I am so proud of each of you and your dedication to this association!

Some exciting events are still coming up for RMTA. Be sure to attend our April 26th lecture and masterclass with Jerry Lee at the home of Fay Barss. You can find all the detailed information in our yearbook and on our website at <http://www.richmondmta.org>. We look forward to a great workshop! Also, our annual RMTA luncheon will be on Saturday, May 3rd at Tarrant's Café. Come join this great time together!

The 2014 VMTA Annual Conference will be held from July 17-20th at Wintergreen Resort. I hope that many of you can attend this year as it will be a wonderful conference. Be sure to mark your calendars now and sign up.

Our RMTA website is updated monthly and includes a highlight of the months events on the homepage bulletin. Also, if any of you have pictures you would like on the website, please send to me for review and posting.

Congratulations RMTA on a very successful year!!

Many blessings,
Jennifer Scott, RMTA President



LOCAL ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

On Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at the MTNA's Annual Business Meeting of the Association in Chicago, RMTA received the 2014 MTNA Local Association of the Year award. RMTA received a beautifully engraved gavel set and a \$1,000 grant towards our association. Jennifer Scott, RMTA President, accepted the award on RMTA's behalf.

Kenneth Christensen, NCTM, MTNA President and Gary Ingle, MTNA Executive Director and CEO presented the award and highlighted the significant accomplishments and important work of the Richmond MTA for Virginia MTA, MTNA, and the music teaching profession. They felt that our local association and its membership exemplified the very best in MTNA through local activities, participation in state and national programs, and membership growth.

Congratulations to each and every one of our RMTA members! We are very proud of all of your hard work and dedication to the association.

Playathon Report

On February 1st, we had our second Playathon at Regency Square Mall. Rhapsody Piano was so kind to provide the beautiful piano. There were 8 participating teachers and 52 participating students. By the end of the Playathon, we raised \$2,000 for the RMTA collegiate scholarship! Submitted by Phillip Patrick

Two Upcoming Events

Please join us on April 26th for the Jerry Lee lecture and masterclass. Lee will give a lecture titled "Sonata: A Fabulous Journey for the Pianist's Brain, Ears, and Heart." We will then have a potluck lunch followed by the performance and teaching of four students. The workshop will be held at the home of Fay Barss from 10:00 – 3:00. Hope to see you there.

This year, our annual luncheon will be at Tarrant's Café on Saturday, May 3, at 11:45 a.m. This is a great way to end the year and enjoy lunch with your colleagues. Visit their website at www.tarrantscaferva.com to view their menu. Phillip Patrick

Central District Auditions

The Central District Auditions will be held on May 17, 2014 in Perkinson Recital Hall at University of Richmond. The deadline for submitting applications is April 19th.
Kim Cho, Chairman

Summer Music Camp Scholarship

A REMINDER TO ALL TEACHERS: If you have a student applying for the 2014 Summer Music Camp Scholarship, please note that the application deadline is May 15th. Please check pages 33 and 59 of the RMTA Yearbook for information.
Judith Ross, Chair

Membership Updates

Welcome to new member, David Kim, 10300 Broad St., Glen Allen, VA 23060
804-358-1929, mec@richmondpiano.com, piano, voice, guitar

Congratulations to Ruta Smedina Starke on becoming a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music!

Ming Lu has a new email address: minglu2008@yahoo.com

The dues notice has arrived from MTNA. Please renew promptly so that your membership will continue and your name will appear in the new RMTA and VMTA Yearbooks in the fall.

Thank you!
Itzel Hamill

RMTA 2014 Bach Competition Report

University of Richmond, Perkinson Hall

March 9 and 10, 2014

WINNERS

Primer Level

First Place: Ada Woo (Teacher: Tatum)
Second Place: Carson Wang (Teacher: Starke)
Third Place: Anna Newell (Teacher: Starke)
Honorable Mention: Harry Yu (Teacher: Lu)

Level I

First Place: Allyson Wang (Teacher: Starke)
Second Place: Aaron Yuan (Teacher: Vornovitsky)
Third Place: James Shen (Teacher: Hanson)
Honorable Mention: Nicholas Xie (Teacher: Cho)

Level II

First Place: Lora You (Teacher: Cho)
Second Place: Edson DeGuzman (Teacher: Hanson)
Third Place: Romy Chu (Teacher: Hanson)
Honorable Mention: Olivia Liang (Teacher: Lamb)

Level III

First Place – Minna Kim (Teacher: Cho)
Second Place – Elizabeth Bell (Teacher: Starke)
Third Place – Elena Zhou (Teacher: Lamb)

There were 32 students participating, and the judges were Nancy Breth, Ann Bosch, and Fay Barss.
Report Submitted by Michael Ireland and Kimberly Ryan

2014 VMTA Theory Tests Report

The VMTA Theory Tests for RMTA were held on Sunday afternoon, February 9, 2014 at VCU. Nineteen teachers entered 146 students in Level Primer through Level 8. The grades are as follows:

Superior: 42; Excellent: 42; Very Good: 27; Good: 15; Pass: 8; Not Passing: 2

Congratulations to the students for their diligent work in preparing for these important tests. More students took the tests this year and the overall grades were higher than last year. New tests were created this year with an effort to make the format more straightforward and reduce the amount of time required to take the tests. The higher level tests were administered first to allow those who needed extra time to take it without lengthening the overall testing time. A big thank you to the participating teachers who prepared the students and monitored and graded the tests. Submitted by Hope Armstrong Erb, Co-chair with Wesley Pollard

RMTA Student Recital

The last student recital for 2013-2014 will be held on Sunday, April 27th at 3:00 in the chapel at St. Catherine's School. Please attend and hear our talented students.
Betty Ann Spiers

VMTA Sight Reading and Keyboard Skills Tests Report

Twelve teachers entered students in the Sight Reading and Keyboard Skills Tests. The following are the results:

Piano Sight Reading:

11 Superior; 15 Excellent; 11 Very Good; 5 Good; 3 Pass; 1 Absent

Voice Sight Reading:

1 Good

Keyboard Skills

1 Superior; 3 Excellent; 1 Very Good

We all owe a big thank you to our judges, who gave up their Sunday afternoon to give our students the opportunity to participate. I am so grateful to Marina Andueza, Ellis Dunton, Gabriella Ryan, Ruta Starke and Jennifer Scott. Also my thanks to Anne James and Sharon Stewart who stood on reserve just in case I needed them.

Respectfully submitted, Fay Barss

RMTA Achievement Award

The RMTA Achievement Award is an award that is presented to a student and their teacher who have participated in the most RMTA activities during the year. The purpose of the student award is to recognize and encourage students to participate in musical activities within our organization. The RMTA executive committee feels that it is important to reward students for their continued dedication to music education. The RMTA executive committee also wants to recognize the RMTA teacher who supported and motivated their student.

The student achievement award will be an engraved trophy. The teacher achievement award will be a nicely framed certificate.

For each RMTA teacher that has students who participate in many RMTA activities during the year, please submit a Documentation Form (and attached forms) for each student that you feel is eligible for the award by May 20, 2014. All detailed information can be found on our RMTA website under MEMBER LOGIN/Application Forms. This will be submitted to Jennifer Scott.

The postmark deadline for the RMTA summer newsletter is June 30th. Please send information to editor Ellis Dunton, aedunton@comcast.net.

RMTA Website: <http://www.richmondmta.org>

RMTA Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/richmondmta>