



RMTA Spring Newsletter 2015

Letter from the President

Dear RMTA members and friends,

I hope that each of you is enjoying the start of our beautiful spring season! The snow and ice have finally stopped, and the flowers are coming out!

Over these winter months, RMTA has held several wonderful events for our teachers and students. These included our RMTA Members Recital at the Richmond Public Library, our Certification workshop with Gabriella Ryan, the Music Extravaganza at Regency, and finally the VMTA Theory, Skills and Sightreading tests. Thanks to all the chairmen, teachers, and students who have made these events so special.

As many of you know, our VCU Theory, Skills and Sight Reading tests were postponed due to inclement weather. Thankfully, our teachers were able to hold their own individual student tests in their studios per the honor system. And, with the help of Fay Barss and Wesley Pollard, testing spaces were provided for sightreading and theory exams for those students who will be participating in Central District Auditions. Thank you Fay and Wesley for your generosity, time, and assistance to help with these exams!

There are still some exciting things coming up for RMTA! We look forward to our April 25th workshop with Yin Zheng on Chopin's Keyboard Dances at the home of Fay Barss and our annual luncheon on May 2nd at Baker's Crust. Keep an eye out on more details within this newsletter. We hope to see you all there!

The 2015 VMTA Annual Conference will be held from July 16-19th at Wintergreen Resort. I hope that many of you can attend this year as it will be a wonderful conference. Please mark your calendars now and sign up.

The RMTA website is updated monthly and includes a highlight of events for each month 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 successful year!! Thank you for all of your support!

Jennifer Scott, RMTA President

Website and Facebook

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

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

Upcoming Events

Phillip Patrick, Vice President, Programs

Workshop and Master Class

On Saturday, April 25th, Dr. Yin Zheng will present a workshop and masterclass at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Fay Barss, 2022 Milbank Road. The lecture will focus on Chopin's keyboard dances and will explore the origin, choreography, and customs of the Waltz, Polonaise, and Mazurka. The lecture will take approximately 45 minutes. At 11:00 a.m., Dr. Zheng will conduct a master class with three piano students who are studying a Chopin keyboard dance. Lunch will be prepared and served by Fay Barss following the masterclass. Please make plans to attend!

Annual Luncheon

Please join us on Saturday, May 2nd, at 11:45 a.m. for our annual luncheon. We will be meeting at Baker's Crust at Short Pump Mall.

Music Extravaganza Report

Phillip Patrick

On Saturday, March 14th, students of RMTA teachers performed in the Music Extravaganza at Regency Square Mall. A total of 7 teachers participated in this very special event. In all, there were 38 students who performed and drew in shoppers with beautiful music. A special thanks to Rhapsody Piano and Guitar for supplying the piano.

Fall Festival Report 2014

Lynn Redford and Deborah Martin, Co-Chairs

The Fall Festival was held on Saturday, November 22, 2014 at University of Richmond, Booker Hall. There were 21 teachers registering 122 students, and 110 students actually participated. The results are as follows:

	Superior	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair
Level IA	27	9			
Level IB	17	11			
Level II	21	12			
Level III	10				
Level IV	1	2			

Editor's Note: Thanks to Lynn and Deborah for chairing Fall Festival for so many years and to all of the teachers who help each year to make this event successful.

Congratulations

Jason Hwang, cello student of Dana McComb, won first place in the Junior Performance String Competition at the Southern Division. This was held at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Congratulations to Jason and his teacher, RMTA member, Dana McComb.

Member Updates and Information

Itzel Hamill, Vice President, Membership

1. The membership of RMTA totals 77 members. That includes 3 honorary members and 2 collegiate members.
 2. Gabriella Ryan will be using her cell phone instead of her land line. You may contact her at the following number: 804-615-4638.
 3. It's time to renew your membership. To pay dues, you may send in the form that was mailed to you by MTNA, or you may renew online.
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Central District Auditions

Kim Cho, Chair

Please note: the Central District Auditions will be held in Camp Concert Hall on the campus of University of Richmond on Saturday, May 16, 2015. This is a change in venue due to renovations that will be taking place in Perkinson Recital Hall. Thanks to Dr. Joanne Kong for helping to find another venue on campus for the auditions.

Summer Camp Scholarship

Anne James, Chair

Now is the time to apply for one of RMTA's two \$300 Summer Music Camp Scholarships. There is no charge to apply and all the steps are outlined on page 33 of the RMTA Yearbook, with an application form on page 56. This is an exciting opportunity for our students and we hope to be able to award both scholarships.

The 2016 RMTA Bach Competition

Submitted by Sharon Stewart

The RMTA Bach Competition Committee was formed to streamline costs, time, and labor for the competition. The members of the committee, Marina Andueza, Ruta Smedina Starke, and Sharon Stewart made the following recommendations to the Administrative Board at their meeting on Saturday, March 21, 2015, which were all passed. These new procedures will go into effect beginning with the 2016 Bach Competition.

- Hold the competition on one day, with no additional events the next day.
- Instead of having the Bach Competition Winners Recital, have the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners play at the RMTA Student Recital at St. Catherine's the following month. If time permits, other RMTA students would still be invited to play as usual. The reception shouldn't be more extravagant than is customary at RMTA Student Recitals.
- Change to two judges instead of three (one out of town, one RMTA member).
- No cash prizes, but keep the framed certificates, to be awarded at the RMTA Student Recital.
- Raise the entry fee to \$30.00 per student. Only students of RMTA members may participate.

Sight Reading and Keyboard Skills Testing 2015

Fay Barss, Chair

This year was unusual in many ways. It was the first time that we were going to have sight reading and keyboard skills testing in both the Singleton and James Black buildings at VCU. This didn't occur because the weather decided to play havoc with its snow and icy roads and the test day was cancelled. Different arrangements had to be made as to the location of the tests because VCU could not give us another date for the tests to be held at the University. Wesley Pollard, co-owner of Rhapsody Piano, allowed us to have the testing done at Rhapsody Piano on March 22nd and all went very well. Thank you, Wesley.

Forty-four students of 13 teachers participated in these tests. The following is a breakdown of the grades.

Superior - 10	Very Good – 13	Passing - 2
Excellent - 13	Good - 6	

So many accolades also go to our judges, for without their help the students would not be able to achieve goals that they and their teachers work so hard toward. Two of the judges were asked to take the place of judges that had other commitments on this make-up day. Thanks to Marina Andueza, Ellis Dunton, Yvette Lee, Jennifer Scott, Sharon Stewart and Tatiana Tatum for doing such a wonderful job.

Theory Testing 2015

Submitted by Gabriella Ryan

The VMTA Theory Tests for RMTA were due to be held March 1, but were postponed this year due to inclement weather. Since access to VCU was not available in a timely manner, teachers were asked to give their students the tests individually in their private studios, on the honor system. RMTA also implemented a new system of theory processing, in which many teachers were to participate in the details of organizing the tests. Although not all of the system was able to be accomplished due to the postponement, much of the testing and reporting was divided up, with Wesley Pollard and Jennifer Scott at the helm. Tests were graded after the test date by many teachers, in groupings by theory level. The new system alleviated the burden on one person as theory chair, and seemed to work fairly well.

Fifteen RMTA teachers participated entering 114 students, and 110 students actually took the tests, ranging from Level Primer to 9. The majority of students earned a Superior or Excellent score. This is a tribute to the fine teaching of RMTA teachers and the good work of their students. Results are as follows:

Superior: 31	Very Good: 22	Pass: 4
Excellent: 40	Good: 11	Not Passing: 2

The date for the Summer RMTA Newsletter is June 30, 2015.