



## ***RMATA Summer Newsletter 2015***

### **Letter from the President**

Dear RMATA members and friends,

Thank you all for a wonderful year and your many contributions to RMATA!! As we enjoy the start of summer, I hope each of you finds time to relax and rejuvenate before our next new season. Our family had the opportunity to take our children to Disney in June, and we had a blast! The summer is off to a good start!

At our June RMATA Admin Board meeting, we had great discussion about our new year, and each new RMATA officer kicked off their new 2 year term. Each officer and chair is working hard to get ready for our 2015-16 events and activities. Please be sure to come and celebrate with us at our September potluck and meeting!

The annual VMTA conference will be coming up soon and will take place on July 16-19, 2015 at Wintergreen Resort. If you haven't already, please be sure to sign up and join in on this wonderful event. Hope to see many of you there!

On behalf of all of us at RMATA, thank you for all of your time and support for our organization!

Life can be busy between work, family, and daily schedules, but just know that you are a valued member of our organization, and we thank you! Let's enjoy the summer and look forward to another great year in 2015-16!

Thank you, and have a terrific summer!

RMATA President,  
Jennifer Scott

### **Congratulations to the RMATA Slate of Officers for 2015-2017:**

President - Jennifer Scott  
1st Vice President (Programs) - Michelle Huang  
2nd Vice President (Membership) - Savannah Hatcher  
3rd Vice President (Student Recitals) - Lois Broadwater  
Corresponding Secretary - Kristen Topham  
Recording Secretary - Gabriella Ryan  
Treasurer - Wesley Pollard

**RMATA Website:** [www.richmondmta.org](http://www.richmondmta.org)

**RMATA Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/richmondmta](https://www.facebook.com/richmondmta)

**Central District Auditions Report**  
University of Richmond, Camp Concert Hall  
May 16, 2015

**Level 1A**

First Place: Arthur Ding, student of Paul Hanson

**Level 1B**

Tie for Honorable Mention: Ada Woo, student of Tatiana Tatum  
Madeleine Wang, student of Paul Hanson

**Level 2**

First Place: James Shen, student of Paul Hanson  
Second Place: Allyson Wang, student of Ruta S. Starke  
Tie for Honorable Mention: Athesh Camurdon, student of Natalya Vornovitsky  
Edson De Guzman, student of Paul Hanson

**Level 3**

First Place: Jeison De Guzman, student of Paul Hanson  
Tie for Second Place: Madeleine Fratacangelo, student of Anne James  
Ketty Bai, student of Joanne Kong

Judges were: Dr. Jeremy Reger and Dr. Agnes Wan  
Eleven teachers entered 21 students.

**RMTA Achievement Award Winner**

Last year, RMTA established its first Student Achievement Award within its organization. The purpose of this student award is to recognize and encourage students to participate in musical activities within our organization throughout the year. We want to reward students for their continued dedication to music education. We also want to recognize the RMTA teacher who has supported and motivated their student.

The Richmond Music Teachers Association proudly recognizes its 2015 RMTA Achievement Award recipient. **Congratulations to Arthur Ding, student of Paul Hanson.**

We are very proud of Arthur Ding's commitment to his music this year. He participated in many VMTA and RMTA events, such as the VMTA State Auditions, Central District Auditions, VMTA Theory and Sight Reading testing, RMTA Music Extravaganza, and many of the RMTA Student Recitals during the past year. Arthur won 1st place in 1A of the Central District Auditions. He also won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Classical Competitions in Norfolk. Congratulations, Arthur!

The student achievement award will be an engraved trophy. The teacher achievement award will be a nicely engraved plaque. Arthur Ding and Paul Hanson will be presented with these awards at our September 2015 Opening Meeting. Arthur will also perform for us at the meeting, so we look forward to hearing him!

## **Summer Camp Scholarship Report**

The Summer Camp Scholarship Committee awarded a \$300 scholarship to Sam Kunde, student of Paul Hanson, to attend The Academy of Music, a Richmond chamber music camp. In addition to his piano study, Sam takes oboe from Richmond Symphony oboist Gus Highstein. We have received an email from Sam expressing his appreciation to RMTA for this opportunity.

## **Collegiate Chapter Scholarship**

The recipient of the RMTA Collegiate Chapter VCU Scholarship this year is Lanjiabao Ge. She will be receiving a \$1000 tuition scholarship, the funding of which came directly from our student Playathon. Ms. Ge is currently a Junior piano major student studying with Dr. Yin Zheng. She won second place in 2013 and HM in 2014 in the MTNA piano competitions, as well as both first place prizes in the Sigma Alpha Iota Scholarship Competitions. She also won first place in the Washington, D.C. Alumni Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon Scholarship competition, and is the accompanist for the VCU Dance department and the Richmond Ballet. She has also won numerous competitions in China and Germany. In her words, "To me, playing music is like the color of the beautiful four seasons. There's the hopeful spring, vibrant summer, the melancholic autumn, and the noble and lonely winter. I pour my heart into the music I create, and I always want to share this passion with my audience."

Ms. Ge is spoken of very highly as a pianist, and we are happy to award her the Collegiate Chapter Scholarship, even though the chapter has not been active this year. We hope she will take an active role in the Collegiate Chapter next year. We have created a new RMTA position called Collegiate Chapter Liaison, and Savannah Hatcher will be the Chair. The purpose of this liaison is to assist and advise the VCU MTNA Collegiate Chapter on their activities. We are hopeful that having an RMTA liaison with the Collegiate Chapter will ensure a more active chapter.

Ms. Ge has volunteered to perform for RMTA for our September 19th meeting and potluck. We are happy to have the opportunity to meet her and get to know her. RMTA will be sending a \$1000 check to VCU directly, to apply towards her tuition. We sent her our congratulations on her award, and she sent us her sincere gratitude. Dr. Zheng and Dr. Harper of VCU also sent us their thanks.

## **Announcements**

**Members:** Please renew your dues by July 31st for inclusion in the RMTA yearbook.

**Notable Achievement:** Gabriella Ryan has been sent a beautiful plaque by MusicLink for 10 years of service. MusicLink is a national organization that connects free lessons, music and instruments to deserving but needy students. RMTA served as the pilot for this organization, and it started right here in Virginia.

**Next RMTA Newsletter:** September 30, 2015. Please send entries to [kristen\\_topham@hotmail.com](mailto:kristen_topham@hotmail.com)

## **Upcoming Fall Dates**

### **RMTA Fall Workshops**

Saturday, September 19 at 11:00 AM - Annual Kickoff Meeting & Luncheon (Home of Lois Broadwater)

Saturday, October 24 at 10:00 AM - Alexander Technique Workshop with Sumi Komo (TBA)

### **RMTA Student Recitals 2015-2016**

The five student recitals will be held on Sundays at 3:00 p.m. in St. Catherine's School Chapel.

The dates and deadlines are as follows:

October 11, 2015      postmark September 28

November 8, 2015    postmark October 26

January 24, 2016     postmark January 11

February 21, 2016    postmark February 8

April 24, 2016        postmark April 11

Please send information to Lois Broadwater, Vice President for Student Recitals.

loisbroadwater@msn.com