



RMTA Spring Newsletter 2018

Letter from the President

Dear RMTA members and friends,

I hope that each of you is enjoying the much anticipated and the final arrival of spring!

Over these past cold and brutal winter months, RMTA has held several wonderful events for our teachers and students. These included the wonderful Playathon at the Richmond Public Library, an insightful workshop by our very own member Dr. Magdalena Adamek on the technical aspects of cantabile playing, another successful year of the Bach Competition, the VMTA Theory, Skills and Sightreading tests, a terrific workshop by Bonnie Kellert on survey of beginner and intermediate repertoire, and finally, our Members' annual Luncheon last Saturday at East Coast Provision. Thanks to all the chairmen, teachers, and students who have made these events possible and an experience to remember.

Congratulations RMTA on a successful year!! Enjoy the rest of your teaching year and a much deserved summer break for all of you!

Michelle Huang
RMTA President

Website and Facebook

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

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

RMTA Membership Corner

Membership Renewal

Dear RMTA Members, this is a friendly reminder to renew your RMTA membership for the 2018-2019 year.

The individual Active Membership year begins July 1st and ends June 30th. Dues for renewing members must be processed by MTNA on or before July 31st in order to be in good standing for the upcoming membership year. Members who fail to renew by this date will not be listed in the RMTA yearbook.

Active Membership Dues MTNA \$79.00 VMTA \$25.00 RMTA \$18.00

The Collegiate Membership year begins October 1st and ends September 30th.

Collegiate Membership Dues MTNA \$19.00 VMTA \$ 5.00 RMTA \$ 4.00

MTNA Policy: First year teachers just finishing college may join MTNA for half price if they were a collegiate member of MTNA.

VMTA Policy: First-year teachers just finishing college may join for half price with no restrictions.

A complete listing of MTNA membership types (i.e. Senior, Retired, Patron) can be found at www.mtna.org/membership-information.

For more information, please contact **Jennifer Scott, RMTA Membership Chairperson**, at atjspianostudio@yahoo.com or (804)-357-7183

Past Event Reports

VMTA Theory Tests

The VMTA Theory Tests for RMTA were held on March 11, 2017 at VCU. Our system of sharing the workshop continues to work successfully. Jennifer Scott and Wesley Pollard co-chaired the event. A report was sent to the new state theory chair of VMTA, Gianne Zhu, on March 21st by Gabriella Ryan.

We had 19 RMTA teachers participate with 141 students (9 additional theory entries compared to last year). The fees collected amounted to \$1,692.

Students took tests ranging from Primer to Level 12. There were 9 that did not pass. 107 of the total students received Superior, Excellent, or Very Good.

Congratulations to the students and their teachers on these great accomplishments.

Theory Test Co-Chairs: Jennifer Scott and Wesley Pollard

Playathon

We would like to once again, thank Lynn Vandanesse and the Richmond Public Library for accommodating yet another wonderful RMTA event this year. The Playathon took place outside the Gellman [Room at the Richmond Public Library](#), in the beautiful marble atrium. Thank you to all of the teachers who had students participate, and for those teachers who played as well. The students were wonderful and many performed at a high level of artistry in preparation for future performance events.

Student Recitals

We have just completed our season of student recitals at St. Catherine's School. As always, we are most grateful for the generosity of St. Catherine's in allowing us to use the facilities at Bannard Chapel for our five concerts. Ellis Dunton is our liaison officer who works with school personnel on setting up the concert dates and handling the venue set-up for us.

We have had a number of first-time teacher participants, and we hope it has been a positive experience for you and your students. Please plan on showcasing your students next year. We missed some of our "regulars," and hope you will be with us next year. The April recital lasted 30 minutes, so we do have room for more!

Even if you don't enter students in the recital, we need helpers to manage the reception which follows each recital. If you are willing to help on ONE recital, please let me know. The reception is important, giving the students and their parents a chance to socialize and receive well-earned praise after the program. I appreciate the help I received from members and parents this season.

Betty Ann Spiers
erspiers@comcast.net
804-282-6808

Bach Competition Report 2018

This year's Bach Competition took place on March 4 in Gellman Room at Richmond Public Library between 10 AM and 4.30 PM.

This year, we received the total of 33 applications (seven for Primer Level, ten for Level 1, twelve for Level 2, and four for Level 3). Out of the 33 applicants, five had to withdraw from the competition due to health, personal reasons, or schedule conflicts.

The judging panel included three highly qualified and respected piano performers and instructors: Fay Barss, Lisa Kinzer, and Daniel Stipe. The judges provided all participants

with meaningful and helpful feedback. They also offered many words of encouragement to the young participants. The co-chairs of the Competition, Magdalena Adamek and Belle Elliott, worked diligently by assuming the role of administrators, schedule planners, and ushers.

The results of the Competition were the following:

Primer Level: Honorable Mention- Zachary Qin (teacher: Tatiana Tatum)

3rd Place- Shanshan Liu (teacher: Ilona Rectenwald)

2nd Place- Benjamin Gao (teacher: Yifei Sun)

1st Place- Zoe Hu (teacher: Ruta Smedina-Starke)

Level 1: Honorable Mention- Viet Dao (teacher: Yin Zheng)

3rd Place- Haru Mikawa (teacher: Hope Armstrong Erb)

2nd Place- Alina Laraway (teacher: Ruta Smedina-Starke)

1st Place- Cana Fass (teacher: Sharon Stewart)

Level 2: Honorable Mention- Aaron Liu (teacher: Ilona Rectenwald)

3rd Place- Albert Tang (Ruta Smedina-Starke)

2nd Place- Janie Lin (teacher: Yifei Sun)

1st Place- Ada Woo (teacher: Tatiana Tatum)

Level 3: 3rd Place- Catherine Shen (teacher: Ilona Rectenwald)

2nd Place- Edson de Guzman (teacher: Paul Hanson)

1st Place- James Shen (teacher: Paul Hanson)

The competition would not have been a success without the involvement of teacher and student volunteers. These individuals assisted competition chairs at the registration desk, brought lunch for the judges, or simply showed up to offer their support to students. To this end, we extend our gratitude and thanks to the following teachers: Tatiana Tatum, Hope Armstrong Erb, Ruta Smedina-Starke. Lastly, we thank Christine Hilbert, the VCU MTNA Collegiate Chapter President, who also volunteered at the event and spread the positive energy among everyone involved.

It was very encouraging to witness yet again the continuous support of the Richmond Public Library, particularly Lynn Vandenesse, who has been generously providing us with access to the venue without additional cost.

Here is to another year of planning next year's competition and supporting young, talented pianists.

Dr. Magdalena Adamek

RMTA Achievement Award Notice and Deadline

The RMTA Achievement Award is an award that is presented to a student and their teacher who has 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, 2017. All detailed information can be found on our RMTA website under MEMBER LOGIN/Application Forms. This will be submitted to Jennifer Scott.

Summer Camp Scholarship

Last call for applications for the two Summer Camp Scholarships, each valued at \$300. Please send the forms to Anne James, [2300 Cedarfield Parkway, Apt. 151, Richmond, VA 23233](#), with a postmark no later than May 15.

Anne James, Chairman