



## **RMTA Summer Newsletter 2019**

### **Letter from the President**

**Hello RMTA Members!**

**Thank you for electing me as your new president, along with the other wonderful executive committee members, Chloe Fortin, 1<sup>st</sup> VP of Programs; Chris Nickels, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP of Membership; Ingrid Keller, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP of Recitals; Jennifer Scott, Recording Secretary; and Anne James, Treasurer. We will all work to create some exciting events for you and your students during the next 2 years.**

**Thanks also to all the people who agreed to serve as committee chairs. I hope by now you have received the list of all the volunteers who will be chairing our committees. They are the bones of our organization, and can use help from all of you to run programs. Please let any of them know if you are willing to help on their committees.**

**The big news is that the Board approved the details for our new Sonata/Sonatina Festival, which will alternate years with the Bach Competition. Mark your calendars for February 1-2, 2020, at St. Luke's Lutheran, for this event! And definitely start your students on a movement of a sonata or sonatina, so they can participate. It will be a judged event with an audience, and will finish with an Honors Recital on the second day. Participants will receive certificates, and finalists will receive medals. Our goal is to have an RMTA event that's inclusive for both the exceptional and average student. More details will be sent soon by email.**

**We will be sending more emails until our website can be updated. Our technical support, John Winsor, has had surgery, and will be out of commission for a few months. But I want to keep all of you informed of our events, so expect more emails for a bit. Please be patient about our website; we expect it will be updated by the end of the summer or sooner.**

**Congratulations to Maria Yefimova's student, Danil Kotikov, winner of the RMTA Achievement Award; and to Yin Zheng's student, Mona Wu, winner of our Collegiate Scholarship Award of \$1000 tuition! Congratulations also to our Summer Camp Scholarship Winners: Kyle Valorose, student of Hope Armstrong Erb; and Ada Woo, student of Tatiana Tatum, who received \$300 each!**

**Please plan on attending our first meeting on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 am, at the home of Lois Broadwater, 1308 Camden, Richmond, 23229. It will be a potluck, and we'll have performances by our student winners, as well as an awards ceremony. It's a great time to meet each other, and to kick off a year of teaching, supported by RMTA friends.**

**On Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, we'll have a panel workshop on Judging for Festivals and Competitions at the home of Fay Barss, at 10:00 am. Anyone who has judged, is interested in judging, or has had their students judged, should attend this workshop. Panelists are Sharon Stewart, Fay Barss, and Anne James.**

**Other dates to mark for 2019 are October 31 – November 2 for the VMTA Conference at Old Dominion University; November 10 for the RMTA Student Recital at St. Catherine's; and November 23 for the Fall Festival at St. Catherine's. A big thank you to Hope Erb and Ellis Dunton for coordinating many of our dates!**

**Have a great summer, and I hope to see all of you soon at our September 14<sup>th</sup> Potluck!**

**Gabriella Ryan, NCTM**

### **Website and Facebook**

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

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

## **2019 Central District Audition Report**

Central District auditions were held at St. Catherine's on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019. There were 26 students registered representing 8 teachers. (25 students played.) The judges were Sharon Stewart and Lisa Kinzer.

### **Level 1A**

First Place: Zoe Hu (Ruta Starke)  
Alternate: Howard Luo (Ilona Rectenwald)  
Honorable Mention: Shanshan Liu (Ilona Rectenwald)  
Honorable Mention: Alex Tan (Ruta Starke)

### **Level 1B**

First Place: Alina Laraway (Ruta Starke)  
Alternate: Haru Mikawa (Hope Armstrong Erb)  
Second Place: Tony Zhang (Maria Yefimova)  
Third Place: Maria Neal (Maria Yefimova)  
Honorable Mention: Renard Wu (Maria Yefimova)  
Honorable Mention: Olivia Zhang (Ilona Rectenwald)

### **Level 2**

First Place: Danil Kotikov (Maria Yefimova)  
Alternate: Falinna Fang (Michelle Huang)  
Second Place: Anna Newell (Ruta Starke)  
Third Place: Annie Yuan (Ruta Starke)  
Honorable Mention: Ada Woo (Tatiana Tatum)

### **Level 3**

First Place: Joshua Warner (Michelle Huang)  
Second Place: Atesh Camurdan (Natalya Vornovitsky)  
Honorable Mention: Ivory Tang (Michelle Huang)  
Honorable Mention: Hannah Boen (Anne James)

*Submitted by Lauren Darrell*

### **RMTA Collegiate Chapter Scholarship Recipient**

The mission of RMTA is to advance the value of music study and music making in society, and to support the professionalism of music teachers. One of the ways this is accomplished is through providing professional support to the music students.

This Collegiate Chapter Scholarship is awarded every year to a promising music student who is a member of the MTNA Collegiate Chapter at VCU. This year, the award of \$1000 goes to Mona Wu, a senior piano major at VCU, studying under Dr. Yin Zheng. This scholarship will go towards her tuition.

*Submitted by Michelle Huang*

### **RMTA Summer Music Camp Scholarship Winners**

The Summer Camp Scholarship Committee awarded \$300 scholarships in May to two fine applicants. Kyle Valorose, a student of Hope Armstrong Erb in piano and composition, will attend Brevard Music Center. Ada Woo, a student of Tatiana Tatum, has chosen Westminster Choir College's Middle School Piano Camp. Congratulations to Kyle and Ada! We look forward to hearing them perform and tell of their camp experiences at the opening RMTA meeting.

*Submitted by Anne James*

### **RMTA Achievement Award Winner**

Five years ago, 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 2019 RMTA Achievement Award recipient. **Congratulations to Danil Kotikov, student of Maria Yefimova.**

We are very proud of Danil's commitment to his music this year. In this past year, he participated in many VMTA and RMTA events, such as the VMTA Fall Festival, VMTA State Auditions, RMTA student recitals, the VMTA Sight Reading and Theory Testing, the RMTA Bach Competition and Winners Recitals, and the VMTA Central District Audition. He won 1st place for his level in both the Bach Competition and Central District Auditions. Congratulations, Danil!

The student achievement award will be an engraved trophy. The teacher achievement award will be a nicely engraved plaque. Danil Kotikov and Maria Yefimova will be presented with these awards at our September 2019 Opening Meeting. Again, congratulations on receiving the RMTA Achievement Award! Thank you for your commitment to music education and to our music organization.

*Respectfully submitted: Jennifer Scott*

### **Donation to Scholarship Fund**

Special thanks to Lynne Cox for donating her honorarium for the January workshop to the RMTA Scholarship Fund.

## **VMTA Theory Tests**

The VMTA Theory Tests for RMTA were held on March 3, 2019 at VCU. Our system of sharing the work together continues to work successfully. Jennifer Scott and Wesley Pollard co-chaired the event. A report was sent to the VMTA state theory chairman, Gianne Zhu, by our reporting chair, Gabriella Ryan.

We had 20 teachers enter 162 students, and the fees collected amounted to \$1,944. Students took tests ranging from Primer to Level 9. 129 of the total students received Superior, Excellent, or Very Good. There were 7 that did not pass. Congratulations to the students and their teachers on these great accomplishments.

The VMTA Theory Test for 2019-2020 is scheduled for Sunday, March 15, 2020.

*Theory Test Co-Chairs: Jennifer Scott and Wesley Pollard*

## **Student Recitals 2019-2020**

The RMTA student recitals will be held on Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. at St. Catherine's School Chapel. The dates and postmark deadlines are:

Sunday, November 10, 2019 (postmark is October 28th)

Sunday, January 12, 2020 (postmark is December 30th)

Sunday, March 29, 2020 (postmark is March 16<sup>th</sup>)

*Ingrid Keller, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President and Maria Yefimova, Recital Co-chairman*

## **BACH COMPETITION 2019 REPORT**

This year's RMTA Bach Competition took place on March 9th in the Gellman Room at Richmond Public Library between 10 AM and 5 PM. There were 37 applications, and 33 applicants participated on the day of the competition. The co-chairs of the Competition, Dr. Magdalena Adamek and Dr. Ingrid Keller worked diligently by assuming the role of administrators, schedule planners, and ushers.

The judging panel included three qualified piano instructors and performers: Dr. Agnes Wan from Virginia State University, Russell Wilson, and Natalya Vornovitsky. The judges provided all participants with written feedback. They also offered their encouragement to the young participants, including a 15 -second time for each student to try out the piano.

The winners' recital took place at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Richmond, VA on March 10 at 3 PM. The recipients of Honorable Mention, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in each level received winners' certificates. The recipients of the 1<sup>st</sup> place in each level received both winners' certificates and monetary prizes.

(Bach Competition continued)

This year's competition would not have been a success without the involvement of our teacher volunteers who helped during the competition day at the registration desk, brought lunches, or simply showed up to offer their support to students. To this end, we extend our gratitude and thanks to Tatiana Tatum, Ilona Rectenwald, and Ruta Smedina-Starke. We also thank the representative of the VCU MTNA Collegiate Chapter Vice-President, Zaiendae Smith, who served as a greeter during the morning portion of the competition.

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.

## **Bach Competition Results**

March 9, 2019

### **Primer Level**

First Place	Howard Luo, student of Ilona Rectenwald
Second Place	Benjamin Gao, student of Yifei Sun
Third Place	Shanshan Liu, student of Ilona Rectenwald
Honorable Mention	Ethan Zou, student of Tatiana Tatum
Honorable Mention	Natalie Tang, student of Tatiana Tatum

### **Level One**

First Place	Tony Zhang, student of Maria Yefimova
Second Place	William He, student of Yifei Sun
Third Place	Maria Neal, student of Maria Yefimova
Honorable Mention	Haru Mikawa, student of Hope Armstrong Erb
Honorable Mention	Annie Yuan, student of Ruta Smedina Starke

### **Level Two**

First Place	Danil Kotikov, student of Maria Yefimova
Second Place	Anna E. Newell, student of Ruta Smedina Starke
Third Place	Farina Fang, student of Michelle Huang
Honorable Mention	Peter Zhang, student of Tatiana Tatum
Honorable Mention	Viet Dao, student of Maria Yefimova

### **Level Three**

First Place	Ivory Tang, student of Michelle Huang
Second Place	Mira Eisenhauer, student of Michelle Huang
Third Place	Isabelle deBruler, student of Debby Lamb

*Postmark for the next RMTA Newsletter is September 30, 2019.*