



President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Holidays are a time to reflect and thank those who have devoted time to help our organization grow and to make our sessions enjoyable.



I want to express my appreciation to the Board of Directors, Committee Chairpersons, State and Administrative officers during 2008. I appreciate being able to depend on the support of a group who looks for challenges and gets its job done.

I thank Barbara Stoutenburgh for chairing the Fall Festival and Dean Elder for preparing the repertoire lists. The success of the Festival was obvious and rewarding when listening to the Gold Medalist Recital.

About 50 members attended ASU's Dr. Baruch Meier's master class at our November meeting. Each student walked away with valuable lessons to help improve their individual performance.

Music at the Mall continues strong with Becky Bender chairing Metro Center and P.V. Mall with admirable spirit. The Student Recitals chaired by Linda Porter showcase many talented students. ASP Committee volunteered many hours revising the 12 levels of the workbooks. PMTA and I appreciate all of you.

Most PMTA members strive for high standards and pedagogical competence in their music teaching and challenge themselves by attending meetings, programs, workshops, and conventions. We all want to help our students grow musically by having them participate in our student activities.

On behalf of PMTA, I wish you Happy Holidays and a prosperous successful New Year.

Sincerely,

Irene Kuniski



PMTA Board of Directors 2008-2009

ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Irene Kuniski
PRESIDENT-ELECT	Barbara Tilson
VP OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES	Gail Chang
VP OF TEACHER ACTIVITIES	Jennifer Foxx
RECORDING SECRETARY	Jackie Fry
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Susan Traylor
TREASURER	Georgia Sears

ADVISORY POSITION

IMM. PAST PRE/PALIAMENTARIAN	Gail Quackenbush
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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Teacher Events

MEMBERSHIP - NEW MEMBERS	Genny Rafferty
PERFORMANCE PLUS	Jo Ann Smelser
SHARING PLUS	Pamela Joy Smith
.....	Anna Mae Bruning

Student Events

CELEBRATION OF MUSIC	Snezana Krstic
STUDENT RECITAL SERIES	Linda Porter
.....	Barbara Tilson
FALL FESTIVAL	Barbara Stoutenburgh
MUSIC AT THE MALL	Becky Bender
.....	Faye Colyar
PIANO ENSEMBLE	Rita Quay
.....	Susan Shiner
STUDENT RECITALS	Linda Porter
SCHOLARSHIP	Ursula Newman
STUDENT VOCAL RECITAL	Betty Campbell

ASMTA PROGRAMS

ARIZONA STUDY PROGRAM	Carol Hill
.....	Barbara Stoutenburgh
CERTIFICATION	Rosmary Stelmach

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

ATTENDANCE/VOLUNTEER	Rita Quay
OUTREACH & CALLING TREE	Gail Chang
HISTORIAN	Gail Chang
HOSPITALITY	Lynn Wagner
LIBRARY	Susan Epps
OUTREACH	Peggy Rostron

PMTA Phone Referral # (602) 404-7068

REFERRAL SERVICE - Phone	Peggy Rostron
REFERRAL SERVICE - Website	Genny Rafferty
TECHNICAL COMM. DIRECTOR	Shellie Ruge
WEBSITE/TECHNOLOGY	Genny Rafferty
YEARBOOK	Liz G. Owens



AN EXCITING FALL FESTIVAL

This year's Fall Festival, devoted to velocity etudes and recital etudes and preludes, got PMTA's performance-competition schedule off to a blazing start. 135 students of 27 teachers participated in the preliminaries held in two beautiful rooms and the elegant recital hall at Herman & Sons in Scottsdale.

The categories were Elementary I and II, Intermediate I and II, and Advanced. Each player performed an etude, mostly Czerny, and a recital etude or prelude from a large repertoire list compiled by Dean Elder. The PMTA dress code was strictly enforced. One mother had hurriedly to go to a store to buy her son a shirt and tie.

Barbara Stoutenburgh chaired the event masterfully, and many teachers helped with the registration and organization of getting the students on and off stage. Unusually, the judges' names were kept secret: their names were neither announced nor did they appear on the recital program. Teachers, parents, and public were not allowed to hear the preliminary auditions.

Thirty-four (34) performers, students of Ashley Bradford, Dorothy Dungan, Tatyana Eldridge, Carolyn Inabinet, Snezana Krstic, Irene Kuniski, Sherry Lenich, Karen Maison, Norma Meredith, Ursula Newman, Linda Porter, Gail Quackenbush, Stella Saperstein, Georgia Sears, Jo Ann Smelser, Rosmary Stelmach, and Barbara Stoutenburgh were awarded Gold Medals and performed in recital November 2, 2008 in the newly-refurbished Herman & Sons recital hall. Fifty-one students received Silver medals and 34 Bronze.

The students performed one of their two pieces, chosen by the judges, so that the audience was regaled with fast-fingered Czerny etudes as well as Bach, Debussy, Rachmaninoff, Scriabin, and Muczynski preludes and etudes by Chaminade, Moszkowski, and Chopin. One teacher commented that "After all my years of teaching, I never before realized that Czerny etudes make such good recital pieces."

The audience, which filled the hall, heard sterling performances and appreciated the work and dedication of these young performers. Their demeanor, poise, and aplomb were truly extraordinary.

Dean Elder

57th Annual PMTA Piano Ensemble Concerts

Approximately 385 piano students, performing on 13 grand pianos, will display their talent at the Central High School auditorium, 4525 N. Central Ave., Saturday, Feb. 21st, 2009 at 6 & 8 p.m.

The event will be celebrating its fifty-seventh year in the Valley and is considered to be the longest-running program of its kind in the nation. It is sponsored by the Phoenix Music Teachers' Assoc. (PMTA). The ensemble-type concert originated in the mind and heart of two dedicated piano teachers, the late Julian & Isabelle McCreary, who encouraged and motivated young piano students to practice faithfully, and provided them a program to display their talent.



Both Concerts (6 & 8) will feature the 'premiere' performance of *Southwest Landscapes*, composed by the well-known composer Melody Bober. The piece, commissioned by the Phoenix Music Teachers Association, is being published by the Alfred Publishing Company.

Facilities for pre-concert rehearsals have been provided by the Herman and Sons Piano Store in Scottsdale and by the Washburn Piano Store in Goodyear.

Admission: A \$7.00 donation (non-refundable). Tickets may be purchased, at the box office prior to each Concert. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so plan to arrive early, if possible. Tickets are good for **either** or **both** Concerts. All proceeds, after expenses, will benefit the PMTA's Scholarship program.

Piano Ensemble Co-Chairs: Rita Quay & Susan Shiner



Membership

Are you an active member of PMTA? Yes, you have submitted your yearly dues, you read the newsletter, and you have your yearbook in your inbox, so technically your membership is considered active. But are you an ACTIVE member? Are you taking advantage of all the benefits PMTA has to offer you? There are numerous ways to be an active member of PMTA. I will discuss a few of them here.

Each year, PMTA hosts a number of events that students of PMTA members are eligible to participate in. There is something for everybody, from non-competitive recital formats such as the Student Recital Series and Music at the Mall, to Piano Ensemble and Arizona Study Program, to competition style events such as Fall Festival and Celebration of Music. When was the last time you entered a student in one of these events? My hope is that you can answer that it has only been a few weeks or months since you took advantage of one of these events. If it has been longer, or if you have yet to enter your students in one of these events, I encourage you to use your membership privileges and enter one of these events next semester! If you are nervous about entering, I suggest starting small-maybe just one or two students in one of the events. You will find that the events are so beneficial to your students' growth that you will soon be eagerly awaiting the next event. Be an active member!

Each month, PMTA holds a general membership meeting and other meetings such as Performance Plus and Sharing Plus that are held solely to benefit the teachers in the organization. As you know, we as teachers have a responsibility to our students to continually further our education. These meetings are the perfect way to do that! Do you attend the meetings? Are you an active member?

Finally, volunteer! There is something for everybody. Whether you only have an hour every couple of months or an hour everyday to give, PMTA needs you and has something you can do! If you are interested in getting involved, begin by visiting our volunteer listings at <http://phoenixmusicteachers.org/volunteer.html> or contacting the various committee chairpersons of the event you are interested in. We would love to have you! Be an ACTIVE member!

Whether you are a new member or a PMTA veteran, you are an essential part of our organization. When you are an active member, you, your fellow teachers, and most importantly, your students all benefit!

Genny Rafferty, PMTA Membership Chairperson and Webmaster

ASP Committee News

The revisions of all twelve workbooks and the first two answer books were completed and to the printers by October 6, 2008. The answer book for levels 9-12 followed within two weeks. (Please remember, answer books are sold as complete sets: Elementary 1-4, Intermediate 5-8 and Advanced 9-12. Levels cannot be purchased individually.) PMTA members who gave countless hours to this project were Bobbi Stoutenburgh, Pam Smith, Gail Chang and Carol Hill.

The Vocal Arizona Study Program is an excellent program for all vocal teachers and students. The program is currently divided into six levels, following the format of the piano ASP. If you have any questions, please contact Joy Baber. The Teachers' Guide should be available in early January. The history of ASP, evaluation and technique requirements, theory concepts and progress charts for levels 1-12 will be combined into one book, available for \$10. The 2006 repertoire guide will continue to be sold separately, replacing any former repertoire guides.

A few dates to remember:

- ✓ February 15 End of late enrollment
- ✓ February 15 Student Program Forms for levels 5-12 due
- ✓ March 1 Application deadline for the McCurnin Teacher and Certification Grants (check with Fran Kaspar, ASP State Chairman)
- ✓ **April 24 and 25 ASP Evaluations at AZ Piano and Scottsdale CC.** The '09 tests will be based on the 2008 workbooks.

Sincerely,
Carol Hill and Bobbi Stoutenburgh
PMTA - ASP co-chairmen



Sharing Plus/Certification Report *October 23, 2008*

PMTA Sharing Plus meeting was held Thursday, October 23, 9:30 a.m. at the home of Rosmary Stelmach.. The meeting's agenda was to welcome new members and to inform members attending the meeting about National Certification. Fifteen members were in attendance.

Angelica Prado-Stern and Genny Rafferty (recently certified), presented their Step 2-Standard II process in completing requirements for Certification. Angelica and Genny chose to submit a portfolio instead of taking the written certification exam. Assembling the portfolio was a very ambitious project. Discussion followed the presentation.

If you have any questions regarding National Certification, please don't hesitate to contact Angelica, Genny or myself. Information is also available by downloading a copy of requirements from the MTNA website.

Rosmary A. Stelmach
Certification Chair



Melody Bober

Please attend Melody Bober workshop on
Friday, February 20, 2009 in lieu of General Meeting
9:00am -12:30pm -Hilton Garden Inn

Energize Your Piano Studio Technique
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Publications

Referral Service

Direct questions about referral service:

Peggy Rostron
(602-482-1438)

p.rostron@cox.net



Music at the Mall

On December 6, 2008, PMTA sponsored the 20th annual Music at the Mall. Our music was heard at two malls this year from 10:00 am till around 6:00 pm. There were 12 teachers with 133 students scheduled at Metrocenter and 19 teachers with 179 students scheduled at Paradise Valley Mall. We had 7-foot grand pianos again this year, provided by Washburn Piano Company. What a fun event for families at this festive time of year!

A special thank you goes out to all who helped make this event a success.

Becky Bender
Music at the Mall Chairperson

PMTA Student Recital Series

The PMTA Student Recital Series has been an unqualified success thus far this year. Three recitals, two at Glendale Community College, and one at Herman & Sons, have offered opportunities for teachers and their students on both East and West sides of the Valley.

Participation has been excellent, especially by West side teachers. One faithful East side teacher has entered students and attended all three recitals! Bravo! We hope to see much more involvement by all the fine teachers of the East side soon.






Each recital has had an hour to an hour and a quarter of music of increasingly high quality. Literature selection has been excellent. Students grow in concert etiquette and performance finesse with each opportunity to play in this encouraging atmosphere.

Teachers are welcome to e-mail their applications to the chairman, Linda Porter, at lporter88@aol.com, or mailing the printed application from the Yearbook. Either way, we encourage your participation in this valuable program.

Linda Porter
Students Recital Chairman

Important Dates
Yearbook 2009

www.PhoenixMusicTeachers.org

<p>January 8 General Meeting (Scottsdale) Presenter: Rosmary Stelmach <i>Analysis and performance of Burgmuller's Character Pieces</i></p> <p>January 24,27,29: Ensemble Rehearsals <i>Scottsdale-Goodyear</i></p> 	<p>February 5 Performance Plus- Sara Rivers home</p> <p>February 20 Melody Bober Workshop <i>Energize Your Piano Studio Technique to Develop Artistic Playing</i></p>  <p>February 21 Piano Ensemble Concert <i>Central High School-6&8 PM</i></p>
<p>March 12 General Meeting (Scottsdale) Presenter: Dr.Hamilton Tescarollo <i>Translating Musical Ideas into Physical Action from the Very Beginning</i></p> <p>March 26 Sharing Plus-Pamela Smith's home <i>Summer Camp Program for Your Studio</i></p>  <p>March 28 Vocal Students Recital (Scottsdale)</p>	<p>April 2 Performance Plus - Rosmary Stelmach's home</p>  <p>April 4 Celebration of Music-Scottsdale</p> <p>April 9 General Meeting-Scottsdale Presenter: Radmila Stojanovic Kiriluk <i>A Grammar of Music Phrasing (Master Class)</i></p> <p>April 24-25 ASP Evaluations <i>AZ Piano & Scottsdale Community College</i></p>
<p>May 2 Student Recital- Glendale Community College</p> <p>May 14 End of the Year Luncheon</p> <p>May 17 Senior's Scholarship Recital <i>Steinway of Phoenix- 12:00 PM</i></p>	

Editor: Irene Kuniski;
Susan Traylor - Corresponding Secretary

