

Submissions due by the 4<sup>th</sup> of each month. Typed e-mail is preferred for articles. Hand-written articles are acceptable. Forms, flyers and anything else requiring special layout design will not be accepted if they are not submitted in their final draft form. No fax available.  
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## Upcoming Events

---Have a wonderful summer, everyone!

## Rallentando

The torch is now passed! Theresa Schmauder is your new president as of June 1, 2012. She is a tremendously positive person with an uplifting attitude. She is still somewhat new to many parts of our organization, but that didn't stop her from bravely stepping up to the task, and it won't stop her from being a fantastic president.

Unfortunately for Meredyth, my move is going to cause her to be Immediate Past President *once again*. As Meredyth pointed out, maybe the title "Not-So-Immediate Past President" or "Permanent Past President" would be more appropriate for the 2012-2014 term. The irony here runs even deeper since Meredyth also acted as president of our organization for a second term (2006-2008) when nobody else stepped forward. I suspect nobody would stand a chance at beating Meredyth at a game of Musical Chairs since she seems to have a seat even when she's not looking for one (maybe it's the super glue we all secretly put on her rear end).

To help set the stage for Theresa's first "A Tempo" article in September (which will resume tempo from the summer "caesura"), I thought I'd give this article a more fitting title. At first I considered "Morendo", but that was just going too far. I'm moving, not retiring!

I want to encourage everyone in this organization to put at least four students into the Silver State Competition coming up this fall. Nancy Kuncheff is doing a phenomenal job with the event, and the competition is about as laid-back as a competition can possibly be. As Nancy Kuncheff pointed out at our June luncheon, it is much easier to be one of those students who doesn't get a ribbon when there are 7 or 10 participants in each category. When there are only 4 students and 3 of them get awards, the one who didn't get an award is singled out. My NNMTA friends, please don't let this happen again. Enter your students in as many categories as possible. Tell your students to just have fun and don't expect to win anything. ("You'll probably be competing with students who started playing piano at the age of 3 and who practice two hours every day. So who cares. Just go and have fun listening to all of the great music, and it will be an added bonus if you happen to win anything.") Turn it into the event it deserves to be.

I've thought long and hard about any pearls of wisdom I can possibly leave with this organization, and I came up with a few things that I think are worth mentioning.

1) Robert Eliot said, "Rule number one is, don't sweat the small stuff. Rule number two is, it's all small stuff." If our musical journey with our students were a hiking trail, then...

- ...a disappointing rating in a festival one year would be a pebble on the trail hardly worth noticing.
- ...students having to play on a mediocre-quality piano in a musical event would be an ant crawling on the pebble.
- ...having to reschedule a couple students a few times a year to accommodate various MTA events would be a speck of dust on the ant.

These are just a small number of examples of limitless ways that this idea can be applied to our organization. There is nothing wrong with suggesting ways of minimizing the number of pebbles and ants on a trail,

but *remember that they are still just pebbles and ants*. Adlai Stevenson said, “You can tell the size of a man by the size of the thing that makes him mad.”

2) Go to conferences. They’ll have a dramatic and immediate impact on the quality of your teaching, not to mention pumping you up to teach enthusiastically for another year. They are worth every dime, even when they’re held on the east coast. (Unfortunately, I most likely won’t be able to go to Anaheim next year because my wife’s residency schedule at that time will make it so we’d have to have a nanny practically living at our house for five days. Next year, we’ll pick her 2014 residency schedule more carefully!)

3) Get certified so that you too can advocate that music teaching is a field important enough to warrant standards. I hear teachers say that the quality of a teacher is critical to the student’s development, but then they blow off the importance of certifying because “nobody ever asks me if I’m certified.” There are many practical reasons for getting certified, such as putting the logo in your letterhead, brochures and studio recitals or possibly charging a little more per hour. But even without any practicality at all, *I see certification as a philosophical or ideological necessity*. I believe teaching is important, and I believe anything important should have standards. Therefore, I must certify. If you don’t get your certification approved on the first try, keep trying and you’ll get there!

4) Wherever avoidable, do not rely on any one teacher to run any part of the organization. Oral tradition should be turned into written record so that the organization will be in good shape when certain members are gone. This is done most effectively on the web since our website doesn’t really have to be “passed on” from one member to another – it’s just always there, viewable by anyone in the organization at any time.

Next, I would like to thank (in alphabetical order):

- Rick Baldwin, for working tirelessly on the website over the years.
- Christine Barden, for being a warm heart that always seeks to bring everyone in this organization closer together.
- Ruth Brewer, for being such a reliable rock in our organization, helping out with just about every event we have.

- Kelly Briggs, for *making the time* in her schedule to run our discussion groups when most others would say, “Sorry, I’m too busy.”
- Margarita Bryant, for bringing a friendly attitude and bright, smiling face into our festival and Silver State rooms, and for being so willing to help out in any way she can.
- Lawrence Duncan, for always giving me personal encouragement and expressing deep gratitude along my presidential journey.
- Paula Eisenbarth, for bringing her endless enthusiasm and great ideas to our meetings.
- Philip Elcano, Paula Eisenbarth, and Amy Jahn, for giving me rides when my wife’s medical school and our nanny’s schedule with my kids prevented the NNMTA President from having anything to drive.
- Louise Hogen, for her belief that the NNMTA should be a “Northern Nevada” organization and not just a “Reno” organization, and for her personal trust in my teaching.
- Joan Houtz, my second teacher for two years, for showing me what it means to be a positive, empowering teacher and whose monthly group classes were the highlight of my piano experiences growing up.
- Karen Hudson, for stepping up as our newsletter editor when we needed it most.
- Amy Jahn, for running our festival for two years (with a big friendly smile, too!) even though she didn’t know the festival was part of the VP’s job description when she said “yes” on that fateful day.
- Farida Jamin, for having the courage to step back into the VP/festival position, and running it with such skill and loving devotion.
- Sonnet Johnson, for giving us our festival’s first list of Ratings Criteria, which we still use today.
- Kathie Krocak, my first teacher for six years, who nurtured unshakeable belief in myself, who always insisted on a high level of polish in my pieces, and whose monthly group classes were the other highlight of my piano experiences growing up.
- Nancy Kuncheff, for never allowing this organization to take itself too seriously, and for showing us all what it means to master Robert Eliot’s “small stuff” quotation above.
- Kathleen Legere, a founding member, for always giving us such great historical insight into the origins of our organization and for always being willing to help out.
- Meredyth Lewis, for being there when I sought her mentorship in diplomacy several times, and who

could easily open up a “Robert Eliot’s All Small Stuff University” with Nancy.

- Rong Lucchesi, for all of the fun piano ensemble experiences as peers at UNR which I’ll always remember.
- Kathryn Mickey, for finding time to help out in our organization even though she is already unimaginably busy every year organizing an enormous regional music festival.
- Mykal Oranges, for her sweet nature that is perfect for the Caring Chair.
- Erika Paul, for creating the festival theory tests many years ago that we still use today.
- Betty Rich, for the personal encouragement she has given me.
- Barbara Riordan, for the great food and drinks she provided at NNMTA events when she was Hospitality Chair.
- Theresa Schmauder, who takes all excuses away from anyone who thinks they don’t have enough NNMTA-specific knowledge, or time, to volunteer for the organization.
- Denise Smith, for her sweet spirit, kind heart, and incredible dependability.
- Faye Sobrio, for all of her tender loving care over the decades for the people in this organization.
- Evelyn Summers, for being willing to train people endlessly to run the Silver State Competition when it would have been so easy and tempting to walk away.
- Nancy Tedford, for the literally countless hours of computer programming she has put into saving everyone else hours running the festival every year, and for being here to help this organization remember its origins.
- Meredith Whelan, for persisting in her job as treasurer even when big obstacles tried to get in her way.
- Dr. Ronald Williams, my third teacher for seven years, for his fantastic musical and technical teaching, and for serving as an untouchable model for ethics and professionalism in teaching.
- Dr. James Winn, my fourth teacher for three years, whose prodigious playing, sight-reading and improvising showed me that no matter how high I climbed, I would always be standing at the base of another musical mountain, and who showed me how to be a fingering ninja at the piano.
- Many other teachers not specifically mentioned who acted in their own ways to help this organization function and who helped to create a positive atmosphere that will attract more members to join.

Finally, remember that our organization is not a stage to showcase certain teachers and students. It is a hospital to help heal and improve them. I hope everyone can think of one teacher they know who could benefit from the student events and workshops of this organization. Make it your goal this year to make sure they know that this organization welcomes all teachers of all backgrounds.

My love and best wishes go out to all of my wonderful colleagues and friends in this association.



NNMTA President

## Membership Renewals

From: Paula Eisenbarth, 980-9481, [paulaeisenbarth@yahoo.com](mailto:paulaeisenbarth@yahoo.com)

Just a reminder that membership renewals are due for 2012-2013. The NNMTA roster will be updated after the summer break according to the renewals that are completed by August 31. After that, it will be updated periodically as renewals are confirmed by MTNA.

## Reno Youth Festival Meeting

From: Nancy Kuncheff [nkuncheff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nkuncheff@sbcglobal.net)

Tuesday, June 12, 7PM  
Nancy Kuncheff's Studio  
325 Carey Hill Dr.  
Directions from South Virginia:  
Turn right on Foothill Road  
Turn left at the 1st left which is Broken Hill  
Turn right at the 3rd right which is Stoney Brook  
Turn right at the 4th right which is Carey Hill Dr.

All members interested in the Reno Youth Festival are invited to attend a meeting to discuss possible festival changes.

The following topics will be addressed:

Should students in levels 9 and 10 be allowed to enter 2 pieces or 3 pieces?

Should students in levels 11 and 12 be allowed to enter 2 pieces, 3 pieces or 4 pieces?

Are repertoire revisions or additions desired at this time?

If you cannot attend but would like to participate in this committee or offer suggestions please reply via email. RSVP to Nancy Kuncheff @ nkuncheff@sbcglobal.net if you will be able to attend.

tion. Individuals may now (for the 2012-13 year) enter in more than one ensemble. Ensembles are competing against ensembles, not individual players against individual players.

Have a fun and safe summer!

## MTNA State Competition

From: Meredyth Lewis, [musicandmountains@yahoo.com](mailto:musicandmountains@yahoo.com)

The Nevada Music Teachers Association will hold its annual State Competitions for MTNA during the NMTA State Convention at the University of Las Vegas. Rehearsals will be held on Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the performance competitions will be Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Remember that there are two main branches of competitions – performance and composition.

The 2012 General Competitions Guidelines can be found in the AMT April/May issue on pages 34-35, as well as on the mtna.org website under “complete Competition information”. All information about age levels, fees, instrument categories, time limits, repertoire requirements for performance, and requirements for composition entries, etc., can be found on the website.

The deadline for submitting the online application for the competition (performance and composition) is **12:00 P.M. Pacific time on Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012**. The online application will become available in August.

There is a \$30 fee per studio for performance entries. Please send a check made out to “NMTA” and mail to our NMTA treasurer, Brenda Swan, at 6609 Secluded Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89110. This fee goes towards the expense of acquiring judges.

Also, please note the following items from the National Competitions Chair:

- Current active membership dues for MTNA or a nonmember teacher fee **MUST** be paid **PRIOR** to accessing the student competition application.
- Compositions will be uploaded online as a PDF file. **Scores are NOT to be mailed.**
- In the Chamber category, remember that there are now two separate tracks – a Strings chamber competition and a Wind chamber competi-

## Financial Report

From Meredith Bergmann, [meredithbergemann@gmail.com](mailto:meredithbergemann@gmail.com)

### FESTIVAL PROFIT/LOSS ANALYSIS:

	2010			2011		
	Upper	Lower		Upper	Lower	
Expenses	\$4,487	\$2,160		\$4,455	\$2,250	
Income	\$3,332	\$2,889		\$2,650	\$2,330	
Net	-\$1,155	\$729	-\$426	-\$1,805	\$80	-\$1,725

2012			
	Upper	Lower	
Expenses	\$3,788.43	\$2,180.90	
Income	\$3,223	\$2,178	
Net	-\$565.43	-\$2.90	-\$568.33

#### 2011 Silver State profit/loss

Expenses: \$177  
Registration: \$510  
Profit: \$333 (mailed to NMTA)

#### 2010 Silver State profit/loss = \$95

#### 2011 Christmas Playathon Fundraiser = \$632

2010 Christmas Playathon: \$690  
2009 Christmas Playathon: \$1,300

## Thanks and Best Wishes to Chad!



NNMTA Board of Directors	
President	Theresa Schmauder
Vice President	Farida Jamin
Secretary	Roshanna Elwing
Treasurer	Meredith Whelan
Immediate Past President	Chad Twedt
Newsletter Editor	Karen Hudson
Recitals	Ruth Brewer
Membership/ Newsletter Mailing	Paula Eisenbarth
Hospitality	Carol Taylor
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