



# LVMTA *news*

AFFILIATED WITH MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION • WWW.LVMTA.ORG

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2006-2008

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Visit our website:  
www.lvmta.org

Referral Line: 837-5914  
or www.lvmta.org

Dear LVMTA Members:

Happy Holidays! I can hardly believe our year is progressing so quickly. My students just finished their Fall recital and we're looking forward to some fun holiday music to relax with the next few weeks before beginning our preparation for Musicianship Exams and Jr. Festival in earnest in January. I wish you and your students lots of luck in your musical endeavors this season!

The first part of November, I was privileged to attend the NMTA state convention in Reno. I was so impressed by the presenters, Christine Barden and Nancy Bacchus and came away feeling rejuvenated in my teaching. I think most impressive to me was the opening session they did on Friday night. They discussed the importance of what we do as music teachers, beyond teaching a musical instrument. I left motivated to help my students succeed, not just in becoming musicians, but in becoming better, more kind, more well-rounded human beings. They helped me regain motivation to continue working with some of my talented students who just don't ever seem to practice consistently. I learned valuable teaching and pedagogy tips and strategies as well. Lastly, I was very impressed by the fabulous concert and the wonderful organization provided by our state board and the members of NNMTA in Reno. Thanks to all who worked so tirelessly and for those who made the trip and participated. I wish you could have all been there!

Lastly, it's time to begin thinking about a new LVMTA Board to take office next June. I can hardly believe our two years will be finished so soon! If you have a few hours a month to dedicate on Friday mornings and a bit of time at home for individual duties, we would love to have you be more involved! There are several board positions, all of which take different amounts of time and different skills. The positions we need to fill are President, VP of Programs (in charge of general meetings and educational programs), VP of Newsletter (if you like working on your computer, this would be a great job for you with a newsletter going out about every 5-6 weeks), VP of Membership (tracking membership records and communicating with new and renewing members), Treasurer (managing the financial aspects of LVMTA), and Secretary (creating agendas and taking minutes at meetings and other misc. duties).

We are all busy people with full lives, but the little sacrifices that come with giving of ourselves to benefit our students, fellow colleagues, and ourselves, are immeasurable. If you, or someone you know may be able and willing to fill one of these positions, or you just want more information, I'd love to talk to you! Please help us keep LVMTA moving in bigger and better directions!

Sincerely,

Heidi ElHalta, President

## Upcoming Events

December 7th	Board Meeting Hanah Shield's home
December 8-9	Play-a-thon FAO
December 8-22	Jazz Festival Online Registration
December 15	Play-a-thon Galleria
January 3	Bolognini Alumni Recital
January 5	Junior Festival Teacher Registration Due
January 5-12	Bolognini Online Registration

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# Jazz Festival is Coming!

**Online registration Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>  
Fees due Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Jazz Festival, being held **February 9<sup>th</sup> 2008 at UNLV**, includes a fun recital environment in which students can perform “lighter” jazz and pop repertoire. It is open to all ages. Recitals are short, about 30-45 minutes in length. At the conclusion of each recital there is a door prize drawing for one lucky student. All students receive a Certificate of Participation.

Jazz Festival is a great opportunity to “break in” new students to performance, as it is a fun, no-pressure atmosphere. If there are enough adult students, they may participate in a special recital set aside for them.

Entry fee: **\$6** per student per event (solo and/or ensemble). **Online registration is Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Go to [www.lvmta.org](http://www.lvmta.org) for registration instructions.**

The **Fees deadline is Saturday, December 22, 2007.** This date will be strictly observed. Plan ahead. No applications will be accepted in January. Submit one online application for each requested time slot. Collect fees from parents and **write only one check (payable to LVMTA).**

**Send to: Kara Davis, 3730 Sable Palm St., North Las Vegas, NV 89032**

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## Register Your Studio for JUNIOR FESTIVAL by Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>!

The deadline to register your studio for Junior Festival is **January 5<sup>th</sup>!** The studio registration fee establishes you and your students as members of NFMC (The National Federation of Music Clubs), a second national affiliation of LVMTA (separate from MTNA), and is required for participation in Junior Festival. Your NFMC membership also includes a subscription to the quarterly magazine, *Junior Key-notes*. Those who are not members of LVMTA may register but must pay an additional \$20 non-member fee. Non-member teacher’s students will also be required to pay a higher event registration fee.

Fees to register your Junior Club include:

\$14.00 for up to 20 students (for LVMTA members – non-members add \$20)

\$ .70 for each additional student over 20

Examples:        Entering 21 students – total registration fee = \$14.70

                      Entering 30 students – total registration fee = \$21.00

Please send **ONE check, payable to LVMTA**, to:

Majorie Miller

4813 Golden Haven

Las Vegas, NV 89130

Also, **include information stating the name of your junior club** or music studio (ex: Heidi ElHalta Piano Studio – default would be ElHalta Junior Music Club), **your contact information**, and **the number of students you are registering**. If you have any questions, please contact Marjorie at [manddinvegas@aol.com](mailto:manddinvegas@aol.com), 656-1973 or Heidi at [helhalta@lvmta.org](mailto:helhalta@lvmta.org), 810-7992.

**LVMTA *local news*****Mark your Calendars!**

The date for the

**Play-a-thon East**

has changed to:

December 15<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Contact Megan Dougherty

The Galleria schedule is FULL!

**Play-a-thon West**

December 8-9 at FAO Schwarz

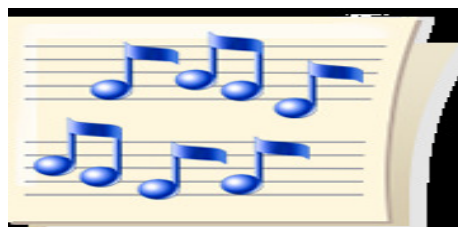
Saturday is FULL.

There are still sporadic spots on Sunday.

Contact Debbie Cluff

Please remember to collect your donations. Checks are made to LVMTA with Play-a-thon or Blind Center in the Memo portion. These are tax deductible donations. Please send them to each chairperson prior to the event. There can be no money collection on site!

Please also remember this is not a recital setting. Mall security is very concerned with crowd control. Teachers need to be aware of it at all times and prevent large groups from gathering. There are plenty of other recital opportunities for students. This is their chance to shine in a different setting.



## LVMTA *Professional Development*

### *Beyond the Music of Baroque*

Enrich your teaching experience by incorporating ideas and concepts from Baroque art.

Allow yourself to look at the pieces that you study with your students from a new angle.

Music performed by our students and over 60 slides of Baroque Art will illustrate our lecture.

Delicious homemade food will be served afterwards. Bring your students and friends!

**Friday, January 18th  
at 10:00 am**

Southern Nevada Music West  
1818 S. Rainbow Blvd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89103  
(702) 795-4646

**MTNA**  
CERTIFICATION

The Piano Technicians Guild (PTG) is dedicated to providing continuing education for piano technicians. Their commitment to continuing education also includes the credentialed professional piano teaching community. MTNA is pleased to announce the creation of two new PTG-sponsored scholarships available to MTNA certified members.

Any piano teacher who has earned MTNA Professional Certification and uses a Registered Piano Technician (RPT) can apply for one of two \$750 scholarships from the Piano Technicians Guild. One of these annual scholarships is to be used specifically for Recreational Music Making (RMM) training, as presented by MTNA, and the other for furthering one's teaching skills through continued education and/or performance study.

For more information about becoming certified or the PTG Scholarships visit  
[www.mtnacertification.org](http://www.mtnacertification.org)

# NMTA *State News*

## Nevada MTNA Competition Results

November 3, 2007

### JUNIOR PIANO participants

Annie Monson	Reno	Teacher: Chad Twedt
Tussah Heera	Las Vegas	Teacher: Roger Bushell
Aida Badalian	Las Vegas	Teacher: Ekaterina Melkamini
Richard Yee	Las Vegas	Teacher: Jie Bu
Ruta Kuzmickas	Las Vegas	Teacher: Ekaterina Melkamini
Artem Aleksanyan	Las Vegas	Teacher: Ekaterina Melkamini
Steven Kim	Las Vegas	Teacher: Jie Bu

WINNER: Tussah Heera

Teacher: Roger Bushell

ALTERNATE: Ruta Kuzmickas

Teacher: Ekaterina Melkamini

HONORABLE MENTION: Richard Yee

Teacher: Jie Bu

Aida Badalian

Teacher: Ekaterina Melkamini

### SENIOR PIANO participants

Jing Zhu	Las Vegas	Teacher: Jie Bu
Carmen Lai	Las Vegas	Teacher: Jie Bu
Savannah Sommers	Reno	Teacher: Sonnet Johnson
Jae Ahn-Benton	Las Vegas	Teacher: Roger Bushell
Yuting Luo	Reno	Teacher: Chad Twedt
Aaron Tsui	Las Vegas	Teacher: Brian Hicks

WINNER: Jae Ahn-Benton

Teacher: Roger Bushell

ALTERNATE: Savannah Sommers

Teacher: Sonnet Johnson

HONORABLE MENTION: Carmen Lai

Teacher: Jie Bu

### PIANO JUDGES:

Mykola Suk, Professor of Piano, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Kirill Gliadkovsky, Professor of Piano, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah

Dr. Yu-Jane Yang, Professor of Piano, Weber State University, Utah

# NMTA State News

## JUNIOR STRING participants

Kristen Hsu Henderson Teacher: Shakeh Ghoukasian

Michael Kwok Las Vegas Teacher: Mary Straub

WINNER: Kristen Hsu Teacher: Shakeh Ghoukasian

ALTERNATE: Michael Kwok Teacher: Mary Straub

## SENIOR STRINGS participants

Brycen Ingersoll Las Vegas Teacher: Richard Straub

Alex Gonzalez Las Vegas Teacher: Shakeh Ghoukasian

Shana Kim Las Vegas Teacher: Andrew Smith

Caitlin Stokes Las Vegas Teacher: Mary Straub

David Warner Las Vegas Teacher: Moonlight Tran

Tracy Bu Las Vegas Teacher: Weiwei Le

Christopher Kiriscioglu Las Vegas Teacher: Moonlight Tran

Tena Shizuma Las Vegas Teacher: Shakeh Ghoukasian

WINNER: Tracy Bu Teacher: Weiwei Le

ALTERNATE: Brycen Ingersoll Teacher: Richard Straub

HONORABLE MENTION: Caitlin Stokes Teacher: Mary Straub

Chris Kiriscioglu Teacher: Moonlight Tran

## STRING JUDGES:

Stephanie Sant'Ambrogio, University of Nevada, Reno

Alexander Walsh-Wilson, San Francisco State University

Philip Ruder, University of Nevada, Reno

## YOUNG ARTIST VOICE participants

Brittine Jo Lacey Reno Teacher: Dr. Katharine DeBoer

Therese M. Curatolo Reno Teacher: Dr. Katharine DeBoer

Nicole Dzadek Reno Teacher: Dr. Katharine DeBoer

WINNER: Therese M. Curatolo

ALTERNATE: Nicole Dzadek

HONORABLE MENTION: Brittine Jo Lacey

VOICE JUDGE: Dr. Tod Fitzpatrick, Professor of Voice, UNLV

# NMTA State News

## NEVADA REPRESENTATIVES to Southwest Division Competition

Junior Woodwind:	Karissa Georges	Teacher: Cynthia Man
Senior Woodwind	Rebecca Swain	Teacher: Cynthia Man
Senior Voice	Brielle Lichten	Teacher: Dr. Katharine DeBoer
Young Artist String	Danielle Swain	Teacher: Monte Belknap, BYU
Young Artist Composition	Jeffrey DePaoli	Teacher: Dr. James Winn

## State Convention Report

### *The "Little" Convention That Grew*

Sometime during one of our NMTA Board meetings, we talked about the fact that WPPC was coming to Las Vegas at the same time as our State Convention and that because we were also presenting our members with the expense of both WPPC and a State Convention in Reno, we would therefore, have a big dent in our convention attendance. A lot of ideas were put forward to make this situation less forlorn and the idea that won the day, was to just put together a little two day Convention, an idea that seemed practical but not very inspirational.

But this "Little" Convention defied us all and grew and grew. By the time we all assembled in Reno, inspiration had beaten out practical and we found ourselves with a whiz bang Convention starting with a phenomenal opening concert as marvelous as any I have attended anywhere. Dr. James Winn and Stephanie Sant' Ambrogio gave a gorgeous performance of the K454 Mozart Sonata for Violin and Piano; Pierce Emata gave a stunning first performance of our own Jorge Grossmann's Commissioned Composer Piece "Etudes for Piano". How wonderful it was to have Jorge and Carolyn in attendance, and as though these were not enough, we also heard the most incredible and beautiful performance of the Bach Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue and Liszt's Spanish Rhapsody by our own MTNA 2007 National Piano Winner, Elena Miraztchyska.

Saturday was packed with really meaty teaching sessions led by Christine Barden and Nancy Bacchus who demonstrated teaching techniques with very young, adorable children volunteers in the morning session, and gave us a Saturday afternoon absolutely stuffed with a review of musical styles, historical perspectives and pedal technique.

The MTNA Competitions were the largest we have had so far and as always, were exciting. We send our winners to New Mexico with so much pride.

The State Membership Meeting was kind of our Banquet and Membership Meeting rolled into one – a meeting full of reports but also full of fun, warmth and camaraderie and a "banquet" that included a labor of love, the awarding of our 20 Plus Years Certificates, which this year, excitingly, included fourteen members who moved into new categories, most of whom were there to receive the beautiful certificates that Nancy Tedford designs and the awarding of our Local Association Recipient Certificates to Denise Smith, NNMTA and our own Mallie Riecken, LVMTA who were both in attendance.

We owe many thanks to the Reno members who treated us with so much warmth and we owe so much thanks to President Pierce Emata and President Elect Mary Straub who worked so hard and turned our "Little" practical Convention into an inspirational success.

Doris Chase, for all of us who were there.

## LVMTA Community News

### *Blind Center of Nevada hosted Thank You Concert for Donors to the Music Program*

The Blind Center of Nevada hosted a Donor Appreciation Day Saturday, November 3rd, 2007 at 1001 N. Bruce Street.

The Blind Center's Music students Robin Braun, Teresa Cochran, Christina Pollack, Aarius White, Suzy Rhodes, Cristobal Sotelo, and Lucy Newmann, along with their teachers Lisa Fiorenza, Kathy Kavanaugh, Art Gomez, and Susan Myhre, and opera singers Michael Rodrigues and Marco Varela gave beautiful performances. Refreshments and a tour of the Center's arts facility followed.

The renovated building has a computer laboratory, an arts and crafts classroom, a sculpting and pottery studio with a kiln, and a piano/computer lab.

The Blind Center began in 1955 in someone's home and, with funding through the years, re-located to the Bruce Street address in 1982. Music Program Director, Lisa Fiorenza, has been instrumental in creating support from the Las Vegas Music Teachers Association since 2003 with our seasonal holiday Play-a-thons.

Linda Wiltberger, the center's development officer, received grants for funding from the Nevada Arts Council, a division of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Submitted by Geri Bedrosian

### *Bolognini Alumni Recital January 3, 2008, 7:00 pm Doc Rando Hall*

*Special Guest: Elena Miraztchiyska  
MTNA 2007 Young Artists Winner*



*Silent Auction and Reception immediately following  
To donate items for the auction please contact Hanah Shields at 338-8643*

# World Piano Pedagogy Conference Report

The World Piano Pedagogy Conference (WPPC) held it's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference here in Las Vegas from November 4-7. It is that rare opportunity to spend 4 days conversing, learning and celebrating with some of the top pianist/teachers from around the world. Included in this fine assemblage was the man of honor this year, Leon Fleischer. In addition some of the great teachers we had were John Perry, (USC); Luiz de Moura Castro, (Hartt); Yoheved Kaplinsky, (Julliard); Phillip Kawin, (Manhattan School of Music); Peter Takacs, (Oberlin); Robert Hamilton (Arizona State); Marc Durand (U of Montreal) and Hans Boepple (Santa Clara), as well as well known composers Randy Faber & Jane Bastien, among others.

Also participating were our very own Mykola Suk and Enrico Elisi from UNLV. The lectures and mini sessions were enlightening as always. It was an opportunity to rejuvenate one's passion for what we do. The Chamber concert at UNLV featuring Leon Fleisher was a huge success. We had well over 300 people attending (which necessitated 50 taxis back and forth from the Riviera Hotel!) John Perry's concert of the 3 Beethoven Sonata's (109, 110 & 111) was a once in a life-time opportunity. These concerts alone would cost one well over \$200 if presented in NYC. The banquet was a tribute to Leon Fleisher given by members of his family. It was pricey, BUT, the entertainment included a duet by Leon and his wife; a harp concert which included Leon's daughters, and Leon's son, a renowned Jazz singer, performing with a special band assembled just for the event. Worth way more than the cost of the dinner. And when can we ever hear Luis de Moura Castro playing Happy Birthday on the piano? (Celebrating Leon's birthday early.)

I was asked at the last minute for students for beginners master classes and Nancy Haywood & Hanah Waterman-Shields were the only teachers to come forward. Hanah also volunteered to work at the conference and was invaluable in assisting at registration and with other organization (as we all know she is a fabulous organizer). A big thank you to Hanah for all her help. Also thank you to the teachers who helped with the Exhibitor showcase introductions.

I attend these conferences every year because I am always interested in improving my skills as a teacher, to have my "batteries" recharged for teaching and to have the opportunity to interact with some of the best in our field. I cannot tell you how disappointed I was that we did not have a greater attendance from our local association members. A mere 10 piano teachers attended. This is continuing education and I take a page out of our past president, Suzanne Gillman's playbook, who said she tells her students she will return a better teacher from these events (MTNA & WPPC) and they will benefit. So I, as she did, take the week off and do not miss out on any income. I then give a big party/group lesson to make up for the lost week.

I appeal to all teachers, please never feel intimidated that you think you cannot learn more to improve your teaching. Please never feel there is nothing more you need to learn. We get stale if we don't continue to grow and evolve and certainly we want to set the right example for our students, our children and each other. Attendance at these type of events is how we achieve that ideal.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Gordon

WPPC National Coordinator

# Classified

Welcome to our newest Associate Member:

The Fifth Annual  
Las Vegas Flute Fair  
March 8-9



For more information please visit [www.lasvegasfluteclub.com](http://www.lasvegasfluteclub.com)



8125 W. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, 89117  
360-4080

2714 N. Green Valley Pkwy, Henderson 89014  
435-4080

1915 W. Craig Road, N. Las Vegas 89032



SPARKS, NEVADA –

The "Scat's My Bag" interactive cd learning trilogy, created by teaching music artist Erika Paul Carlson at

Jazz Q Music Education Services, was named a Music category Honors Award winner in the 2007 National Parenting Publications Awards (NAPPA) Children's Products competition. Full results will be announced Nov. 1, 2007, in 40 regional parenting magazines across the country and online at Parenthood.com.

This distinction recognizes the "Scat's My Bag" interactive cd learning trilogy as a standout among toys, books, DVDs, software & video games, music and spoken-word recordings available for children today.



This interactive CD, Songbook with band instrument transpositions and coloring/drawing StoryBook received a 2006 Parents' Choice Award of Approval, the 2006 Children's Web Award for Best Recording For Older Children Ages 8 to 12 and A 2007 NAPPA Honors Award for Excellence.



For more information or to order Scat's My Bag directly go to:

[www.erikapaul.com](http://www.erikapaul.com)