



Foothills Music Teachers Association

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[www.fmtamusic.org](http://www.fmtamusic.org)

April 2015

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April 15- 9:30 a.m.

***"Teaching Bach's Little Preludes"***  
-presented by Patricia Parraguez-Chen

Bear Valley Church, 10001 W. Jewell Ave. (at old Kipling, 3 blocks E. of Kipling)

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**FMTA MEETING: APRIL 15, 9:30 a.m.**

Spring in to becoming a more effective teacher by not missing our April Program, "*Teaching Bach's Little Preludes*", presented by Patricia Parraguez-Chen. The Bach Little Preludes are gems of the repertoire and it's our hope that you all walk out feeling comfortable with studying them yourselves, and teaching them to your students. Patricia is a master teacher who has had many students go on to higher musical training at many prestigious schools and conservatories. She brings wonderful insight into playing Bach's masterpieces. See you there.

**SONATINA FESTIVAL TEACHERS!**

Sonatina Festival teachers may check the FMTA website on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> throughout the day as winners are announced. Teachers are encouraged to have parents/students check the website as well, about 30 minutes after their class has finished. Recital times are 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. Plan to contact your students ASAP that day and inform them at which recital they are scheduled to play. Teachers can go to [www.fmtamusic.org](http://www.fmtamusic.org), check the homepage and click on the 2015 Sonatina Festival Winner's List. Results will begin to be listed after 10:00 a.m. The list will be updated as the day progresses, so check it periodically. All results should be in by 4:00 p.m. Remember to pick up your forms between 3:30 -4:00 p.m. that day in room 213. We hope this makes it fast & easy to notify students. Special thanks to Jan Tuttle for her work with our website!

Also new this year, we have updated the Sonatina Festival Certificate. Teachers have the option to use the new certificate or choose the old one. Participating teachers will receive an emailed file of the certificate choices, and may copy them as needed. Blank certificates will not be in your file at the end of the day. The traditional version as well as two color choices for the updated certificate will be available for you to print as you choose. Special thanks to Emily Rogers for her creative design and support of FMTA!

Here are some items to mull over when you are not busy preparing students:

Do you have students who have played the 1<sup>st</sup> movement of the Noona "Sonatina Romantico?" It is currently listed under class III. The suggestion has been made to move the 1<sup>st</sup> movement to class IV and keep the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> movement in class III. If you have an opinion on this, please email me at [LindasMusicStudio@gmail.com](mailto:LindasMusicStudio@gmail.com). And the second suggestion is to have class VI students play just one movement of a Sonatina. After considering the pros and cons of this idea, please let me know what you think. Thanks for taking time to communicate your ideas.

Linda Pott, (303) 422-3360, [LindasMusicStudio@gmail.com](mailto:LindasMusicStudio@gmail.com)

## **OFFICER NOMINEE SLATE FOR 2015-2016**

The nominating committee recommends the following persons to serve as our elected officers next year:

President – Elaine Van Dellen, NCTM  
1<sup>st</sup> V.P. of Programs – Laura Rogers  
2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. of Membership – Robin Braun  
3<sup>rd</sup> V.P. of Publicity – Laura Trefethen  
Secretary – Carol Williams  
Treasurer – Elinore Quander, NCTM

Additional nominees will be accepted from the floor at our April meeting before the membership vote. Please be sure to attend this important meeting. Nominating Committee members: Elaine Van Dellen, Carrie Christensen, and April Larsen

## **FMTA SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarship applications are due by the April FMTA meeting from seniors intending to be music majors or minors, or from high school undergraduates wanting to attend a summer music camp to institute. Standing rules and the application forms are located on the website at <http://www.fmtamusic.org/student-scholarships/> You can mail the application to LaVon Cooper, P.O. Box 77, Granby, CO 80446. Call LaVon if you have any questions at [970-887-2954](tel:970-887-2954).

### **FROM OUR PRESIDENT:**

It must be April...for 35 FMTA teachers are helping students polish their sonatinas/sonatas...for 18 teachers are evaluating how students completed their performance pieces and options for Achievement Day...for many of us are planning end-of-year recitals...for ALL of us are evaluating if we reached our goals for our students during the past year.

Achievement Day is an event where we can assess our students and our teaching values. If students have chosen options for scales/chords/arpeggios, are they madly practicing like crazy to attain the numbers required for the level they have chosen? Or have they been practicing these all along so they can pull out their favorite keys to perform as options? Hopefully, it is the latter. The CSMTA handbook has excellent guidelines for these options which can be useful all year and not just for AD. Students should be ready for AD whether in the fall or spring. Are we teaching to reach that goal?

Just as schools assess what students have learned by administering tests, so our students can take AD tests for theory, ear training, terms and signs, and music history. Have we reached our goal of bringing these topics into their weekly lessons? The CSMTA website has practice tests we can use throughout the year and not just as preparation for AD.

Evaluating our teaching skills can be difficult because each student has a distinct personality that responds to our directions in different ways. There are tools which can be useful when assessing our teaching such as an MTNA brochure, (no longer in print, but check with Elaine or Kathy) “Assessment Tools for the Independent Music Teacher”. Also, we don’t necessarily think of certification as an assessment tool but it truly is. By working through the MTNA certification process, which is detailed on the MTNA website, we can see where our strengths and weaknesses lie. Our Certification Chair, Kathryn Lewis NCTM, is an excellent resource to help you.

We are always evaluating something or other, are we not? Did the newest recipe receive accolades? Should we wear short sleeves or a sweater? Was our attitude as positive as it could have been with the students today? Evaluations should always be done with the best interest of the student at the top of the list. And when evaluating any topic, always remember...there are many times when our evaluations should be accompanied by chuckles or even hearty laughter. ~ KATHY HAMMER, NCTM

## **FESTIVAL FOR CREATIVE PIANISTS- 2015**

The 2015 Festival for Creative Pianists in Denver is rapidly approaching and we are excited that so far 23 students have enrolled! Our goal is to have 30 students, so there is still room for a few additional entrants. The deadline for application has been extended to April 15 (contingent on openings). Please contact Evelyn Billberg at [ev.billberg@gmail.com](mailto:ev.billberg@gmail.com) for more information.

## **ACHIEVEMENT DAY- 2015**

Thank you to all of the teachers and students that participated in Achievement Day last month! Even though our numbers were low, the day was a success! I appreciate all of the time volunteered by the teachers involved and also teachers that gave their time freely to help the day run smoothly. Thank you for all of your hard work! Carrie Christensen – Achievement Day Chair

## **CSMTA CONFERENCE**

May 1<sup>st</sup> is the early registration deadline for the June 3-5 state conference in Pueblo. This can be accomplished either online or by snail mail but do it today. At the same time, call someone with whom you would like to carpool and make hotel reservations, too. What an opportunity to *hear* about something new rather than read a book/magazine article on the subject! This conference is a very affordable event for everyone which you will not want to miss! It is guaranteed that once you attend one conference you will be hooked for all future ones.

## **DUES, DUES, DUES!**

We will soon be receiving our dues notification from MTNA. If dues are paid by the first week in June you will be placed in the CSMTA Directory as a member who knows how to pay on time! Please remember that the membership renewal date for MTNA, CSMTA and FMTA is **July 1**, and any memberships renewed after that date are considered late and may not be included in the FMTA directory and will be subject to additional late fees for FMTA events. Yes, the dues deadline is July 1st, but don't wait until that day to send in your dues, return the form the day after receiving the notice or better yet, renew today online at the MTNA website!

## **PLEASE SAY "YES"**

Non-profit associations all depend on volunteers and FMTA is no exception. Though this year is not complete, plans are now being made for 2015-16 and volunteers are again needed. Let this be the year you jump in and say "yes" when asked to help in some capacity! And THANK YOU (in advance) for saying "yes".

## **NEW STUDENT REFERRAL**

If you have openings, or if you are receiving calls from students you cannot take, please contact FMTA's Student Referral Chair, Alfred Born at (303) 984-7464 or email him at: [bornmenth@comcast.net](mailto:bornmenth@comcast.net)

## **PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITY AT SUNRISE ASSISTED LIVING CENTER**

Looking for a great way to have your students practice their performing in front of an appreciative audience? Plan to come and bring a few students who want to share a piece or two with the residents at Sunrise Assisted Living Center, located at 5095 W. Quincy Avenue, Denver, 80236. FMTA students have the program from 3:00-4:00 p.m. on Sundays April 19 and May 17. This is a great opportunity for students to play in a casual setting where they will receive lots of affirmation! All ages and levels are welcome. Contact Alfred Born at [bornmenth@comcast.net](mailto:bornmenth@comcast.net) to reserve a spot for your students.

## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

If you would like to submit an article to be included in our monthly newsletter, please email Jan Tuttle at [rjtuttle@comcast.net](mailto:rjtuttle@comcast.net) by noon of the first Wednesday of the month.

## **DUOCLASSICA CONCERT**

On Saturday April 11th, at 7 pm DuoClassica will present one of the most unusual and intriguing new programs: From Stage to Hollywood: The Magic of Music. The concert will be held on Saturday, April 11th, at 7:00 pm at Grace United Methodist Church, 4905 E. Yale Ave, Denver. Tickets at the door (\$15, cash or checks, NO CC please).

## **CALENDAR OF FMTA EVENTS FOR 2015**

**April 10, 10:00 a.m.**-Performance Group home of Jan Austin-Peck (303-216-2159)

**April 11- all day**, Sonatina Festival, Colorado Christian University

**April 15, 9:30 a.m.**-FMTA meeting and program, "*Teaching the Little Preludes by Bach*" - presented by Patricia Parraguez-Chen

**May 8, 10:00 a.m.**- Performance Group home of Laura Rogers (303-706-9079)

**May 20 9:30 a.m.**-FMTA meeting and program, "*Teacher Musicale and Luncheon*" - FMTA Teachers and Scholarship Recipients

**June 3-5**- CSMTA Conference, Colorado State University Pueblo