
FMTA September Newsletter

Happy Fall Y'all!!! Inside this newsletter you will find info on our next meeting, links to Achievement Day registration, important upcoming FMTA events, community announcements and a note from our President, Carrie Christensen.

Do you have an announcement for the monthly newsletter? Please email davina.perret@gmail.com by the first of the month to have it included in the next edition.



Wednesday, September 18th

9:30 a.m. Business Meeting

10:30a.m. “Off-Bench Learning”

presented by Thomas Hoops

Come join us for our September meeting!

**Thomas Hoops will be presenting “Off-Bench Learning”,
based on *Music Learning Theory* (GIML.org) created by Edwin Gordon.**

“Music Learning Theory is not a method, but a sequence of how we learn music. MLT uses the movement principles of Rudolf Laban, which unlike the DalCroze's *Eurythmics*, separates time and space as they are concepts that humans acquire at different stages.

I have been referring to my work as "Off-Bench" activities because the activities are not just movement for rhythmic audiation, but involve singing (tonal audiation) and body awareness elements that I feel are not attainable while learning to play the piano.

I think that off-bench activities are even more critical as children become possessed by digital noise and lose the opportunity to simply sing and improvise music. Too many students "imitate" or "de-code" music while playing piano without musical thought, which is what *audiation* is - thinking musically. I have been having much success with my students and with my presentations. Incorporating off-bench activities for musical understanding has allowed me to work with younger beginners, and has eliminated frustration levels for me and the students making every lesson productive, purposeful, and fun.”~Thomas Hoops

(Thomas Hoops holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Liberal Arts from Texas Woman’s University, and a Master’s Degree in Music Education from the University of Texas at Arlington. He is a member of, and certified level 1 Elementary General Music, by the Gordon Institute for Music Learning (GIML.org). With his illuminating and engaging speaking style, Mr. Hoops is gaining recognition as a presenter by sharing his *Music Learning Theory* based approach to teaching music.)

Achievement Day: Saturday, November 2nd from 9am-2pm. CCU Music Building 9200 W. Ellsworth Ave. Lakewood, CO 80226. Achievement Day registration is again digital this year. Easy to follow registration instructions and links are on the FMTA website <http://www.fmtamusic.org/achievement-day/>. **Registration and payment must be in the hands of the Chair, Laura Trefethen, by 10 pm, Oct. 2.** Laura is available to help if you have questions: (303) 656-6184 (cell) or lauratrefethen@gmail.com. We welcome April Larsen as our new co-chair this year!

Are you not sure what Achievement Day is all about or how to prepare your students for it? Laura will be available for questions directly after our FMTA meeting. Achievement Day always brings lots of excitement and fun for students and teachers. Please come and join us!

Holiday Benefit Recitals: For many years FMTA students have presented Holiday recitals at the Denver West Barnes & Noble store. Our Scholarship Fund was the beneficiary of purchases made during these weekends of recitals. Because B&N has changed their rebate policy and 'book fairs' will not be longer than one day the FMTA Board has had to look at other options to raise monies so the scholarship fund can continue.

This year Holiday Recitals will be presented at Our Savior's Corner of Hope Church (where the Winter Festival has been held), on December 7th and the 14th from 9 AM -6 PM. While some times were filled at the August meeting, many times are still available, especially on December 7th.

To raise monies for the Scholarship Fund we will be asking families to donate a nominal amount which will be determined at the September meeting. **THIS WILL BE A SUGGESTED DONATION** and is in lieu of having to buy tickets for the recital. A suggestion – that families donate to their teacher's studio during the fall with the teacher sending their studio donation to the FMTA treasurer, Elinore Quander. **Teachers who present Holiday recitals elsewhere can donate to this fund**, also. Without monies being added each year FMTA will not be able to continue to offer scholarships to collegiate music majors and minors nor to high school students attending summer camps. To reserve a recital time, contact Kathy khpiano@msn.com or 303-988-9565.

Winter Festival: Saturday, January 25, 2020 @ Our Savior's Corner of Hope Church. 1975 S. Garrison St. Lakewood, CO. 80227. *"The Age of Romance"* is the theme for the 2020 FMTA Winter Festival. Students are invited into the 19th century Salon to perform music of

romance, nature, emotions, and imagination. Soloists and ensembles are welcome to share masterworks written between 1820 and 1900. Entice your students to hone those rubato skills and explore the rich repertoire of familiar giants- Schubert, Schumann, Chopin, Liszt, Mendelssohn, and Glinka, Sibelius, Moussorsky, Grieg, Albiniz, and Granados! Maybe your student is ready for Burgmüller and Heller? These are familiar names but there are many others from the period. The students will perform in a recital setting and will receive evaluations. See details on FMTAmusic.org. Co-chairs are Laura Rogers and Jonny Sterling.

Sonatina Festival: Saturday, March 7th @ CCU Music Building 9200 W. Ellsworth Ave. Lakewood, CO 80226. Co-chairs are Evelyn Billberg and Brenda Ohlschwager

“Pilot Program for FMTA”

CSMTA has invited FMTA to be a part of a pilot program as the Professional Reading Program (PRP) is revised. Instead of reading 3 books through the year, we will be reading only one book and then connecting themes from within the book with TED Talks or other online sources. **“Soprano on Her Head” by Eloise Ristad is the book for this year.** Eloise lived and taught in Boulder and enjoyed helping her students look at music from many angles. Do read the book but if you would like to go the digital route first, check these out on You Tube:

- 1) Loser’s Club by Jon Nakamatsu (9+ minutes); Jon was the CSMTA Conference Artist about 10 years ago.
- 2) Tinnikling - Failing is as much fun as succeeding (3 minutes);
- 3) Failing Forward, a Motivational Video, Your World Within, Victor Kiam (man is looking through a high-rise window)(3+ minutes).

If you would like a head’s up for next month’s digital offering, then this MTNA webinar will give you many insights into preparing your students for the Winter Festival and the playing of Romantic era pieces – and put you into a perfect place for our January program, “Practicing Feelings”. Check out MTNA’s [webinar](#), “The Art of the Phrase” with Peter Mack, June 2019. Peter is an engaging speaker from Washington State via Ireland.

***Comments/Questions – Kathy Hammer or Arlyce Black or Evelyn Billberg

Farmers Market Festival Report

Thank you to all the students and teachers for their wonderful performances at the 2019 Farmers Market Festival! The annual end-of-summer festival takes place in Wheat Ridge at the Four Seasons Farmers & Artisans Market, an atmospheric indoor setting that offers FMTA students and teachers the opportunity to share music in a community-based setting. ~Lorian Bartle, Chair

Community Announcements

KEN CARYL CONCERTS: LATIN SERENADE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH @ 7:30 P.M.

Join us with an evening that will sizzle with sounds from Spain and Latin America. Performers include classical guitarist, Lorian Bartle, cello and piano duo, Ethan Lazarus & Carl Algermissen, tango dancers, and more! Donations benefit Stepping Stone Communities (www.stepsstonescommunities.org).

***FREE admission, family friendly, and free refreshments.

St. Philip Lutheran Church, 7531 S. Kendall Blvd. Littleton, CO 80128. www.stphilip-co.org/concerts

Organist/pianist NEEDED for Christ on the Mountain Catholic Church in Lakewood, Colorado with 3-manual Rodgers Artist Series organ. Accompany a 35-voice adult choir, Children's Choir and Youth Choir. Sunday schedule: 9:30 a.m. Rehearsal; 10:15 a.m. Mass; 11:30 a.m. Children's Choir rehearsal. Weekly rehearsals on Wednesday evenings. Please contact Ron Seggerman at **303-810-3342** or ron@christonthemountain.org

MUSICIANS SOCIETY OF DENVER 100 YEAR CELEBRATION

When: November 2, 2019. 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Where: Hilton Denver Inverness. 200 Inverness Dr W. Englewood, CO 80112


Come celebrate with us!!! The programs will include performances from our teachers and students in four areas: Jazz Combo, Voice, Violin and Piano. If you have students who would like to play please contact Linda King, Evelyn Billberg or Karen Greenhalgh.

President's Corner

Dear FMTA Members,

We had a fantastic first meeting in August!! It was wonderful to see so many new faces and reunite with friends as well. A huge thank you to April Larsen for offering her home! Davina Perret gave a fabulous program on advertising through social media. We all learned how to navigate different social media sites and what avenues of advertising are the most effective. It was very eye-opening. Thank you, Davina!

One of the items discussed at the meeting was that every teacher needs to have their students sign a photo/video release form for the school year. In doing this, FMTA will have permission as an organization to post photos of events on our website. Here is the link for a photo release form from the CSMTA website: <https://comusicteachers.net/documentsandforms>. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

I hope we are all settling into a “steady rhythm” for the new school year.  Thank you for your participation, questions, suggestions, and input! I enjoy serving such a stellar group of teachers!

Carrie Christensen

carrie.pianoteacher@gmail.com