

# NVMTA News

May 2, 2014

## Next Meeting: May 28, 2014

- Installation of Officers 2014-2015
- Paulo Steinberg, VMTA President
- Program about dealing with Performance Anxiety by Barry Green, co-author of *The Inner Game of Music*

This should be a terrific meeting and program.  
Don't miss it!



Barry Green

Barry Green, a native Californian, served as Principal Bassist of the Cincinnati Symphony for 28 years, and more recently Principal Bassist of the California Symphony and 'Sun Valley, Idaho Summer Symphony. As former Executive Director of the International Society of Bassists, he is currently living in San Diego while teaching at the U. of Calif. Santa Cruz and active as a bass soloist, clinician and motivational speaker.

Green has written three books on the 'mind-body and spirit' of performing musicians: *The Inner Game of Music*, with W. Timothy Gallwey, *The Mastery of Music, Ten Pathways to True Artistry*, and *Bringing Music to Life*.

## Highlights from the General Meeting April 30, 2014

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NVMTA By-Laws Revised 2014, to go into effect on May 28, 2014, adopted by unanimous vote.

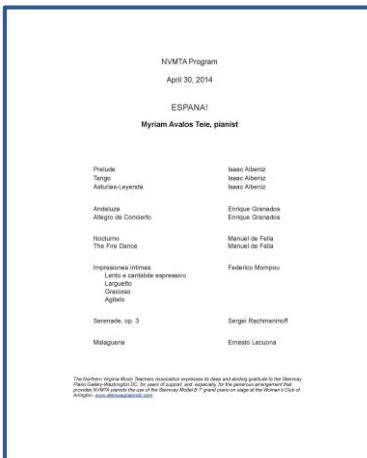
Marilynne Jost named Most Valuable Member April 2014



Marilynne Jost

# España!

Myriam Avalos Teie presented a delightful program of familiar and not-so-familiar musical selections by Spanish composers, or influenced by them. She gave commentary on each piece giving historical and cultural context as well as highlighting the pedagogical challenges of the music.



Rosita Kerr Mang, program chair; Myriam Avalos Teie

## Upcoming Registration Deadlines

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Wednesday, May 7, 2014  
Registration Deadline for General Recitals, May 17, 2014  
[Application General Recitals](#)

Friday, May 9, 2014  
Registration Deadline for Northern District Auditions  
[mtfest.com](#)

Wednesday, May 14, 2014  
Registration Deadline for Single Line Skills  
[mtfest.com](#)

## Upcoming Events

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Sunday May 11, 2014  
Honors Judged Recital  
6:00 PM Woman's Club of Arlington

Saturday, May 17, 2014  
General Recitals  
2:30 and 3:45  
Woman's Club of Arlington

Sunday, May 18, 2014  
Achievement Awards Winners Recital  
6:00 PM Woman's Club of Arlington

Sunday, May 25, 2:00 PM  
Julie and David Slingerland  
Sonata Competition Honors Recital, Harris Theater, GMU

## On April 4, 2014, NVMTA held a recital in memory of Ruthanne Lodato, who was killed in her home on February 6, 2014.

Her continued legacy through NVMTA will be a yearly scholarship to a needy student, a promotion she would have been most proud of accomplishing. With your help, we can provide each year funds for a financially needy student that would help with the burden of expensive music lessons. Send donations to Debra Gunnerson, 4509 Hazelnut Ct., Chantilly, VA 20151. Checks should be made out to NVMTA, stating Lodato scholarship in the memo area.

Ruthanne spent 40+ years in music education from the University of Richmond and 16+ as piano professor from Catholic University. She began teaching piano lessons as a teenager and continued to teach piano, voice, and theory at various schools after graduating from college.

For many years Ruthanne taught my piano students through adults in Alexandria at The Lodato School of Music, LLC. For many years she taught piano and theory at the elementary and grade schools in Alexandria and Arlington, including St. Christopher's School, St. Paul's School, St. John's School, and Italy Childhood Center and Valley Dale Preschool.

In 1984, she opened Music Together Alexandria where she directed a group of 15 children ages 0-5 years old in music classes through the year while teaching their parents and caregivers how to sing and play with their children. This organization helped the parents to begin a tradition of music making and learning throughout Northern Virginia and D.C. metro areas.

This concert has been made possible by the generous  
North Ridge Citizens Association

The NVMTA would like to thank the following for their  
contribution to this concert:

Students of Ruthanne Lodato, organized by Lynn Rodek  
Nancy Long, President  
Stage Manager: Cindy Conner

*Ruthanne Lodato  
Memorial Recital*



The Lyceum  
Alexandria, VA  
©April 6, 2014

Peggy McNauly - Bassoon	Linda Crammer - Piano
Gloria Tamm - Violin	Robert & Hammerstein
Cora McNamee - Violin	Traditional
Twinkie, Twinkie Little Star	Traditional
John Kelly - Bassoon	Bassoon
Susanna Old McDonald	Traditional
Maggie McNamee - Bassoon	M. Baker
Iris Moore - Violin	C. Raffie
Leigh Carter - Bassoon	Traditional
Fredly - Mary Grace Lang	N. & R. Fader
My Immerson - ZIL	N. & R. Fader
Ode to Joy - Jack Kelly	L. Sorensen
PBII Bass - Alondra Kraka	C. Kline
Buffy Stoeckle - Custer Lang	W.T. Blue Garcia
Stacia C. - Custer Lang	N. & R. Fader
Custer Lang and Mary Beth Lang - Beach Party	N. & R. Fader

David Koenig  
Armenia Op. 21 No. 1  
American Folk Song  
National Op. 32 No. 4

Markens Inse. & Diane Bergener  
Berlin Op. 11 No. 1  
Lorey  
Strauss in D. Op. 6 Allegro vivace  
Bassoon

Andrea Hewett  
Ragtime Nightingale  
National in F Major Op. 1 No. 1

Julie Singefeld and Jessie Yannas  
Allegro Moderato

John McCary  
Immemorial Op. 1 No. 1  
Immemorial Op. 1 No. 1 in A Major

Diane Pomer - Bassoon  
Linda Crammer - Piano

Chorus track

A reception will be held following the concert



Organizer Debra Gunnerson  
with Norman Lodato

Scrapbook table and  
poster about  
Ruthanne



NVMTA performers



Elegant reception organized by  
Eve and Richard Ginnett

## *Jeri Bennett, NVMTA Most Valuable Member March 2014*

*By Ann Lee*

Jeri Bennett and I visited for a long and deep conversation at Panera in Vienna; we talked about her life, multi-faceted career, and role in the NVMTA.

### *What is your musical background?*

I took piano lessons starting at age seven – I'd say just the typical "garden variety." The most significant event happened when I was thirteen, and became the church pianist; that was my first job. That's where I really developed my reading ability. One of the best things at that job throughout high school was that the choir director, who was an accomplished singer himself, would go through all the dusty choir music, and pull out something every week at rehearsal because he wanted to hear what it sounded like. So I had to sight-read. And when you're playing for a choir, you can't stop – even if you drop your music on the floor! And that did happen – it fell on the floor, but I was keeping count, and I was able to find where they were. So when I got to college, even though I was not a music major, I took a piano ensemble class. The professor was Allison Nelson. She required that all her majors take piano ensemble; I was the only non-major, but I was the best reader, and I owe it all to that director!

### *How did you begin teaching piano lessons?*

My undergraduate degree is actually in biology and I worked in the FBI Lab. When I moved here after college, the first thing I bought was a piano. While I worked at the Bureau, I was doing a lot of musical theater work; I also found a church job. After years in these musical endeavors, one of the guys in the theater asked me to teach his kid. I didn't really know how to do it, but one of the music directors in the theater was a piano teacher, and she told me how to start, what to do. I found that I liked it! So that's how I started teaching. Eventually, I decided to change my career. I quit my job, gave up all my good government benefits, and went back to school to become "educated" in music. I earned a Master's from Shenandoah Conservatory where I had a full graduate assistantship and tuition waiver. My assistantship was to play for two choirs, and a certain number of individual recitals for singers and instrumentalists. I also had to accompany the opera program in addition to my own applied piano lessons and two graduate recitals. I had already accompanied several senior recitals as an undergraduate, even as a freshman which was really cool! It goes back to all that reading at the church.

***Can you describe your role in the NVMTA?***

I am the chair of the Piano Concerto Festival. When I started, over 10 years ago, there were only 85 students; now there are over 230. How did it start? Belinda Stevens was looking for a replacement for herself on the Concerto Festival Committee, along with Marilynne Jost and Rebecca Salt. I only agreed because Marilynne was the chair, and who better to learn from on how to run a festival? I want to credit her with showing me how to do it! I'm also on the IT Committee with Rene Johnson.

***What do you like to do in your spare time?***

Gardening! I have lots of houseplants, and my studio window faces southeast, so it's very bright! I also really enjoy gardening outside. I listen to a gardening radio show on Saturday mornings and I refuse to schedule students during that time – that's my boundary!

I also love history and traveling. I traveled a lot in Europe when I worked at the Bureau and had free time! [laughs] My favorite spot is Innsbruck, Austria. It's a little fairytale place with a lot of Baroque architecture, which I love. And I love to photograph architecture.

I don't have a lot of spare time though... in addition to my teaching and role here with NVMTA, I am the Membership Chair and Webmaster of Fairfax-Loudoun Music Fellowship, and I play organ for a Catholic church in Leesburg.

***What would people be surprised to know about you?***

Maybe my career in the FBI. For many years I worked in the lab doing DNA typing and research. I was on a team which was awarded the *FBI Director's Award for Technical/Scientific Advancement* for the development of a new DNA typing technique. I am also the leader of the women's Bible study at my church, Crossroads UMC, which I have enjoyed for many years.

***Do you have a highlight or favorite professional moment?***

I think receiving very eloquently worded thank-you letters from parents who express thanks in detail for what I've done, how I've affected their child, more than I know... it means so much.

In another vein, I also enjoyed playing the Mozart Kegelstatt Trio for the Loudoun Symphony Chamber Concert Series.

### *What pieces do you like to play or listen to?*

I love the Brahms *Haydn Variations*; the [Saint-Saens] *Danse Macabre*; the Poulenc Clarinet Sonata, 2<sup>nd</sup> movement; the Brahms Clarinet Sonata in E-flat, 2<sup>nd</sup> movement. But Debussy is still my favorite! I love the 2<sup>nd</sup> movement of the *Estdampes*, *La Soirée dans Grenade*. And I can't leave out the *Sanctus* from Faure's Requiem, which must be what angels in heaven sound like! Most of these are ensemble pieces, which is my preference.

### *Do you have a philosophy of life that you'd like to share?*

It has to do with being grateful for everything that we have, because there are so many people in this world who have nothing. Our church has built an orphanage school in Uganda. My husband Dave, who is a contractor, has gone every year for over ten years; I went two years ago for the first time. Seeing this on TV is just not the same thing as being connected to a person, being able to touch a person who lives that life that you've only ever seen on TV. These kids have joy; in our minds, they have nothing, but they don't see it that way: they have each other. They have a joy in life and gratitude for each other that Americans just don't have. We complain because we have to sit in traffic! They have lost parents and siblings; their worldly possessions fit in a fishing tackle box; but they are still excited about life. So really, my philosophy is to be grateful for everything; ask God for guidance regularly; and find a peace in it.



Jeri and Dave



Jeri in Uganda



Nika