

NVMTA News

April 9, 2014

Next Regular Meeting: April 30, 2014

The primary agenda item is the vote to accept the Proposed By-Laws Revision 2014. The vote will be taken by secret ballot at the meeting and requires a two-thirds majority to pass. Please review the final document, which reflects changes agreed upon by those present at the April 2, 2014 Special By-Laws Meeting. Documents are posted at <http://nvmta.org/member-services/by-laws-standing-rules/>

Please come to the meeting and vote!

Also at this meeting the election results for Member-At-Large 2014-2017 will be announced.

If you have not responded to the Survey Monkey ballot, you have until April 20, 2014 to do so.

**Program:
April 30, 2014**

Myriam Avalos Teie



Myriam Avalos Teie presents a concert of music by Spanish composers and Spanish-influenced composers. The program includes: *Prelude, Asturias-Leyenda* and *Tango, Albeniz; Andalusia* and *Allegro de Concierto, Granados; Nocturno and The Fire Dance, de Falla; Impresiones Intimas, Mompou; La Soiree dans Granada, Debussy; Serenade, op.3, Rachmaninov and Malagueña, Lecuona*

Highlight from the April 2, 2014 Special By-Laws Meeting

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Because of unbalanced registration for the Voice Achievements Awards competition the following motion was accepted:

In the case where a cash-awards competition has unbalanced entries such that more than 65% of the entrants are in one level, it is permitted to split that level in order to allow more students to be recognized. In the event of splitting a level, awards amounts may be altered, with the approval of the President, and provided all teachers participating in the event have given their written permission and provided the total awards amount does not exceed the budgeted amount.



Recent Awards in NVMTA

Brian Le, student of Nancy Breth; and Cynthia Liu, student of Elena Arseniev; rehearsing the night before winning MTNA National Senior Piano Duet



Judy Leonard awardees:

Lia Chiflemariam, Davina Miaw, John McArthur Lopez

Ford/Healy Scholarship awardee:

Ashley Renette Ondoua



Composition Competition Winners at the McLean Symphony Concert



Participants in the Composition Competition Honors Recital

Betsy Campeau, NVMTA Most Valuable Member February 2014

By Ann Lee

Betsy Campeau, Most Valuable Member February 2014, and I had a delightful conversation about music, teaching, NVMTA and much more over breakfast at Busboys & Poets in Shirlington.

What is your musical background?

My musical background is that I grew up in a very rural area of Michigan, and when the “music man” came around with all the instruments, my mom said, “I like the clarinet!” She had denied all my brothers and sisters playing in band because we had a piano in the house. But when it was my turn, she let me; and I wasn’t about to argue! She was going to let me play a band instrument, and that’s how I chose clarinet.

I got my Bachelor of Music degree at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, but I never played in the marching band; music majors were advised against it. The music ed majors all did, but I was a performance major. [After that], I did a bunch of other things: I taught at Interlochen; my husband, Hank, was in the Virginia Symphony, so we went there. I played in the Virginia Opera. A friend that we knew from college was in the Air Force Band, told us there were going to be openings, and that I should audition. So that’s how it happened that I had a career as a clarinetist in the Air Force Band. Hank and I actually had a commuter marriage for two years, and then his orchestra went on strike; so he moved up here and joined the Army Band, Pershing’s Own.

You teach lessons as well.

Yes, military band people often teach on the side, and for the 20 years that I was in the Band, I almost always had a student; at least one. I didn’t enjoy it very much when it was in addition to the Air Force Band job, and so I didn’t think I would continue to teach after I retired, but I had some students – kids in the neighborhood, actually, who picked up the clarinet, and walked down the street for lessons. I found that once I wasn’t distracted by a lot of other things, I loved teaching – loved it! So now I’m up to 15 students. And I just love them! I don’t teach any specific pedagogy, I size up the kid. I teach to the kid. So it’s as much psychology as it is rudimentary music.

Can you describe your role in the NVMTA?

I was on the fringes of the NVMTA for awhile; I had colleagues who were members, and I knew that being a member was key to having access to competitions – it’s a real draw. Then when my harp teacher became the President, my role became expanded, exponentially. I took over chairmanship of the Bach Baroque Festival last year.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I love to hunt for treasures! So I work for an estate sale company, and I do it for fun. I've always been a treasure hunter, and it's really a blast to go into houses and discover all the treasures in the house, set them up and merchandize them; work the sale – the sale is very social! I meet really interesting people at the sales. Last week I met a retired Navy Band clarinetist who overheard me talking about my career, and now he's a new friend. So it's very interesting!

What would people be surprised to know about you?

I'm also a professional speaker. I have done very little voice work since I left the Air Force Band, but that was a split part of my career.

Do you have a highlight or favorite professional moment?

Yes – and it doesn't have anything to do with playing. My other part of being in the Air Force Band was being Chief Announcer and MC, and at the very end of my career, they were preparing to open the Pentagon Memorial. They requested two voices to read all the names of the victims; they had a male voice from the Army and a female voice from the Air Force, and I was the Air Force female voice. I read 98 names of the victims during the ceremony. It was huge: I didn't sleep at all the night before; we had to be there at 4 in the morning for all the security. It was a very sad occasion. I kept myself together until I read that last name, and left the podium; then I went home and cried for the rest of the day.

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

My philosophy of life is "Never stop learning." I'm trying to impart that to my wonderful children. By studying harp with Elizabeth, I feel like I'm staving off senility! I push my kids to explore education as much as possible. So that's it: education, education, education. Never stop learning!



*Betsy Campeau with her daughters
Linh and Minh Smith*