

NVMTA News

October 22, 2014

Next Meeting: October 29, 2014

9:30 Coffee

10:00 Business Meeting to include discussion and vote on Bach-Baroque proposal

10:45 Program: Panel discussion on job opportunities for music students.

As teachers, how do we guide our students who would like to be professional musicians? Competition for positions is fierce for orchestral and university posts. In addition to independent music studios and university teaching positions, our panel presents new options for a career in music. Join us to discover which jobs hold promise for recent graduates of conservatories and music schools.

The Panelists:



Alexander Kerr,
concertmaster,
Dallas Symphony
Orchestra



**Miranda
Blakeslee,**
music therapist

Not pictured:

Keith Kerman,
proprietor of
PianoCraft

**Joy Puckett
Schreier,**
coach/
accompanist

Highlights of the General Meeting September 24, 2014

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Budget 2014-2015 approved

Participation in NVMTA events limited to students taught in Northern Virginia

Linda Gutterman named Most Valuable Member, September 2014, for her work as Reservations Chair for the Woman's Club of Arlington and service on the SEF and Professional Development Committees.



NVMTA Workshop: What Did the Judge Say?

Dr. Joanne Haroutounian Presents the Impact and Benefit of Constructive Criticism

Saturday, October 25th, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Room MTB 1023 George Mason University*



We have all experienced the disappointment of students who receive comments from judges that do not reflect helpful suggestions that can be used in lessons. How can we develop effective critiques that avoid biting criticism and mundane generalities? How can we encourage a positive judging experience for our students?

This workshop actively engages the judging process through shared comments and taped and live student performances. Learn descriptive words that promote constructive criticism, compare different judging sheets in hand-on judging experiences and discuss the contextual dynamic of performance. George Mason University students, NVMTA teachers, teachers new to adjudication as well as those seasoned from years of festivals and competitions are all welcome to share ideas in a collegial atmosphere. Join us!

* NOTE: The Music Theater Building is next to deLaski Performing Arts – it used to be the Visual Arts building. Park in the Mason Pond Parking Deck – walk up the stairs and turn right – second building is MTB.

NVMTA Master Class with Alexander Kerr, Concertmaster of the Dallas Symphony

Tuesday, October 28th, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Woman's Club of Arlington, 700 S. Buchanan St., Arlington VA



Alexander Kerr, concertmaster of the Dallas Symphony and faculty at Indiana University, presents a free master class to NVMTA violinists. **All** members of the NVMTA community and their students are encouraged to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to observe this master teacher and violinist.

Learn more about Alex at alexkerrviolin.com/index.php

Upcoming Events and Deadlines:

October 25, 2014 Judging Workshop with Joanne Haroutounian (10:00-12:00) GMU

Please contact [Elizabeth Blakeslee](#) for details

October 26, 2014 Adult Student Rehearsal Workshop 7:30-8:30PM Studio Horowitz

Please contact [Andrew Horowitz](#) for details

October 28, 2014 Master Class with Alexander Kerr, violin 6:00-9:00PM Woman's Club of Arlington

October 29, 2014 Regular meeting at the Woman's Club of Arlington: 9:30 coffee, 10:00 business meeting, 10:45 Program: Panel discussion on Career Opportunities in Music

October 30-Nov 1, 2014 VMTA Auditions and MTNA Competitions at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA

November 1, 2014 Postmark Deadline for application for Professional Development Grants

Please contact [Vicki Wyatt](#) for details

November 8, 2014 Fall Festival of Contemporary Music at Cherrydale Methodist Church

November 9, 2014 Young Artists Musicale at George Mason University 6:00PM

November 13, 2014 Postmark Deadline for application for the 11/23 Judged Recital

Submit application at mtfest.com

November 23, 2014 Judged Recitals beginning at 2:00 at the Woman's Club of Arlington

Epic Used Music Sale at Fall Festival

Saturday, November 8, 2014 at Cherrydale Methodist Church, 3701 Lorcom Lane, Arlington, VA 22207

SHORT: Visit the used music table while you are at Fall Festival!

MEDIUM: Thousands of items of used music will be available for sale during the Fall Festival, many in new condition. All music is sold at 1/2 off the list price, or less. Proceeds benefit NVMTA and its student awards.

LONG: Build your music library, discover new music, and find great bargains at the used music table, available all day at Fall Festival. Thousands of items, all sold at 1/2 off the list price or less. It's worth dropping by even if you are not participating in the festival. The sale is not just for teachers; we welcome students/parents, guests, and the public to browse. All proceeds benefit NVMTA and its student awards. Theory, workbooks, textbooks, classical masters, method books, scales/technique, teaching aids, duets, concerti, pop/jazz, Christmas, single sheets, and lots of supplementary teaching music. Volunteers needed on the day of the Festival. Volunteers will have first pick! To volunteer, contact Andrew Horowitz.

Mtfest.com Report

By Rene Johnson

Mtfest.com just completed its first year since implementation in the fall of 2013. During the past year, we have added online registration for 18 of our annual NVMTA events. The system is password protected and verifies current membership in the organization. For the larger events, students' and teachers' schedules are prepared, and chairmen can tweak them as needed. These 6 larger events include: Bach/Baroque, Fall Festival, Piano Concerto Festival, Piano Ensemble Festival, Sonata Festival, and Theory Mastery Day. We are currently working on the programming for Keyboard Skills Day scheduling for this year.

To give you an idea of features of the system, it takes into account am/pm preferences, siblings, teachers not judging their own students, levels, and sometimes other issues that are important to a particular event. Occasionally, it is not possible to satisfy all requests, of course, but, it greatly simplifies the job and significantly reduces the amount of time chairmen previously had to devote to scheduling.

With the push of a button by the chairman, all of the teachers who have registered for an event can be notified of their students' schedules, and it is easy for chairmen to communicate via email with the teachers who are participating in an event through mtfest.com.

Likewise, reports are easy to share. Once all of the ratings have been entered for an event, teachers can easily access their students' scores. It is also easy for chairmen to provide numerical reports to the state, if required, including number of participants and their scores.

New this year, you will find a feature on mtfest.com called "Student History". This gives you the ability to see previous ratings and repertoire for your students in each event you enter year by year.

To keep historical records accurate on mtfest.com, be sure to choose "Register a Student from a Previous Year" if your student has previously entered the event for which you are registering. That way, the records from last year, this year, and subsequent years can be linked together. You will only see their name if you registered them from your studio last year or a previous year. Use "New Student" only for students who are entering Fall Festival (or another future event) for the first time *from your studio*.

If you choose "New Student" for every entry even though they entered last year, the records will not be linked and you will not have a history for that student.

More than half of the members of NVMTA have registered students through mtfest.com. We look forward to another good year of registration and scheduling services!

Core Music Standards and the Independent Music Teacher

By Michael Blakeslee

The Core Music Standards were formally launched Monday, October 20, in New York City. The release is part of the release of standards for all the arts -- dance, theatre, media arts, music, and visual art.

The standards build on the first such voluntary national standards, which were released in 1994. Like those standards, these new standards provide a vision and framework for music teaching in our nation's public, private, and parochial schools. Over the next years, two things will happen: first, individual states and school districts will adopt or adapt the national standards and use them to guide their curricula. And second, sometimes ahead of formal adoption, individual teachers will use the standards to guide their practice.

So what guidance is in the standards, and what does this mean to an independent studio teacher?

The standards, simply put, are a map to helping all students achieve "music literacy" through three Artistic Processes: Creating, Performing, and Responding. They provide specific targets for achievement in these areas (with regard to concepts rather than with regard to instrument- or ensemble-specific skills), but they continually tie these "performance standards" to the vision of music literacy. So the standards list for each component of Creating, Performing, and Responding "enduring understandings" that get at what students should retain long after their schooling is complete. And the standards list "essential questions" that provide a scaffold for evaluating whether students are grasping the key concepts.

Studio teachers may well want to look at those understandings and questions, which can be found at <http://www.nafme.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Core-Music-Standards-EUs-EQs-Definitions.pdf>. After all, the students in our studios are also active in their schools, and we can provide the best possible education for our scholars with knowledge of what is happening in the school programs.

The music standards, along with related resources, can be found at www.nafme.org/standards. Teachers who are interested in the standards in all the arts should go to www.nationalartsstandards.org.

Results of Judged Recitals, October 12, 2014

12 and Younger:

Honors:

#1 Ella Kim (Emenheiser Sarratt)

#5 Evan Hu (Lee)

Honorable Mention:

None

13 and Older:

Honors:

#6 Matthew Schultheis (Emenheiser Sarratt)

#7 Katie Bode/Muli Yu (Mang)

#9 Ruiran Xun (Lee)

Honorable Mention:

#4 Roman Kasparian (Gramaticova)

#5 Shine Peng (Mang)

NVMTA Hosts VFMC District II Meeting on October 2, 2014

Oscar Paz Suaznabar and Roman Kasparian presented a program of Haydn and Chopin for the attendees.



Oscar Paz Suaznabar, Elaine Bryant, District II Director, and Roman Kasparian

Luncheon Honoring New Members with Activity Fair October 5, 2014



Linda Gutterman, NVMTA Most Valuable Member September 2014

By Ann Lee

Linda and I ducked into Cheesetique in Shirlington to avoid a rainy Monday. We talked piano, teaching, books and travel.

What is your musical background?

Both my mother and grandmother were both very good pianists. Neither had a lot of formal training, but they played well – they played for the silent movies way back when. As a small child, I played on my grandmother’s piano when we were visiting. When I was seven years old, she gave it to us so that I could take lessons. My first teacher taught me to love music and how to sight-read, but not much else. When we moved to a new area, my mother was much more purposeful in choosing a teacher. She found someone who had been a student of Josef Lhevinne, and he completely built my technique and made me the pianist I am today. He liked to tell me often that the technique he was teaching me was the Russian School. Because he did not have the concert career he had wanted, he did not encourage his students to pursue a career in music. I took his advice, and was a zoology major in college.

After I got married, I put my husband through law school teaching high school biology. (My husband is not a musician, but he is my biggest fan. As a child, after some failed attempts at piano lessons, his mother intended to sell the family piano. He told her not to, because he planned to one day marry a pianist!) We moved to Knoxville, Tennessee for his first job. I couldn’t find a teaching job, so I started work on a master’s degree in piano. I studied with William Dorn, who had been a student of Adele Marcus. I had to take some makeup courses in theory, history, and analysis, but I was happy to have an additional year to study with my teacher.

How did you begin teaching piano lessons?

Although I had done some teaching of young beginners while I was in high school, I made teaching my profession after graduate school. Knoxville in the mid 1970s was a hotbed of Suzuki activity. The head of the UT music department was one of the early pioneers who brought the

Suzuki method of teaching violin to this country. One of the graduate students in Suzuki pedagogy asked me to accompany her graduate violin recital. My daughter, who was three at the time, listened to our rehearsals and decided she wanted to take violin lessons. She began just before she turned four. As a result of her lessons, I was intrigued by the method; I trained and became a Suzuki specialist in 1983.

It's so wonderful seeing small children with beautiful technique!

Yes, but it's not only the technique, it's the musicality developed by careful listening. My students play more musically as Suzuki students. You teach them to listen for a beautiful sound, to understand and shape musical phrases, to use their ears. I don't wait too long to start teaching reading, but that early development of the ear never leaves them.

Can you describe your role in the NVMTA?

I have been in the NVMTA since we came to this area in 1980. I have been recording secretary and corresponding secretary, which entailed getting all the newsletters to the post office to mail bulk mail – something we don't do anymore! I've also chaired the Bach Baroque Festival. Since 2003, I have been the scheduler and liaison for recitals at the Arlington Woman's Club. It's a big job, but one that I enjoy. It's a wonderful space, and I think it helps both the Woman's Club and our Association to use the facility.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to read. I enjoy taking advantage of this area's many concerts and fine restaurants. I love to travel and take beach vacations. My son and daughter both live on the west coast, so we spend a good deal of time in Seattle and San Francisco. My husband and I are leaving this weekend to take a trip to London, Brussels, and Amsterdam.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

That I don't have my undergraduate degree in music. It was in zoology.

What music do you like to listen to or play?

I often ask myself this question: if I were stranded on a desert island and could only have one composer's music, whose would it be? I've decided Bach. I love Bach, it's beautiful, it's complex, but there's an incredible intellectual satisfaction in his music as well.

Do you have a favorite highlight or professional moment?

Not really, except to say that I love seeing my students do well in our studio recitals and NVMTA events throughout the year. There are always one or two students who completely surprise me by their beautiful playing, and it helps me know I'm doing my job.

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

Keep an open mind; be positive; and keep your sense of humor!



Linda with her family

From left to right: son Samuel, son-in-law Don and granddog Cooper, daughter Rebecca, and husband Alvin.