



Greetings, Colleagues!

June 1, 2024

No, it's not June yet. But I wanted to get some information to you pronto!

SAVE THE DATE!

PIANO PEDAGOGY WORKSHOP WITH MARVIN BLICKENSTAFF

Wednesday, July 31, 2024 ~ 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Yocum Institute for the Arts, 3000 Penn Ave., West Lawn 19609 (in the theater)

[CLICK HERE](#) for registration and other information.

We are incredibly excited to have Marvin back with us again for an inspiring day. The event is made possible with a matching grant from PMTA. Hope you'll join us and bring a friend! Older students may also benefit from these workshops and may attend at no cost. The event is free to RMTA/PMTA members and Yocum teachers.

At our **MAY MEETING**, we official appointed the new Executive Committee. Joining Holly and I are Lindsay Evans as Treasurer and Sandy Sittler as Immediate Past President. Our thanks to outgoing officers Jenny Frecon-Smith and Barbara Lanza. The presentation on teaching composition gave us all lots of ideas for our summer activities. Thank you, Ginny, Carmen and Terry for sharing.

It's time for our **ANNUAL MEMBER SURVEY**. [CLICK HERE](#) to complete the survey so we know how to plan for the future. Deadline June 10th so we can have the results for the planning meeting. Much appreciated! (If you're not a member yet but plan to be, you're welcome to complete the survey too.)

PMTA STATE CONFERENCE: June 14-16, 2024 at KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY!! Hope to see you there! Come out and support RMTA member Ginny Thorpe who will be presenting sessions on both Saturday and Sunday. (Anyone want to carpool?)

PLANNING MEETING will take place Wednesday, June 19 @10am at my home – 2052 Cleveland Ave., West Lawn 19609. Members are welcome to attend, but please RSVP by June 18th so I'm sure to have enough chairs. And if I know you are coming, I'll forward the agenda to you ahead of time. FYI, I have three senior dogs -- two will ignore you, the other will bark and then want to be your best friend.

For your future planning purposes...**STATE DSPF 2024 and the KEYSTONE CONCERTO FESTIVAL** will take place at Lebanon Valley College, Annville PA on Saturday November 9th. Then the MTNA Preliminary Competitions will be held Sunday, November 10th, also at LVC.

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RMTA is an affiliate of Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association and Music Teachers National Association.

RMTA is a 501c3 non-profit educational corporation.

A WORD ABOUT CLEARANCES... As stated in the RMTA Clearance Policy, if a member is involved with student events, we must have a copy of your Criminal and Child Abuse Clearances in our files. Hard copy or electronic copy is acceptable. These must be renewed every 5 years. You can help make the Treasurer's record keeping a little easier by renewing both clearances at the same time.

The end of RMTA's fiscal year always brings about the cleaning out of old records, which always takes me twice as long as I get caught up in the history. Here are a few interesting tidbits I came across this time:

- 1965: Student recitals required an audition for participation. There were 6 student recitals that year.
- 1966: The first Piano Festival (monster concert) was held at Albright Field House with 24 upright pianos, 268 participants with John Harrison as the conductor. It was a fund raiser for the student scholarship funds.
- 1966: Also saw a student concerto recital.
- 1960's-1970's: All our events were advertised in the Reading Eagle -- FREE!
- There were annual member recitals at least through early 2000's with a freewill offering benefiting the student scholarship funds.
- More fun facts can be found [HERE](#).

RANDOM 

◇ **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Sunshine improves your brain function. Go outside!
- There is a piano shop in Bath, England that recycles old pianos into works of art. [CLICK HERE](#) to view some of the fascinating pieces.
- Yamaha has deconstructed some of its instruments which gives a unique view of the instruments in the "Art of Sound". [CLICK HERE](#) to read.

◇ **TEACHING TIP:** I've got nothing this month....must spend more time in the sun! But I'd love to know how you mix up activities over the summer. Email me your ideas to include in future newsletters!

Stay inspired!

Millie

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