



April 1, 2025

Greetings, Colleagues!

Had a conversation recently with a colleague about why some children are so afraid of making a mistake at the keyboard, afraid of improvising, composing, or just 'playing around on the keys.' The discussion led me to doing more reading on the topic of play when I came upon the [Lego Foundation](#) website which actually researches the importance of play! One page in particular caught my eye that discussed how play unlocks essential skills: physical, emotional, social, cognitive and creative. Here is a quote from that website about creativity: *"Creativity is how we tell the world about ourselves: we write, tell, perform, compose, and craft our stories. But it's also how we draw connections, make sense of abstract ideas, and test things out. Creative play puts children in charge of exploring ideas, relationships, spaces and problems. It sparks confidence, as they learn to trust their natural curiosity..."*

I also love this quote from actor John Cleese (view entire clip [here](#)): *"Nothing will stop you being creative so effectively as the fear of making a mistake. The very essence of playfulness is an openness to anything that may happen. A feeling that whatever happens, is OK."*

## MORE PLAY FOR EVERYONE!!

**MAY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** is Friday, May 16, 2025 9:30 am at Yocum Institute for Arts Education, 3000 Penn Ave, West Lawn in Studio 5. Our guest speaker will be **music therapist Amanda Cardinal** speaking on **"Considerations and Adaptations for Special Learners in Music Lessons"**

*Teaching music to students with diverse needs requires flexibility, creativity, and an understanding of how to support different learning styles. This presentation, led by a board-certified music therapist, will explore key considerations such as sensory processing differences, cognitive and motor challenges, communication styles, and behavioral supports. It will also introduce a variety of adaptations, including visual aids, modifications to instruments, and multi-sensory teaching techniques. The hope is to enhance current teaching practices and help teachers create an inclusive and supportive learning environment for diverse learners.*

The schedule for the morning is this: 9:00/Executive Committee Meeting; 9:30/Social and refreshments; 10:00/brief business meeting; 10:15/Presentation. All are welcome! Hope you'll join us!

The 34<sup>th</sup> annual **BERKS JAZZFEST** is April 1-13<sup>th</sup> and takes place all around town featuring not only [international artists](#), but many [local artists](#). There are also 3 days of educational events listed below in the **RANDOM** 🎵🎶🎷. Hope to see you there!

The **PARTNERS IN MUSIC** recital is April 27, 3:00 pm at Immanuel UCC, 99 S. Waverly St., Shillington. We'll have a nice mix of students and teachers performing again this year. A freewill offering will benefit the IUCC

music program as a thank you for allowing us the use of their facilities each year. **REGARDING REHEARSING:** We've reserved Saturday morning April 26<sup>th</sup> from 9am to noon for anyone wanting to rehearse. If you do, please contact me ASAP with a time. Depending on how many sign up, we may need to keep these rehearsals as brief run-throughs.

[ROAD TRIP](#) TO HEAR PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA, SATURDAY MAY 24: A few seats remain available. Get your reservation and payment in soon. *HELP US FILL THE BUS!!*

[PMTA CONFERENCE 2025](#) will be June 6-8 at Lycoming College in Williamsport. It's only about a 2-hour drive if anyone is interested in going with me. RMTA member Ginny Thorpe will be one of the presenters again this year! Early bird registration (\$125/full conference) ends April 15. Hotel rates are \$119/night.



### RANDOM

- ◇ To stay abreast of events, visit the RMTA website [Calendar of Events](#) page. Here's what coming...
  - April 1-13: Berks Jazz Fest at the DoubleTree. Educational events include....
    - Apr 7 @6pm: RMF Project Penske Student Jazz Jam. Pizza at 6pm for student participants. Mini-concert 6:00-6:30 pm by Latin Grammy winner Zaccai Curtis on keyboards, and his brother Luques Curtis on bass. Always a fun event! Free and open to the public.
    - April 8,9, all day: Scholastic Festival, each day featuring 8 public school jazz bands in performance and clinics with Berks Jazz Fest artists. Free and open to the public.
  - April 6: RMF College Scholarship Auditions @Immanuel UCC.
  - April 10: Partners in Music recital info to Millie
  - April 27: [Partners in Music](#), @Immanuel UCC, 3:00 pm
  - May 16: Spring General Membership Meeting @Yocum Institute.
  - May 24: Road trip to Kimmel Center to hear Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.
  - June 6-8: [PMTA State Conference @Lycoming College](#)

- ◇ **SUPPORT THE LOCAL MUSIC INDEPENDENT TEACHING COMMUNITY!** [Become a member of MTNA/PMTA/RMTA!](#) OR [Become a Friend of RMTA!](#)

Stay inspired!

Millie Eben, President RMTA

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