

January 3, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you to everyone who participated in the recent membership ballot regarding the merger of RMTA with RMF. The ballot was open from November 22, 2025 to January 2, 2026. 17 members were eligible to vote; a total of 13 ballots were cast.

**Results:**

- Yes: 13
- No: 0
- Abstentions: 0

Having met the required two-thirds quorum in accordance with our bylaws, the motion has passed. The results will be forwarded to RMF. Further details and timelines will be shared as they become available.

We appreciate your engagement and thoughtful participation in this important decision. If you have questions about the process, feel free to contact any officer.

***IN OTHER NEWS....***

**COMPOSITION CONTEST:** Entry deadline is **EXTENDED to January 30<sup>th</sup>** in the hopes of seeing a few more entries.

Our **"SECOND FIFTY YEARS"** is now available on the website. It can be viewed there or downloaded as a pdf for your records. It's in two parts – 1) historical data; 2) photos and memorabilia (in two parts). You'll see a few blank spots which will be updated with events of 2026 as they conclude.

**"A TOUCH OF JAZZ":** Our next student event is the jazz/pops recital on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. All types of 'non-classical' repertoire welcome. If you know you'll be participating, please drop me a note stating so by January 8<sup>th</sup>. There is no snow date for this event; so, if it's cancelled due to the weather, notice will be posted on the website and emailed to participating teachers. It could also be cancelled due to lack of enrollment. February can be a difficult month to do things.

**"PARTNERS IN MUSIC":** Remember, we're featuring our commissioned pieces from over the years. **If you have a duo interested in performing one of the selections, please let me know ASAP.** These are all duets; but since we have two pianos, we could accommodate two teams per selection. If you are interested, please let me know and I'll email copies if you need them. The selections are:

- Midnight Horseman (Eben) – late elementary
- Blue Parrot Rag (Mier)– early intermediate
- Spirals (Vandall)– intermediate
- OUR NEW COMMISSION!! Reading Rag (Keveren) (We have one duo committed. Another one welcome.)

## IN RETROSPECT:

- *From the Minutes, August 1992. RMTA is officially a member of the Berks Local Task Force to the Pennsylvania Coalition for Arts Education. Our representative is Nancy Smolinski who, along with JoAnne Earnest (PMTA rep), William Zeswitz (NAMM rep) and a yet to be named rep from MEBC will be working to educate the public of the importance of arts education in our schools.*
- *From the Minutes, September 1992. RMTA will donate \$50 toward the purchase of a Yamaha Clavinova keyboard for the Reading Symphony in memory of Miriam Weiss Heisler.*

**FOR YOUR LISTENING PLEASURE (or not...):** For an interesting take on Beethoven's "Moonlight" piano sonata, third movement [CLICK HERE.](#)

Stay warm!

Millie

## UPCOMING EVENTS...

### **Student Composition Contest**

**Entry deadline EXTENDED:** January 30, 2026

Awards Ceremony: March 1, 2026 @ WCR Recital Hall

### **"A Touch of Jazz"**

Sunday, February 15, 2026, 3:00 pm

Registration:

First call: January 8, 2026

*(First call is a 'yes' or 'no' you're participating)*

Online registration deadline: February 8, 2026

### **"Partners in Music"**

Sunday, April 26, 2026, 3:00 pm

Registration:

First call: March 1, 2026

Online registration deadline: April 10, 2026