



President's *Message*

by Charles Turon

Focus on: Certification

On more than one occasion I have expressed the sentiment that every member of FSMTA deserves to have the experience of being President. Of course, even if each of us wanted to serve, such a thought is exceedingly impractical—with over nine hundred members, that would take almost two thousand years! Next best is for me to share some of the personal perspectives I have gained so far.

One of the programs I hadn't thought a lot about before becoming President was MTNA and FSMTA Certification. I respected the certification program and understood the professionalism it represents, but I didn't see much of a need to pursue it for myself. I felt my degrees gave me the necessary credentials, I had more than enough students and I was quite satisfied to teach at the college level.

Serving as President-Elect

caused me to reconsider becoming certified. For one thing, I realized that as a leader that if I considered certification to be important for our members, I needed to lead by example and become certified myself. Naturally, this required re-evaluating the certification pro-

Certification can assist college teachers by advancing their careers.

gram and determining whether I really bought into it—not only for myself but also for our membership at large.

According to the MTNA web site (www.mtna.org), "Certification is a process that validates an individual's qualifications for a specific field of professional practice. It demonstrates to employers, clients, and peers that which the individual knows and is able to do. It signifies commitment to continued excellence in professional practice. In addition, it increases visibility, builds credibility, provides a goal for personal professional achieve-

ment, and validates expertise for the individual and to those outside the field." In the process of re-evaluating certification, I did very much buy into it, and I would like to share a few reasons why.

On the face of it, certification has more to offer MTNA members in other states than in Florida. Florida is one of only a handful of states that requires either a degree in

music or an equivalent process of evaluation in order to become an active member. In one sense, any active member of FSMTA has automatically been credentialed. Not surprisingly, Florida has a smaller percentage of certified teachers than most other states.

As I myself went through the process of becoming certified, however, I realized there were more important reasons than supplying more credentials. Of those reasons, perhaps the most important is that certification provides tangible commitment to the pur-

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President's Message

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suit of excellence through lifelong learning, service and pedagogy. This is especially true because MTNA Certification requires renewal every five years through ongoing training.

Another argument for certification is that it is recognized nationwide. Not all states have membership requirements, but any MTNA member throughout the country is eligible to seek certification. As a result, students and parents moving from one part of the country to another can seek out a certified teacher and know that their certification is equivalent to that of teachers in their home area.

Certification can assist college teachers by advancing their careers. Recently MTNA reinstated Administrative Verification as one option for MTNA Certification. This option provides for written verification from a college or university administrator that the part-time or full-time college or university faculty member's credentials meet the requirements for fulfilling the standards of certification.

Certification can also help independent teachers increase earning power. It is altogether reasonable to expect to charge a higher lesson rate upon certification. A related opportunity is for teachers who do not have degrees to certify their credentials. Some states even recognize certification in terms of approving lessons for high school credit when taught by certified teachers—an intriguing arrangement that your Executive Board is beginning to explore here in Florida.

Less well-known is the opportunity certification provides for awards. Each year the Piano Technicians Guild Foundation offers grants to individuals who have earned and maintained MTNA Professional Certification for at least six years and are at least age 28. This grant, worth \$1,000, provides advanced study opportunities related to piano.

Like MTNA, FSMTA has a certification program. Most of our certified members are certified by both FSMTA and MTNA. One may wonder if the two programs are redundant. Actually, because

the processes of certification are different, the programs complement each other quite well. There are three types of state certification: the Interim Certificate, the Certificate of Experience and the Certificate of Professional Advancement. The Interim Certificate requires less than five years teaching experience, the Certificate of Experience requires between five and ten years and the Certificate of Professional Advancement requires at least ten. These various types of certificates, with graduated requirements, provide more options than MTNA certification by itself.

Visit our web site at www.fmta.org to find more details about the certification process. Both the MTNA and the FSMTA web sites also list certified teachers. When you visit the MTNA web site you can submit the request by state and zip code, very helpful in locating a certified teacher if a student is moving into a new area. You can also find information about how the certification process works, who constitutes the certification boards and whom to contact for more information. You may also wish to contact your local or district Certification liaison or our state Certification Chairperson, Cynthia Kessler, who would gladly send a FSMTA Certification Handbook upon request. Unlike me, don't wait to become President of FSMTA to become certified!

Newsletter Deadline February 10

Contact information changes?

Marc Hebda, Membership Chairman
7801 McClure Dr., Tallahassee 32312-8094
(850) 907-0218 - mjbh@istal.com

Message from President- Elect

Millicent Callobre

I'm happy to announce that we collected \$65 in MTNA donations at the State Conference in Tallahassee.

Also, through the combined donations of FSMTA, Miami MTA and private donations from Pat Simpson, and Paulette Kilts, we were able to send \$525 to MTNA as our contribution to the Carole Faltau Fellowship Fund. With what North Dakota MT has donated, the award will be fully funded (\$1,000) and launched at the April National Conference.

NOTE: More donations will be accepted and welcome -- the \$1,000 is just a starting point minimum.

More Contributions in 2004 to MTNA were sent by Marc Hebda, Cindy Kessler, Ruo Balko, Ana Bravo, Carole DiNonno, Kinuyo Engelbrecht, Julia Hood, Zelda Jensen, Pat Morse, Monica Mulhern, Jamile Nogueira, and Xia Tu.

As FSMTA Conference Chair:

**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND
THE NEXT STATE CONFERENCE
IN MARCO ISLAND!**

Details and information will follow in future Newsletters.

Around the State...

District V is now comprised of four local associations. They are pleased to welcome Brevard County MTA and Vero Beach MTA (formerly district IX) into their membership. At district V student day, medals reading "State Honors 2004" were awarded to those students who achieved state status.

Brevard MTA will be sponsoring a master class Saturday April 23 with the President Elect for MTNA, Dr. Paul Stewart. The topic will be Ragtime. The event will be held in Melbourne at the Eastminster Presbyterian Church. Look for more information in the next newsletter.

Vero Beach MTA had two recitals this past year. They sponsored a composition contest open to all students in Indian River County. Their annual Pianothon is held at the Indian River Mall and it completely funds the \$1000 scholarship awarded each year to a student who plans to major in music.

Central Florida MTA's motto is "Let's not stop learning about teaching". Their programs included master classes and interesting discussions on varied aspects of teaching.

Miami MTA has had so many wonderful lectures, recitals, workshops, and fundraisers. One of their events was "Music at the Mansion" at Vizcaya Museum and Gardens. Students ages 8-12 were invited to perform solos and duet works for Vizcaya's grand open house. 12,000 visitors were in attendance.

CERTIFICATION NEWS

Congratulations to Bettina Flory and Dr. Charles Turon who successfully completed all requirements for MTNA National Certification in Piano. Both are now MTNA Nationally Certified Teachers of Music.

Bettina Flory, FSCTM, NCTM, is from Panama City and is President of District II. Dr. Charles Turon, FSCTM, NCTM, resides in Bradenton and is President of FSMTA.

National Certification signifies their commitment and dedication to professional growth and excellence. Once again, congratulations to these outstanding teachers!

*Cynthia H. Kessler, FSCTM, NCTM
FSMTA Certification Chair*

MTNA State Competition Results

Carol Wallace Payne, Vice President for MTNA Competitive Events

The MTNA State Competitions were held at F.S.U. in Tallahassee on November 12 during the State Conference. The competitions were very well organized and run by Leonard Mastrogiacomo and his lovely wife Norma who generously stepped in when my house was damaged by Hurricane Ivan. (I can't thank them enough and I wish I could say my house has been repaired...at least I'm in it!)



Young Artist Brass:

Jessica Wilkerson (trombone), winner
John Drew, teacher

Chris Neron (trumpet), alternate
Bryan Goff, teacher

Young Artist Guitar:

Sebastian Acosta-Fox, winner
Bruce Holzman, teacher

Christopher Burrage, alternate
Bruce Holzman, teacher

Young Artist Piano:

Wan Hsieh, winner
Vladimir Khokhlov, teacher

Robert Vanlandingham, alternate
Leonard Mastrogiacomo, teacher



Young Artist Woodwind:

Barbi Risken (flute), winner
Eva Amsler, teacher

Daniel Powell (saxophone),
alternate
Patrick Meighan, teacher

Young Artist Percussion:

Joshua Priest, representative
Elizabeth Gottlieb, teacher

Young Artist Voice:

Elisha Weiner, representative
Rodney Miller, teacher



Senior Piano:

Cynthia Bova, winner
Hedi Salanki-Rubardt, teacher

Justin Snyder, alternate
Charles Turon, teacher



Senior String:

Paishiun Hsieh (violin), winner
Sergiu Schwartz, teacher

Ahnleen Shen (violin), alternate
Janna Lower, teacher



Senior Voice:

Sarah Javier, winner
Deborah Ross, teacher

Kassidy Strickland, alternate
Deborah Ross, teacher

Senior Percussion:

Brian Radock, representative
Elizabeth Gottlieb, teacher



Junior Piano:

Diana Hsieh, winner
Zalina Gurevich, teacher

Eric Guo, alternate
Kevin Orr, teacher

Junior String:

Jimmy Wong (violin), winner
Janna Lower, teacher

Ching-Ching Chen (violin), alternate
Svetlana Gubnitskaya, teacher

MTNA State Competition Results

Young Artist Composition:

William Gross, representative
Ladislaz Kubik, teacher



Senior Composition:

Michael Anderson, winner
Phillip Evans, teacher

Brian Cheng, second
Donald Waxman, teacher



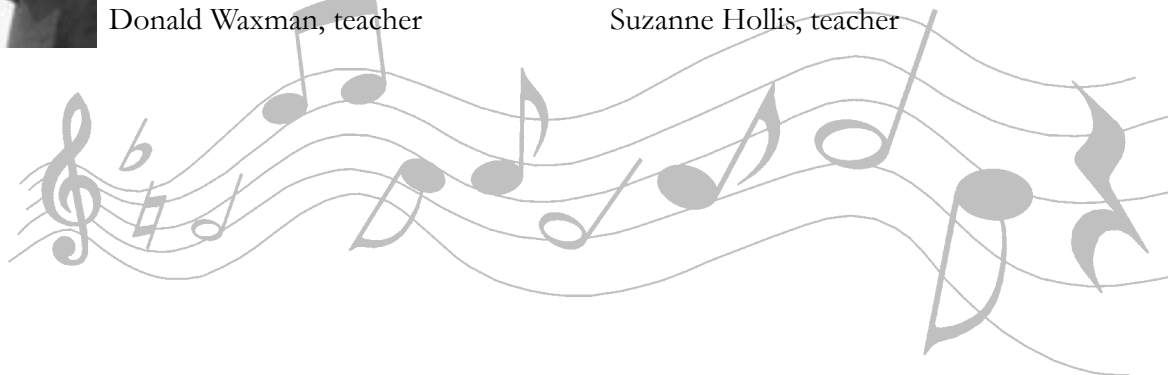
Junior Composition:

Haleigh Pike, winner
Suzanne Hollis, teacher

Emily Hollis, second
Suzanne Hollis, teacher

Elementary Composition:

Allison Myers, representative
Suzanne Hollis, teacher



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Membership Update

by Marc Hebda, Vice President of Membership

Since the previous newsletter, FSMTA is very pleased to welcome the following new members.

Local	Name	Address	Telephone
BCMTA	Baek, Hitomi Inki	937 N. 31st Road, Hollywood, 33021-5514	hitominki@yahoo.com 954/985-0753
CFMTA	Boukobza, Laurent	231 Prairie Dune Way, Orlando, 32828	lboukobz@mail.ucf.edu 407/353-9531

Byrd Piano Ensemble and Gray Perry Competitions

By Norma Mastrogiacomo, Chairman

The annual Byrd Piano Ensemble and Gray Perry competitions will be held on Saturday, May 21 and Sunday, May 22nd as part of the FSMTA Competitive Events. They will be held at the University of Florida School of Music in Gainesville. Deadline for applications is April 16th, 2005. I will be chairing both of these events. Teachers wishing to submit students for either the Byrd Piano Ensemble

or the Gray Perry Young Collegiate Piano Award should request blanks from me and return the application forms by April 16th. Requirements for both are listed in the Handbook of Student Activities, or I will be glad to send them to you.

The Byrd Piano Ensemble Award has two categories: Pre college (students who have not completed high school at the time the application is submitted) and

College. Students present a short program of choice: Pre college: 5-15 min. College: 8-20 minutes. Students should present piano ensemble compositions of generally recognized musical standards. Memorization is not required. Chairman can send list of representative repertoire.

Gray Perry Young Collegiate Piano Award is for college students in their first and second years of college study. Any piano student of a FSMTA member who is at a private or public college or university in Florida is eligible for this competition. Students should perform two or three memorized pieces from contrasting style periods, total length of 15-20 minutes. This is an excellent chance for the younger students to gain experience in competition performance.

I hope you will be interested in these two excellent competitions, and will look forward to having good participation in these events. Please call me if you have questions: Tel: 850-386-8730.

Announcing District V's 1-day conference

March 12, 2005 - Stetson University - DeLand, FL

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Dr. Craig Maddox (professor of voice at Stetson University) will talk about the Alexander technique during the morning session.

The afternoon session will be in 2 parts: Our own Nancy Shackelford will give a presentation on "Sensory Integration and how it can affect learning in the private music studio".

The Tre Corde Trio (consisting of District V members Victoria Williams, Tim Murphy, and Charlaire Free) will give a workshop on piano trio music (6 hands, 1 piano).

The District V Honors Recital will follow. For more information, contact District V President Tim Murphy at (386) 427-8776 or tmurphyus@yahoo.com.

FSMTA Community Service Awards

Applications are now being accepted for the LeRoy Greenspan FSMTA Community Service Award and the Local Presidents Community Service Award. Each award is given to a student to recognize leadership, achievements, and service to the community in the field of music.

Are you a new member of FSMTA? Or perhaps you have been a member for many years but have never recommended any of your students for these awards. Let me explain what they are and how your students may apply.

The LeRoy Greenspan FSMTA Community Service Award

This award, funded by Roslyn Greenspan in memory of her husband, is given to a high school senior (or junior who has received approval for early admission to college). Students are judged on achievements in the last three years of high school. State winners receive a plaque and \$500 check.

The Local Presidents Community Service Award

This award is given to a ninth grade student. Students are judged on achievements in seventh, eighth, and ninth grade. State winners receive a plaque and \$100 check.

How to Apply

Obtain an application from our web site at fnta.org, or you may contact me for a hard copy.

Survey your students. Have any of your students in twelfth or ninth grade been involved in community service in the field of music during the past three years?

Have them record on the application their musical service activities in school, church or synagogue, community, and personal activities in music.

Make sure all rules and instructions are followed.

Give the application to your local president who will then appoint a committee to select the county winner of both awards.

Applications must be submitted to the county committee by March 15th. A certificate and a plaque are given to each county winner by FSMTA. The local association may also elect to give a plaque. Honorable mentions receive a certificate. These awards should be presented at the student's high school Senior Awards Assembly.

Winning entries from each county must be submitted to the state chairman by April 1st. The local MTA (not applicant) sends a fee of \$25 payable to FSMTA, which must accompany the application.

A state winner for both awards will then be selected from the county winner applicants. The winners are presented a plaque and cash award at the FSMTA State Conference in the fall.

Reminders and Suggestions

Members may download the applications from our web site at fnta.org. Also remember to make a press release to your local newspaper after you have selected your winners. This is great publicity for our organization.

Teachers, please survey your students. Do you have any that may be able to apply in the next two years? If so, have them record their community service activities in the field of music as they go along. This makes the application process much easier for the student. Keep it on file in your studio.

Show the application to parents of students who may be eligible to apply in the near future. This is a wonderful incentive for them to be supportive of any community service events you have scheduled for your studio. You might also explain these awards in your studio policy.

In 2004 we had seven county win-

Dates & Deadlines

February 10
Newsletter Deadline

March 12
District V Conference *

March 15
Deadline for applications for Community Service Awards*

April 1
Community Service County Winners submitted to State Chairman*

April 2-6
MTNA National Conference
Seattle

April 16
Deadline for applications for Byrd and Perry Competition*

April 23
BMTA Master Class*

May 21-22
FSMTA Competitive Events*

June 10-11
Summer Board Meeting
Gainesville

November 10-13
FSMTA State Conference
Marco Island

***See article in this issue**

ners for the Greenspan Award and five for the Local Presidents Award. Teachers, please don't forget our younger students. They are our future in music.

Direct inquiries to:
Tanya R. Brooks, NCTM
Chairman,
FSMTA Community Service Awards
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Panama City, FL 32405-3633
850-769-5612
brooksmusic@comcast.net

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