



The Bellonion

Newsletter of the Bellingham Chapter of WSMTA

n. A musical instrument, invented at Dresden in 1812, consisting of twenty-five trumpets and two drums, which were played by machinery.



Bellingham Chapter

Editor: Dorie Guidon

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January 20th Meeting 10 am - Noon at TAP

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Our January Meeting's extended DIP sessions will be:

What I can't teach without

AND

How we use technology in our teaching

January is a great time to start the new year with a fresh look, so we will also hold a

SWAP FEST

Clear out and bring materials you're finished with to trade, give away, or sell. This can include books, videos, music, teaching

materials, or whatever else of your musical inventory you would like to "weed out".

At the meeting, there will be information about Senior Scholarships, the Honor's Recital, and a report on the Ardakov recital.

Hope to see many of you there!

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Varied Opportunities for Students in 2011

Our Chapter provides excellent and varied opportunities for you and your students. As you map out the new year, plan ahead for these upcoming 2011 events.

Masterclass:
February 12th

Adjudications:
March 17-19

Competition Playoff:
March 21

Honor's Recital:
March TBA

Theory Exam:
Saturday, April 16th
Fountain Community Church
2100 Broadway
Times to be determined

National Guild Auditions:
May Date/Time TBD

Chapter Recitals:
February 26
April 17
May 22

In order to keep all of these great activities going, it requires volunteers from our membership. This year, we have a number of members who are "doubling and tripling up" on duties to provide opportunities for you and your students. We are still need a nominating chair or committee.

This involves phone calling Chapter members to fill our board positions for next year. If there is no one to organize elections before March, we will have no leader(s) next year!!

Please consider helping out!

Remember to use our Chapter website for information and dates!

www.wsmta.net

Calendar of Chapter Events

Thursday January 20 9am-9:45	BOARD MEETING
Thursday January 20 10 am-Noon	BUSINESS MEETING/ DIP SESSION
Friday, February 11 7 pm	SOCIAL EVENING AND MOVIE Dorie's Home "Vitus" We'll try this AGAIN! See Oct. newsletter for details.
Saturday, February 12 10 am	MASTERCLASS WITH ROGER BRIGGS

The Bellonion will be published monthly. Please submit information relevant to the Chapter and its members you would like considered for inclusion by the 5th of each month to Dorie at dorieg33@comcast.net



Student Masterclass with Roger Briggs

We are fortunate to have Dr. Roger Briggs returning as our guest clinician for this year's Student Masterclass. Students may sign up for improvisation, composition, or piano lessons with Dr. Briggs.

The class will be held on Saturday, February 12, 2011 beginning at 10:00 am at Western Washington University.

Lessons are available as follows:

- Lower level: 15 minute lesson, \$15
- Intermediate level: 20 minute lesson, \$20
- Upper level: 30 minute lesson, \$30

For questions and to register, please contact Debra Chang at jazzkoo@hotmail.com by January 31 with this information:

Student's name, age, level & number of minutes, lesson type (improvisation, composition, or piano), the name of the piece they are performing or composing, and the composer

Adjudication Details and Reminders *by Nancy Heyer*

The forms and a check for all fees is due to Nancy Heyer **NO LATER** than Jan. 31st. However, if they are ready by the Jan. 20th meeting, please bring them.

Remember to include the \$5 chapter fee and money to cover extra minutes, passing time, evaluation, etc. If you wait until the 31st, there will be no time to fix mistakes!

If you have scheduling requests, please put it on a separate piece of paper and include with your form. There are no guarantees

that your request will be met, but I do try.

In thinking about scheduling for your students' adjudication time in March, I'd like to direct your attention to page 4 of the adjudication booklet. There are arrows beside three items, and if you follow those guidelines it will alleviate a lot of pressure on the adjudicator, yourself and your student. **TIME THE MUSIC** and make sure performance does not total more than **HALF THE TOTAL TIME ALLOWED!** If it does, purchase extra time.

In the box, see the admonition that **TOTAL TIME MAY NOT BE USED SOLELY FOR PERFORMANCE.**

Adjudicators typically enjoy Bellingham students and teachers, but I have heard them complain about students playing long pieces that use up all the purchased time, leaving them no time for written and oral comments.

Please don't burden our adjudicators or shortchange your students in this way.

Cassandra Carr Workshop a Resounding Success!

A wonderful workshop was presented at TAP on Saturday the 8th by Cassandra Carr. We had 23 teachers in attendance; 10 BMTA members, 5 Lynden members, 1 from Skagit Valley, 3 Collegiate Chapter members, and 4 non-members.

We were all captivated by Cassandra's engaging style of wit and passion. A super way to

start the new year! It was great that so many (more than half) of our fellow colleagues from outside of our chapter participated, and a total of \$100 was made to put back into savings.

Extra handout copies will be available at the January meeting on a first-come, first serve basis.





My Visit With Martha Mier *by Dorie Guidon*

Martha Mier is an internationally recognized composer and clinician who joined Alfred Publishing in 1989. Students worldwide enjoy playing her music, including the popular *Jazz, Rags & Blues* series and the *Romantic Impressions* series. She is a co-author of the very popular *Alfred's Premier Piano Course* and more than 200 other educational piano publications.

Martha owned a piano studio in Lake City, FL for many years, has been active as a professional accompanist, and has presented

numerous workshops for teachers in Australia, New Zealand, and in the United States.

She has retired from teaching, but still resides in Lake City. She remains a member of MTNA and the National Guild of Piano Teachers.

One of Martha's sons worked in my stepmother's pharmacy when he was a teenager. It was a delightful gift to have this visit arranged while I was visiting family during Thanksgiving in Lake City, Florida.

Martha and her husband were both delightful. She played from her recent *Jazz, Rags and Blues Book 5* and shared her passion about providing accessible "fun" music for students.



Teachers Accepting Students

Karen Clibon - Beginners through Intermediate, specializing in improv. Loves working with adults.

Jessica Hensey - All levels and learning abilities.

Vickie Hsu - Beginners through Intermediate, ages 7 or older

Kathryn Jones - Beginners through Intermediate

Katie O'Rourke - Beginners through Intermediate

Mary Walby - Beginners through Intermediate

A January Certification Moment

As we contemplate where we are and how we might improve ourselves, why not make a commitment to yourself to start (and complete!) the process of becoming a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music through MTNA? When you look back at the journey, here are some of the things you might see:

You know yourself better as a teacher and musician because you have taken the time to hone your teaching philosophy.

You have refreshed or polished your knowledge of music theory, history, and form and analysis.

You have a clearer vision of your strengths and weaknesses in guiding a student through the process of mastering a piece of music.

In making the teaching videos, you have explored new ways of using technology in your studio and have modeled excellently the process of self-evaluation.

You have successfully expanded your own performance repertoire.

You have objectively looked at your studio and considered carefully the professionalism and relevance promoted therein.

You notice improved awareness of your skill in communicating with your students, their families and your professional colleagues.

Your students and families are pleased to have been part of the process and very proud that they study with a nationally recognized professional educator.

Any one of these is good and worthwhile, and going through the whole process is a truly rewarding experience. Information on the certification process is found on the MTNA Certification website at <http://www.mtnacertification.org/>






Mission Statement

Our purpose is to promote the art of music and its appreciation among the people of this community; and to provide opportunities for the advancement of musical knowledge through educational activities.

Congratulations!

To Nicole Ventrusca
Student of Kim Bowman

Nicole won in her category at the Roland Competition national finals in Los Angeles. Each winner went home with a CD-2i SD/CD Recorder. Judges were concert pianist Yana Reznik, musical director, keyboardist and composer Paul Mirkovich, and GRAMMY® Award-winning jazz pianist David Benoit. David Benoit also performed "Downtime", a new piece from his latest release, *Earthglow*, at the competition.



**Adjudications fee and
registration due
January 31st!!**



Other Concerts and Events

KAY ZAVISLAK
Faculty Piano Recital
Friday, January 14
8 pm WWU Concert hall

AN AFTERNOON OF BRAHMS
Bellingham House Concert
Cassandra Carr & Arthur Barnes,
two-piano duo
Sunday, January 30
3:00 pm
Carr-Ballew Residence
www.bellinghamhouseconcerts.com

ILYA ITIN
Sanford Series Piano Recital
Friday, February 18
7:30 p.m.
Ticketed, WWU Concert hall

ILYA ITIN
Sanford Series
Piano Masterclass
Saturday, February 19
10 am-12 noon
FREE, WWU Concert hall

FREDERIC CHIOU
Arthur Hicks
Piano Recital Series
Tuesday, March 1
8 pm
Ticketed, WWU Concert hall

FREDERIC CHIOU
Arthur Hicks Piano
Masterclass
Wednesday, March 2
3-5 pm
FREE, WWU Concert hall

Member Birthdays

February 1 **Annie Scherr**

