



Nebraska Music

Teacher

Opus 51, No. 3



From the President

Plans for the NMTA Conference in October are nearly complete, and it promises to be exciting. The planners of the NMTA Conference know that attending the event is a big commitment of time and expense. With that in mind, they've put together a program that's relevant to the average teacher, varied enough so that there's something for everyone, and lighthearted enough to be lots of fun.

Last month, the Executive Committee toured the beautiful facilities at First Presbyterian Church in Lincoln where Diane Bish will be our featured artist. At her concert, she'll premier her own new work that is our commissioned composition for the year. Seating for this major

event will be limited, but NMTA Conference attendees are guaranteed a ticket, so send in those registrations now.

Martha Hilley, the world-renowned specialist in piano teaching, will also be featured at the Conference. She will be presenting two practical sessions designed for teachers of beginners and intermediate students. The first session will be on how to motivate both teachers and students, and the second will be on how to use improvisation to improve students' technique. If you haven't met Martha, you'll thank yourself that you attended the conference. If you've already met Martha, you know that you're in for another treat from Texas.

Also presenting at the conference will be Lucinda Lear, West-Central Division Certification Chair. She'll walk all of us through the new procedures for certification. The Certification Test will be available at the conference, and I hope many of you will consider taking the test to become a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music. Certification affirms the professional level and high quality of our teaching, and gives external validation to something all of us already know: you're a good teacher.

Join me in Lincoln and treat yourself to an event that will recharge your teaching.

Ken Bales, President
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From the Vice President

State Festival this year will be held in conjunction with the State Conference in Lincoln. There will be a change in the schedule from years past as the State Festival will be held all day Saturday as well as Sunday afternoon, October 23 and 24, at UNL's Westbrook Music Building.

NMTA High School and Collegiate Competitions will be held on Saturday, October 23rd, at Westbrook Music Building. Please refer to the current Student Festival Bulletin for general information, eligibility and repertoire requirements.

Due to the upcoming changes in Festival levels (effective spring 2005), a revision of the Student Festival Bulletin is underway. The revised Bulletin will first be available at the State Conference in October. See the related article in this newsletter from the Theory Committee.

Marcia Wiebers
Vice President NMTA

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**2004 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA**
featuring
**Diane Bish, Organist and Composer
Dr. Martha Hilley, Pedagogue**

Wednesday, October 20, 2004

Time	Event	Location
2:00-4:00p.m.	Warm-ups MTNA Competitive	Great Hall Sanctuary
4:00-6:00p.m	Warm-ups MTNA Competitive	Great Hall

Thursday, October 21, 2004

Time	Event	Location	Loc 2
7:30-8:45p.m.	Warm-ups MTNA Competitive	Great Hall	Sanctuary
9:00a.m.-Noon	MTNA Performance	Great Hall	Sanctuary
11:00a.m.	Registration (All Day)	Lobby	
1:00-2:15p.m.	Martha Hilley "Motivation: Methods, Materials, and More"	F Hall	
1:30-4:30p.m.	Competitions	Great Hall	Sanctuary
2:15 -2:45p.m.	Break	F Hall	
2:45-3:30p.m.	Debra Heald "New NMTA Theory Tests"	F Hall	
3:30-4:30p.m.	Svetlana Yashirin "Piano Music of Alexander Tcherepnin"	F Hall	
5:00-6:30p.m.	Board Meeting	Cornhusker Hotel	
7:30-9:30p.m.	Diane Bish Recital	Sanctuary	

**Reception for Diane Bish immediately following the recital.*

Friday, October 22, 2004

Time	Event	Location	Loc 2
9:00 a.m.-Noon	MTNA Performance Competitions	Great Hall	F Hall
9:00a.m.	Cindy Lear "MTNA Certification Overview"	Sanctuary	
9:45-10:10a.m.	Break	Lobby	
10:00-11:25a.m.	Diane Bish Special Presentation	Sanctuary	
11:50a.m.-1:45p.m.	Luncheon, Presentations, Meeting, and Raffle	Cornhusker Hotel	
2:00-4:45p.m.	Competitions	Great Hall	Sanctuary
2:00-2:45p.m.	Debra Heald and Nancy Schoen "Finale vs. Sibelius: Which notation software is right for you?"	B-13	
3:15-4:45p.m.	Martha Hilley "Improvisation – It's Not Just the Blues"	F Hall	
5:00-6:00p.m.	Winners Concert	Great Hall	

**Top Thirteen Reasons to
Attend
YOUR State Conference**

Compiled by Marcia Wiebers,
Ken Hoppmann and Nancy Schoen

1. Hear quality performances and nationally renowned teachers
2. Change of pace
3. Reaffirm what you're doing every day
4. Support your organization
5. Gather new teaching materials
6. Renew old friendships and make new ones
7. It's ALL tax-deductible!
8. Rejuvenate and recharge your teaching
9. Take advantage of what your organization offers
10. Learn something new you can often use immediately
11. Network with other professionals
12. Be a receiver instead of a giver, for a change
13. It's fun!

NMTA Roster

Did you know that roster information is available to members on the website? In order to access the members' addresses and other contact information, navigate to www.nebmta.org, click on Find a Teacher, then enter the password - **beethoven** - and click on View Directory. It's all at your fingertips!

News from the Theory Committee

by Debra Heald

A special session at the State Conference will be devoted to presenting and discussing the upcoming changes in the levels for Festivals. These changes will go into effect for the District Festivals held in Spring 2005. Details will be published in the updated Festival Bulletin, which will first be made available at the State Conference in October. The following is a brief summary of the new levels.

Each current level is being divided into two levels. (For example, current Level 1 will become levels 1A and 1B, current Level 2 will become 2A and 2B, etc.) Levels will no longer be based on school grades. Instead, teachers will place the students at their discretion, roughly according to years of study. In order to be eligible for State Festivals, students may enter the same level for a maximum of two years.

The division has been made in order to present the material in smaller increments. Efforts have been made to minimize the "jump" in difficulty between levels, without greatly changing the actual content in each theory level.

Students will be placed at the teacher's discretion; therefore the following suggested criteria for placing your students is an approximation. Please consult the revised Festival Bulletin for specific details.

Level	Length of Study
1A	1-2 years
1B	2-3 years
2A	3-4 years
2B	4-6 years

Level	Length of Study
3A	6-7 years
3B	7-9 years
4A	9-10 years
4B	10+ years

Some students may advance more quickly and will be allowed to do so at the teacher's discretion.

At the time the new levels go into effect, copies of old tests will no longer be available, since new tests will not be composed each year. However, tests made under the current system will still be helpful for review, so teachers may wish to retain master copies of old tests.

There are an extremely limited number of Spring 2004 theory tests available for purchase. All back theory tests are available on the yahoogroups site for NMTA theory. If you have access to the world wide web, you can join yahoogroups and the NMTA theory group and download any old tests back to 2000 for FREE! Most public libraries grant access to the web, so that is one option for everyone! Also, if you can't access the web, chances are someone in your local association can and would be willing to get some tests for you.

For further information on the NMTA Theory group, contact Debra Heald: DebEncore@microLNK.com
To order 2004 tests (limit one each level—while supplies last), send your requests to:

Debra Heald
22117 Adams Street
Eagle, NE 68347

Please make all requests for old tests before 9/15/2004.

Certification News

by Sally Hodges

I would like to encourage teachers to pursue certification, no matter what age you may be. It is never too late — take it from one (myself) who has done initial certification after age sixty! Congratulations to Jeanne Zukowski, who has just completed her certification and can now carry the NCTM after her name. Geraldine Tyrance is also working on her portfolio, the new option to replace the final test, and hopes to have her certification completed by the end of the summer. The Certification Test will be available at the conference, Anyone who wishes to work on certification and needs help, please contact me with your questions. If I don't have the answer, I'll certainly find out for you.

Sally Hodges
402-289-1860
e-mail: sallyspiano@cox.net

Interactive Learning

Do you have a music teaching question you would like to have answered? Perhaps you have a practice tip for students you would like to share or a studio idea you are trying differently this year. Did you know your questions and ideas could be shared with MTNA members through the Polyphony column in *AMT* or the teaching tips on the MTNA website? These two features offer members the opportunity to interact with other teachers from across the country to share expertise.

To participate, send MTNA your questions, ideas and tips to MTNA, 441 Vine St., Ste. 505, Cincinnati, OH 45202-2811; fax 513-421-2503; or e-mail to amt@mtna.org.

NMTA Welcomes . . .

New Members:

Anne Parker
3415 Terrace Dr
Omaha, NE 68127-2813

Stephanie Gerdes
5310 R St #9
Lincoln, NE 68504
(402) 560-1789

Returning Members:

Sandra DeRemer Freburg
NCTM
5410 Linden
Lincoln, NE 68516

Susan Kleinschmidt
1546 I Street
Geneva, NE 68361

Please refer to the enclosed roster or the website for all address changes. If you have a change of address, phone number, or e-mail, please contact Barbara Rader at bkramer@alltel.net or (402)423-5836 at your earliest convenience.

Submit to the NMT!

If you have an article related to NMTA or to your local association that you would like to submit to the NMT, please send it via e-mail to: catrouba@cox.net
Photos must be in a digital format to be included. The deadline for the next issue is November 1, 2004.

Nebraska Music Teachers Association

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NMTA Calendar of Events

Deadline for MTNA Competitions	9/14/04
Deadline for NMTA Competitions	9/14/04
Deadline for NMTA State Festival	9/14/04
MTNA Competitions	10/21-22/04
NMTA Competitions	10/21-22/04
NMTA State Festival	10/23-24/04
NMTA Conference	10/21-24/04
Deadline for Winter <u>NMT</u>	11/1/04
MTNA Conference	4/2-6/05

Check the website for additional information:
www.nebmta.org