

# Nebraska Music Teacher

Nebraska Music Teacher - NMTA Newsletter

Opus 54, No. 1

## *From the President*



By the time you read this issue of the NMTA Newsletter, the year 2007 should be well underway. Although a bit delayed, I wish all of you a Happy New Year!

I am deeply honored to be your new NMTA state president. I have been a member of this organization for thirty years and I am thrilled to have this opportunity to serve all of you during the next three years. NMTA has given so much to me. Hopefully, I can give back some of the wonderful experiences

and opportunities that I have received during my years as a member.

Special thanks go to Ken Bales for his efforts as NMTA President for the past three years, and to Wanda Mandigo and Marcia Wiebers, who will be leaving the NMTA Executive Committee. Wanda and Marcia have spent so much of their time working for the organization as Past President and Vice President respectively. While they will be missed in these roles, I look forward to their new assignments on the Board.

In reviewing the past year there are many NMTA highlights including the strong presence of Nebraska at the National Conference in Austin, the highly successful District Festivals, MTNA Competitions and State Festivals and Competitions, the tremendous state conference in Hastings, and the celebration of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of NMTA. Please see Nancy Whitman's article

regarding this milestone.

To thank everyone that makes our organization so special would take up much of the newsletter, and there is always the risk that I might overlook someone. So let me extend a heart-felt THANK YOU to all of you who do so much to make NMTA an organization in which we can take great pride. In September I attended my first annual National MTNA Summit in Cincinnati. This event is a meeting of all state presidents along with the MTNA Board and Staff. While I learned of many new ideas and trends there was one impression that stands out. As I listened to other state presidents speak, I realized how vibrant and special our organization is. With this new perspective in mind I am truly aware of what an honor it is to be a part of NMTA.

As great as our organization is, there is more that we can do to make NMTA stronger by increasing the level of music making and teaching throughout Nebraska. Therefore, I call upon each member to look towards the New Year and ask what you can do to help NMTA spread its presence further in the state. Then I want you to share these ideas with the NMTA Board and myself. With this challenge I thank you again for being elected as your new president and extend my sincerest wishes for a successful musical New Year!

*Roger Foltz, President  
Department of Music  
University of Nebraska of Omaha  
Omaha, NE 68182-0245  
rfoltz@mail.unomaha.edu*

## *Notes from the Vice President*

The 2006 State Festival and Nebraska Competitions, which took place at Hastings College on October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, were quite successful. There were 307 total entrants. In the non-competitive division there were 3 voice, 5 piano duo, and 284 solo piano entrants. There were 15 students entered in the Nebraska Competitions representing Collegiate Woodwinds, Strings and Piano, as well as High School Woodwinds and Piano divisions.

Congratulations to the following: Willis

Stillwell-Edler, Lincoln, student of John Bailey, UNL, winner of the Nebraska High School Woodwind Competition; David Woods, Lincoln, student of Diane Barger, UNL, winner of the Nebraska Collegiate Woodwind Competition; Naomi Yonemoto, Kearney, student of Ting-Lan Chen, UNK, winner of the Nebraska Collegiate String Competition; Alex Ritter, Omaha, student of James Johnson, UNO, winner of the Nebraska High School Piano Competition; Jill Coffman, Hickman, student of Charlotte Heermann of Lincoln, Alternate in the

Nebraska High School Piano Competition; and April Christensen, Hastings, student of Ruth Moore, Hastings College, Honorable Mention in the Nebraska High School Piano Competition.

Results from the non-competitive State Festival were once again very positive. There were a total of 204 students (69% of the students participating) who received superior ratings on their performances. A total of 142 students

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## Omaha Music Teachers Association News

Omaha Music Teachers Association has added four more members to their directory since September: Claire Bushong, Mary Margaret Fangman, Tina McCormick, and Jill Plumb.

The Colossal Keyboard Concert took place on November 19, 2007. Our guest conductor was Mr. Thomas Bogacz. The students had a great experience working with a conductor, some for the very first time.

OMTA also participated in "The Festival of Giving" at Oakview Mall. Students enjoyed playing for the shopping public, and through ticket sales we were able to raise \$220.00 that will be given to charity. OMTA donated \$100.00 to the

Munroe-Meyer Institute in memory of our friend and colleague, Carol Goranson.

We are looking forward to 2007 and the many events that we have for our students, the Music Fundamentals Fair, Edna Taylor Composition Contest, Young Artist Competition, and Trophy Festival.

On April 20 we will be hosting Jane Magrath for an all-day teacher workshop. If you would like more details, please visit our website at [www.omahamusicteachers.org](http://www.omahamusicteachers.org).

Jan Zimmerman

## Note from the VP

received, theory grade, etc. Some teachers keep copies of District and State Festival registration forms for their records. I have created a very basic spread sheet and will be happy to send a copy to anyone who is interested. Teachers who entered students in the 2006 State Festival have already received a copy of this sheet.

Thank you to the NMTA teachers/parents/students and Hastings College faculty/students who volunteered their time before, during and after, to help make the Festival successful. Your presence and participation at Festivals is an integral part of their success and is very much appreciated.

The Nebraska Competitions and District/State Festivals encourage, promote and celebrate the well-rounded musician. NMTA is proud to provide this musical opportunity for our Nebraska music community. Congratulations to all participating students, their teachers, and families for a job well done!

It has been my pleasure to serve as your Vice President the past three years.

Best wishes for continued successes with your students.

Marcia Wiebers, NCTM  
VP NMTA

## Note from the VP

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received a score of 90% or above on the theory test. That is 48.6%, nearly half of the students who participated. Theory scores of 100% were earned by 19 students representing the studios of Lisa Albee, Erin Bures, Nancy Jo Galusha, Kay Haar, Ruth Hahn, Jean Harris, Debra Heald, Wanda Mandigo, Sue McCandless, Cindy Murphy, Jo Riecker-Karl, Galina Shatskaya, Carole Trouba and Marcia Wiebers. A big thank you to Jo Riecker-Karl for creating and printing the festive theory honors certificates.

We have now completed two cycles (2005 District/State Festivals and 2006 District/State Festivals) under the new format of 8 levels.

Because of strong theory scores at both the District and State Festivals the past two years, the NMTA board voted to raise the theory passing grade from 50% to 60% for the upcoming May 2007 District Festivals. In addition, a new grid will be added to the Festival critique sheet to

aid judges in providing concrete suggestions to students. Written comments will continue to be an important part of the critiques.

It is the responsibility of teachers to keep accurate records so that students are entered in the correct level. If you have not been keeping track of this information, now would be a good time to start. Remember, students may participate at the same level at District/State Festivals for two years. Beyond that point, they must move up to a higher level. Students may not enter in a lower level than previously entered. Therefore, **students who have entered at the same level for District Festivals 2005 and 2006 must now move to a higher level at the District Festivals 2007.**

Here are a couple of ideas for record keeping. You may create a spread sheet or chart that includes spaces to record information such as student name, District/State Festival year, level entered, repertoire performed, ratings

## Article Submissions

Please send articles that you want submitted to the NMTA newsletter to [jsokasits@hastings.edu](mailto:jsokasits@hastings.edu) or [bryce.wiebe@gmail.com](mailto:bryce.wiebe@gmail.com). Make sure that you note your affiliation with NMTA in the subject line to eliminate confusion. Include any pictures that you would like to include as a separate file

## Nebraska Music Teachers Association Turns 90!

This year marks the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Nebraska Music Teachers Association, and a birthday celebration took place at the Hastings Conference in October. NMTA members celebrated the occasion with a round of "Happy Birthday," a beautifully decorated birthday cake, and a birthday greeting by Rachel Kramer from the National MTNA Office.

### Travel Grant Available

A \$500 Grant is available through NMTA to assist teachers to attend a national conference. If you are the recipient, you must write a brief article for the NMT describing your experience at the conference. Send a letter of application describing your interest and teaching qualifications by **February 15, 2007** to Ken Bales, Department of Music, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE 68182 or at [kbales@mail.unomaha.edu](mailto:kbales@mail.unomaha.edu)

It all started in March of 1916 when a group of Nebraska music teachers met and made plans for holding a statewide convention while attending the Supervisors National Association convention in Lincoln. At the inaugural NMTA convention held in Lincoln in December of 1916, the delegation elected Willard Kimball, Professor of Music at the University of Nebraska, as president; they also delivered papers, listened to three concerts, and adopted a constitution. Beginning in 1916, the NMTA apparently held annual conventions until interrupted by the exigencies of World War II in 1943.

The complete history of the association from 1916 to 1942 awaits additional research; however, it is known that Edith Robbins, a private music teacher from Lincoln, played a significant role in both the state and national organizations. A paper she gave at the 1933 MTNA convention detailed NMTA's accomplishment during her presidency. It inspired great interest, many inquiries, and national recognition of the state organization.

In 1943 NMTA became dormant, a victim

of the war emergency. Through an initiative of the Omaha Music Teachers Association ten years later, the state association was revived. A state convention, under the presidency of Robert Fiester, was held in Omaha in 1953 with over a hundred members taking part. A full range of program activities marked the meeting, including a concert by Nebraska composers.

Conventions were held annually for two years, but in 1956 NMTA moved to a biennial plan. By 1956 the membership had increased to about 250 individuals. In 1975, with some prodding from MTNA, conventions moved back to being held annually and have continued that way ever since, recently featuring notable artists such as Leon Bates, Diane Bish, Ruth Laredo, John Perry, and Robert Roux; composers such as Eric Ewazen and Libby Larsen; and clinicians such as Randy Faber, Martha Hilley, and Jane McGrath. NMTA has ventured forth with two conferences with other states, first with Wyoming in 1999, and second with Kansas and in 2003. At various times NMTA has also undertaken commissioned compositions in partnership with Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, South Dakota and Wyoming.

The last few decades have been marked by solid growth in all aspects of NMTA's work. Students have been divisional and national winners at the national MTNA Composition and Performance Competitions. Master classes, forums, speakers and recitals have been of outstanding quality. NMTA has promoted national certification, festivals, competitions, master classes, and arts advocacy, and has reached out to elementary, junior, and senior high schools along with colleges and universities throughout the state to help to promote the highest standards of music making. Partnerships with the

Nebraska Arts Council and other state and national organizations have continued a vitality and presence that have a major impact upon music making inside and outside of the state of Nebraska.

Many NMTA members have risen to important positions at the West Central Division and MTNA National levels. Two members, James Peterson (1965–66) and Joan Reist (2000–02), have brought recognition to NMTA by becoming national presidents of MTNA.

On a personal note, I joined NMTA when I first moved to Nebraska in 1972, and it blows my mind to think I have been part of this outstanding organization for more than one-third of its life (and almost one-half of my life)! My thanks to Roger Foltz for writing this article (which I excerpted most of) for the 2006 Conference Bulletin. It was based on research in "A Centennial History of the Music Teachers National Association" by Homer Ulrich.

Nancy Whitman, Historian

### Website Update

The hosting transfer is now complete for the NMTA website. Note the new features – you can search the membership list by city AND instrument now, and we can include a link to your website. A massive update of the membership list is necessary to make this update, so PLEASE review your information on line. The password for the entire list is beethoven (no upper case, no spaces). Send any corrections or additional information to

[www.nebmta.org](http://www.nebmta.org)

**An Important Collaboration: MTNA Members and Our Foundation Fund**

At the request of Roger Foltz, I'm sharing with you some thoughts about the MTNA Foundation Fund. It's been my privilege and pleasure to have been closely associated with the Foundation for several years, and I have to admit that I've gained a real passion for what it does and what it has the potential to do.

Before continuing, I want to say a very heartfelt thanks to Linda Rogers, who has been instrumental in NMTA's excellent record in Foundation activities. Our annual auction, a role model for several other state associations, has contributed substantially to the Foundation's coffers. And, other sincere thank-yous must go to the members of NMTA who have made annual contributions and supported the Foundation Fellow program as well as to the anonymous donor who has matched NMTA's contributions to the Beth Miller Harrod Endowment for the past two years.

As you undoubtedly know, money for Foundation-supported projects and

programs comes from the music industry and from established endowments, while a good portion comes from MTNA members who make annual contributions and support their state's Foundation Fellow nominees. In return, the Foundation Fund offers a number of grants for individuals and associations, in addition to the substantial prizes to winners of the MTNA competitions and other awards, such as the AMT Article of the Year.

State and Local Association grants are available each year to support programs that benefit members, their students, and their communities.

Lincoln MTA has received a grant to expand its Music Outreach program, which provides music lessons to disadvantaged children. A good number of Teacher Enrichment Grants are awarded annually to assist individuals to pursue professional development, often aiding the pursuit of national certification. Information about the rules and regulations of these grants plus application forms are available on the

MTNA website: [www.MTNA.org](http://www.MTNA.org) (click on Foundation.) I encourage every NMTA member and every local association—and NMTA itself—to consider applying for one of these grants.

There are several ways that members can support the Foundation Fund:

- Making an annual contribution, easily accomplished at membership renewal time. Often members “round up” the amount of their dues as a contribution; I encourage every member to make a substantial, tax-deductible contribution, increasing it each year in the same manner that you increase your studio tuition!
- Supporting NMTA's nominees for Foundation Fellow.
- Becoming a member of the Legacy Society. This can be accomplished by including MTNA in your will or exploring the possibility of a gift annuity. Either method is relatively painless, and I'll be

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**NMTA New Member Directory**

Name	Address	City,State	Zip	Phone	Email
Mary Margaret Fangman	6320 Pierce St.	Omaha, NE	68106	402-490-9261	piaknow@yahoo.com
Travis Kulwicki	2909 S 16th St	Lincoln, NE	68502	402-770-0608	kulwitj@hotmail.com
Alan Mattingly	3030 Agate Court	Lincoln, NE	68516	402-805-4302	amattingly2@unl.edu
Virginia Semerad	1453 Road M	Rogers, NE	68659		vmsemerad@yahoo.com
Renee Spicka	16021 Orchard Cr.	Omaha, NE	68135		
<b>Student Memberships</b>					
Sarah Douglas	308 W. William Ave	North Platte, NE	69101		
<b>Changed or Added</b>					
Becky Hoekema	2391 Linden	Sidney, NE	69162		
Chris Hopp	929 S 70th Plz #22	Omaha, NE	68106	402-297-5484	chopp@mail.unomaha.com

**Foundation**

happy to offer further information to anyone who is interested.

- Holding fundraisers specifically to aid the Foundation, such as play-a-thons, practice-a-thons, teacher performances, and encouraging student/parent contributions (a Christmas gift to you might be a contribution to the Foundation.) We're exploring ways in which the Foundation Fund can be a greater force and touch even more lives than it currently does. I can't help but think that if every single member of MTNA would contribute \$10.00 annually to the Foundation, we'd have a base of six figures, plus the additional contributions of those who are able to be more generous.

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If every state would name a Fellow, we'd have an additional \$51,000 to "play" with.

The MTNA Foundation Fund offers us the opportunity to GIVE to our association to ensure that there will be quality music instruction for generations to come. We RECEIVE from the Foundation Fund opportunities for ourselves and our associations, for our students, and for our communities. I hope that everyone who reads this will develop a passion for what the Foundation Fund does and what it has the potential to do—together we can make it happen!

Joan Reist

**2007 NMTA Conference**

The NMTA 2007 Conference will be held at the University of Nebraska at Kearney on October 25 – 28. Featured guest artist will be internationally acclaimed pianist Anton Nel. He will perform a recital on the evening of Thursday, October 25 following by a master class on Friday. In addition Dr. Sam Holland from Southern Methodist University will be our guest pedagogue. Information over both individuals can be found at: [www.nebmta.org](http://www.nebmta.org)

Other sessions are being planned and will be announced on the web site and the next newsletter. Please note that there is presently a call for papers. If you are interested in submitting a paper over some aspect of music that you feel would be appropriate for our 2007 NMTA Conference please submit the following:

- 1) Title of session
- 2) A one-page abstract of your session
- 3) A short biography of yourself along with your contact information
- 4) Any equipment that you might need (including keyboard)

Sessions are usually fifty minutes in length. Please submit this information via mail or email. The material must be received by February 28, 2007 to:

Dr. Larry Jones, NCTM  
 Department of Music  
 Nebraska Wesleyan University  
 Lincoln, NE 68506-5154  
 Phone: 402-465-2281  
 Email: [lej@NebrWesleyan.edu](mailto:lej@NebrWesleyan.edu)

**NMTA 2005-2006 Treasurer's Report**

**Realized Expenses 2005-2006**

Web Site	220.85
Board Expenses	2338.90
District Festivals	10554.06
Travel Award	500.00
Newsletter	769.51
State Competitions	9810.26
2005 State Conference	13678.61
Contributions	425.00
Tax Expense	300.00
Bank Charge	32.80
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$38,629.99</b>

**Realized Income 2005-2006**

Dues Income	6840.00
Interest	43.99
District Festivals	14122.00
State Competitions	8119.00
<u>2006 State Conference</u>	<u>6693.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$35,850.23</b>

**Projected Expenses 2006-2007**

Web Site	300.00
Board Expenses	2500.00
District Festivals	10500.00
Travel Award	500.00
Newsletter	2200.00
State Competitions	9000.00
2006 State Conference	8000.00
Contributions	425.00
Tax Expense	300.00
Bank Charge	30.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$33,755.00</b>

**Projected Income 2006-2007**

Dues Income	6800.00
Interest	45.00
District Festivals	14100.00
State Competitions	7900.00
<u>2007 State Conference</u>	<u>6500.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$35,345.00</b>

**[www.nebmta.org](http://www.nebmta.org)**

## Piano Texas International Academy & Festival

As one of the most prestigious and revered piano festivals in the world, PianoTexas International Academy & Festival, formerly known as the TCU/Cliburn Piano Institute, has established itself as an international classical music event of considerable magnitude and influence. With a diversity of offerings, it creates a wealth of opportunities for aspiring young concert artists, dedicated teachers, and enthusiastic non-professional adult pianists.

The innovative and imaginative programming of the Teachers Program attracts piano teachers of all levels with different missions. The richness of its content is designed to enliven and infuse the love of teaching with multifarious presentations covering popular and illuminative topics, all meant to challenge

and inspire. Teaching-demonstration sessions consist of promoting ideas and discussions among teachers concerning the practical aspects of teaching young students, which often results in the exploration of the most intriguing and fascinating areas in the art of teaching.

The year 2007 marks an unprecedented event of its kind in the world where teachers are offered the possibility of performing concertos with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra – an extraordinary opportunity not to be missed. This opportunity invigorates those who still desire to be active in maintaining their skills and performing. For this specific group of teachers their schedule will be focused on master classes, private lessons, recitals, and

of course the appearance with an orchestra as the highlight of their participation.

PianoTexas prides itself in inviting various internationally renowned artists/teachers as a testimony of the high standard of the Teachers Program. Among this year's guest artists are Yoheved Kaplinsky, Paul Badura-Skoda, Nelita True and Phillippe Bianconi. The 2007 PianoTexas International Academy & Festival promises an exceptional and unforgettable experience for all who attend.

For further information please visit the PianoTexas website at: [www.pianotexas.org](http://www.pianotexas.org) or call 817.257.7456

## Award Nominations

Nominations for the 2007 NMTA Teacher of the Year and the NMTA Service Award are now being sought. To be considered for this year, please forward your nominations no later than **February 22, 2007**. Nomination(s) need only contain a few sentences describing the qualifications of your nominee(s). Nominees do not submit portfolios. Please send nominations in electronic or hard copy format to:

Dr. Kenton Bales, NCTM  
Department of Music  
6001 Dodge Street  
University of Nebraska at Omaha  
Omaha, NE 68182-0245  
[kbales@mail.unomaha.edu](mailto:kbales@mail.unomaha.edu)

### NMTA Service Award Requirements

1) Member in good standing of NMTA/MTNA for the past five consecutive years;

2) Outstanding service to NMTA at the local/or state level;

3) The award recipient must not have received the award within any of the previous ten years;

4) Nominee must have held at least one local or state-wide appointed or elected office; and

5) No one on the NMTA Executive Committee (elected officers) may receive this award.

### NMTA Teacher Award Requirements

1) Member in good standing of NMTA/MTNA for the past five consecutive years;

2) Demonstrated excellence in teaching as evidenced through festivals,

competitions, student recitals, and other musical activities;

3) The award recipient must not have received the award within any of the previous ten years;

4) No one on the NMTA Executive Committee (elected officers) may receive this award.

The NMTA Executive Committee will select the award. Recipients must attend the state conference in the year the award is given and must be present at the awards ceremony. The honors include a plaque and cash award. The recipient will be honored in a subsequent NMTA Newsletter.

NMTA Conference and Competition held in Hastings

A conglomerate of 341 students and over 84 music teachers attended the 2006 Nebraska Music Teachers Association (NMTA) State Music Conference, Nebraska Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) performance and composition competitions, Nebraska High School and Collegiate competitions and State Festival all held at the Hastings Holiday



Winners/Representatives of the Nebraska Division of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Competitions left to right: Senior Voice Representative, Kirsten Jergensen, (Teacher, Linda Wiles) North Platte; Senior Woodwinds Representative, Christopher Gugel (Teacher, David Nabb, Kearney); Junior Piano, Eric Qiu (Teacher, Paul Barnes, UNL); Junior String, Tadafumi Ikezu (Teacher, Anne Nagosky) Omaha; Senior Piano, Rebecca Fuller (Teacher, James Johnson, UNO); Young Artist Piano, Dennis McNulty (Teacher, James Johnson, UNO); Senior Composition, Brittany Bauer (Teacher, Regina Carnazzo) Omaha; Young Artist Chamber Music, "Tre Stelle Piano Trio" ( Hikari Maekawa (Piano), Heidi Hilligas (Violin), Tina Lund (Cello) (Teacher, Ting-Lan Chen) UNK. Not pictured, Young Artist Brass , Nicholas Kenney, (Teacher, Alan Mattingly) Lincoln; Young Artist Woodwinds , Julia Neal (Teacher, Diane Barger, UNL); Junior Composition , Mitchell Breeling (Teacher, Regina Carnazzo) Omaha; Collegiate Composition, James Lowe (Teacher, Kenton Bales, UNO).

Fuller (Teacher, James Johnson, UNO) and Young Artist Piano Winner Dennis McNulty (Teacher, James Johnson, UNO). True's appearance was made possible by funds made available through the Nebraska Arts Council, Hastings College Music Department and Hastings College Artist Lecture Series.

Other presenters included Rachel Kramer, Director of MTNA Educational Services, "Studio Makeover", Jim Margetts of Chadron State College, "Echoes of Venice: The Barcarolle for Solo Piano", and members of the NMTA Executive Committee Kenton Bales and Roger Foltz on the 2007 Conference to be held in Toronto, Canada. Darleen Mitchell's world premiere of the NMTA commissioned

composition, a duet called **Luminous Mysteries**, was performed by Nathan Buckner and Valerie Cisler

presented to past NMTA President Wanda Mandigo, outgoing President Kenton Bales and Vice President Marcia Wiebers. The new NMTA Executive committee will be President Roger Foltz, President Elect Larry Jones, Vice President Lisa Albee, Secretary Jonathan Sokasits, Treasurer, Thomas Ediger, and Immediate Past President Kenton Bales.

The following winners and representatives in the Nebraska State level of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) performance competitions will advance to the West Central Division:

**YOUNG ARTIST: Piano:** Dennis McNulty (Teacher, James Johnson, UNO); **Brass:** Nicholas Kenney, Lincoln (Teacher, Alan Mattingly); **Woodwinds:** Julia Neal, Lincoln (Teacher, Diane Barger, UNL); **Chamber Music:** Tre Stelle Piano Trio, ( Hikari Maekawa (Piano), Heidi Hilligas (Violin), Tina Lund (Cello) (Teacher, Ting-Lan Chen, UNK); **SENIOR: Piano:** Rebecca Fuller (Teacher, James Johnson, UNO); **Voice Representative:** Kirsten Jergensen, (Teacher, Linda Wiles) North Platte; **Woodwinds Representative:** Christopher Gugel (Teacher, David Nabb) Kearney; **JUNIOR: String:** Tadafumi Ikezu, Omaha (Teacher, Anne Nagosky), **Piano:** Eric Qiu, Lincoln (Teacher, Paul Barnes, UNL).

**COMPOSITION: Junior:** Mitchell Breeling, Omaha (Teacher, Regina

Inn and Fuhr Music Building on the Hastings College Campus from October 26-29. The weekend marked the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the existence of the Music Teachers National Association.

Nelita True, Professor of Piano at Eastman School of Music and world-renowned performer and pedagogue kicked off the conference with a concert featuring works of Scarlatti, Beethoven, Faure, Haydn and Chopin. On Friday True offered another presentation on effective judging and a piano master class with Junior MTNA Piano Winner Eric Qiu (Teacher, Paul Barnes, UNL); Senior MTNA Piano Winner Rebecca

of UNK. The following were honored at an awards luncheon on Friday October 27: Teacher of the Year: Dr. Paul Barnes, Associate Professor and Co-chair of Piano at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Service Award: Foundation Chair Linda Rogers. Awards were also

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Top Row Left to Right: Participants in the Nebraska High School Piano Competitions: Adam Brown, Lincoln (Teacher, Charlotte Heermann); Brett Cooper, Harrisburg (Teacher, Robin Brenning); Laura Jeppesen, Pleasant Dale (Teacher, Ceil Brown, Lincoln); Megan Turco, Omaha (Teacher, Carole Trouble); Bottom Row Left to Right: Renee Pflughaupt, Seward (Teacher, Marcella Meyer); Erin Coleman, Omaha (Teacher, Gail Dunning)



## 2006 Teacher of the Year - Paul Barnes

Hailed by the American Record Guide as "a magnificent pianist," the San Francisco Chronicle as "ferociously virtuosic" and "a riveting and sensitive player" by the Indianapolis Star, pianist Paul Barnes has been featured three times on NPR's Performance Today as well as the cover of Clavier Magazine. He has recently performed in Jerusalem, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Greece, Serbia, Seoul, Minsk, Vienna, Budapest and in all major cities throughout the US.

Deeply inspired by the aesthetic challenge of minimalism, Barnes gave the world premier of Philip Glass's *Piano Concerto No. 2* (After Lewis and Clark) with the Omaha Symphony Orchestra under Victor Yampolsky. The Omaha World Herald praised Barnes playing for his "driving intensity and exhilaration." The Boston Globe praised Barnes for his "strong and sympathetic performance" while the Boston Herald remarked that "Barnes sailed through the concerto with authority." Barnes also performed the concerto at the prestigious Cabrillo Festival with conductor Marin Alsop in 2005. Later in 2005 Barnes performed and recorded the concerto with the Northwest Chamber Orchestra. The Seattle Times called Barnes' performance "an impressive feat." The recording was recently released by Orange Mountain Music. Nebraska Educational Telecommunications produced a one hour documentary/performance featuring Barnes in the world premier performance. The show won a regional Emmy and a National Educational Telecommunications Association award for best performance production. Orange Mountain Music also released Barnes' recording of his transcriptions from the operas of Glass, including both the *Trilogy Sonata* and the *Orphée Suite* for Piano. Gramophone Magazine observed that "Barnes offers a surprisingly expressive

reading....Atmosphere and rhythmic vitality are important, and these qualities Barnes has in abundance." The American Record Guide's Rob Haskins said "Barnes is an expressive pianist with a lovely tone and flair for the dramatic." New York critic Joseph Dalton described Barnes' playing of the Glass transcriptions as "atmospheric and elegant," while San Francisco critic Michael McDonagh hailed Barnes' performance as "remarkably effective, highly expressive." The *Trilogy Sonata* and the *Orphée Suite* for Piano are published by Chester Music of London and are available at musicroom.com.

Barnes also serves as head chanter at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Lincoln where his fascination with Byzantine chant led to a commissioned piano concerto written by Victoria Bond based on a Greek chant. The work entitled *Ancient Keys* was premiered by Barnes with the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Kirk Trevor. The world-premier recording of this concerto as well as Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* was just released on the Albany Records label with Barnes as soloist with the Slovak Radio Orchestra, Kirk Trevor conducting.

With performances throughout Europe, the Near East, the Far East, and the U.S., Barnes' unique lecture/recitals have received international acclaim. List and the Cross: Music as Sacrament in the B Minor Sonata explores the fascinating relationship between music, theology, and the Orthodox icon. Barnes' live recording of this lecture recital was recently released on the Liszt Digital label. Paul Schoemaker of the



British Society Newsletter reviewed the recording and wrote that Barnes was "a fine pianist and gives us a performance of resounding conviction." Janice Weber of Clavier Magazine wrote "It is a majestic, reverential performance that elevates listeners to the sacred experience Barnes so eloquently describes in the lecture."

Recently elected to the national board of the American Liszt Society, Barnes hosted the 2005 ALS festival at the University of Nebraska Lincoln in 2005. The festival's theme was Heaven on Earth: Exploring the Sacred in Music and featured Liszt's monumental oratorio Christus. As part of the festival Barnes performed the piano part to Liszt's late choral work *Via Crucis*, Liszt's progressive and poignant setting of the fourteen stations of the cross.

Barnes is Associate Professor and Co-chair of Piano at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Music. He teaches during the summer at the Bösendorfer International Piano Academy in Vienna and also coaches the students of Menahem Pressler, Barnes' own teacher, at Indiana University where Barnes received his doctorate in Piano Performance. In great demand as a pedagogue and clinician, Barnes has served as convention artist at several state MTNA conventions. Barnes will perform and teach in China and at Seoul National University during his upcoming sabbatical leave in the spring of 2007.

For his distinguished record of teaching and performing, Nebraska Music Teachers Association is proud to honor Paul Barnes as the 2006 Teacher of the Year.

## NMTA Conference and Competition held in Hastings

Omaha (Teacher, Regina Carnazzo); **Young Artist:** James Lowe, (Teacher, Kenton Bales, UNO).

Students who placed in the MTNA competitions:

**YOUNG ARTIST: Piano:** Alternate, Miriam Freeman, (Teacher, James Johnson, UNO); Honorable Mention, Nicholas Reynolds (Teacher, Paul Barnes, UNL); **Brass:** Alternate, Jason Sipes, (Teacher, Frank Gazda) Hastings; **Woodwinds:** Alternate, Angela Heck (Teacher, John Bailey, UNL); Honorable Mention, Elizabeth Aleksander (Teacher, Diane Barger, UNL); **Chamber Music:** BJ3 Anna Hall, Taurice Alexander, Erika Jeck, and Alex Wimmer (Teacher, Christine Beard) Omaha. **SENIOR LEVEL:** Alternate, Nathan Green, Honorable Mention, Alex Ritter and Benjamin Fuller all from Omaha (Teacher for all three, James

Johnson, UNO). **Composition:** Alysen Young, (Teacher, Regina Carnazzo); Honorable Mention, James Evan Winter, Lincoln (Teacher, Marina Fabrikant).

**JUNIOR LEVEL: Piano:** Alternate, Grace Lyden (Teacher, James Johnson, UNO); Honorable Mention, Anna Toner, Grand Island (Teacher, Linda Alexander); **String:** Alternate, Sebastian Nabb (Teacher, David Neely) Kearney; **Composition:** Honorable Mention, Bailey Schoelmeyer.

State Festival participants had previously met a requirement in their District by performing two memorized pieces of contrasting style for a judge with a rating of excellent (II) or superior (1), taking a sight reading test and passing a theory test. At the State level they repeated this process and those receiving a superior in performance received a

trophy. Those receiving a 90% or better on the aural and theory test received an Honorary Theory Certificate.

Twenty One teachers had one or more students receive a 1+ performance rating:

Lisa Albee, Linda Alexander, Donna Baddeley, Robin Brening, Erin Bures, Debbie DeFrain, Gail Dunning, Nancy Jo Galusha, Mary Lou Hannibal, Jean Harris, Karen Johnson, Anne Madison, Cindy Murphy, Paul Parker, Jo Riecker-Karl, Cindy Rogers, Linda Rogers, Mindee Rowan, Galina Shatskaya, Marcia Wiebers, Pat Will. The following teachers had one or more students receive a 100% theory score: Lisa Albee, Erin Bures, Nancy Galusha, Katherine Haar, Jean Harris, Debra Heald, Wanda Mandigo, Sue McCandless, Cynthia Murphy, Jo Riecker-Karl, Galina Shatskaya, Carole Trouba and Marcia Wiebers.

## 2006 NMTA Service Award - Linda Rogers

Linda Rogers began music study in second grade in West Point, Nebraska. During high school she was handed a slate of students for piano instruction when her own teacher left for the summer - thus began her piano teaching experience! She discovered that sharing her love for music and working with children can be energizing and something to look forward to on a regular basis. A 1969 graduate of the College of St. Mary in Omaha, Linda majored in elementary



education and music with a piano emphasis. She taught third grade for four years, with a few piano students after school. When she stopped classroom teaching to stay at home and raise her children, she continued teaching piano. In 1980 she opened her studio to include a greater number and has continued teaching for the past forty years with a full studio of students for private piano instruction. Her graduate work has been in guidance-counseling and music. She has served as an adjudicator for a variety of area music contests. Since 1989 Linda has held membership in NMTA and is nationally certified. She has served as NMTA Membership Chair from 1992 to 1998 and currently serves as the MTNA Foundation Chair for NMTA.

Over the years Linda has contributed her time in many different capacities. She has provided music for weddings and women's groups and served as accompanist for school groups, soloists, as well as a men's chorus. Since 1960 she served her parish as organist first in West Point, and later in Randolph where she directed church choirs and served as organist for nearly 30 years. She currently serves as pianist/organist for her Norfolk parish and accompanies for the Norfolk Catholic High School music program. For 33 years Linda has been married to Patrick, a District Judge, and they have four children.

For her extensive years of service to NMTA and to the music profession, we are pleased to present the 2006 Service Award to Linda Rogers.

## NMTA Conference 2007 Guest Artist - Anton Nel

Anton Nel, winner of the first prize in the 1987 Naumburg International Piano Competition at Carnegie Hall enjoys a remarkable and multifaceted career that has taken him throughout North and South America, Europe, Asia, and South Africa. Following an auspicious debut at the age of twelve with Beethoven's C Major Concerto after only two years of study, the Johannesburg native captured first prizes in all the major South African competitions while still in his teens, toured his native country extensively and became a well-known radio and television personality. A student of Adolph Hallis, he made his European debut in France in 1982, and in the same year graduated with highest distinction from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. He came to the United States in 1983, attending the University of Cincinnati, where he pursued his Masters and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees under Bela Siki and Frank Weinstock. In addition to garnering many awards from his alma mater during this three-year period he was a prizewinner at the 1984 Leeds International Piano Competition in England and won several first prizes at the Joanna Hodges International Piano Competition in Palm Desert in 1986.

Highlights of Mr. Nel's nearly three decades of concertizing include performances with the Cleveland Orchestra, the symphonies of Chicago, San Francisco, Seattle, Detroit, and London, among many others. (He has an active repertoire of more than 100 works for piano and orchestra.) An acclaimed Beethoven interpreter, Anton Nel has performed the concerto cycle several times, most notably on two consecutive evenings with the Cape Philharmonic in 2003. He was also chosen to give the North American premiere of the newly discovered Piano Concerto No. 3 in E Minor by Felix

Mendelssohn in 1992. Stephen Paulus composed a piano concerto for Mr. Nel and the acclaimed world premiere took place in New York in 2003.

As recitalist he has appeared at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Metropolitan Museum and the Frick Collection in New York, at the Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena, Davies Hall in San Francisco, and the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. Internationally he has performed recitals in major concert halls in Canada, England (Queen Elizabeth and Wigmore Halls in London), France, Holland (Concertgebouw in Amsterdam), Japan (Suntory Hall in Tokyo), Korea, and South Africa.

A favorite at summer festivals he has performed at the Ravinia Festival, at Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, as well as at the Aspen and Blossom Music Festivals (where he is on the artist-faculties), among many others. Possessing an encyclopedic chamber music and vocal repertoire he has, over the years, regularly collaborated with many of the world's foremost string quartets, instrumental soloists, and singers. With acclaimed violinist Sarah Chang he completed a highly successful tour of Japan as well as appearing at a special benefit concert for Live Music Now in London, hosted by HRH the Prince of Wales.

Eager to pursue dual careers in teaching and performing he was appointed to the faculty of the University of Texas at Austin in his early twenties, followed by professorships at the Eastman School of Music, and the University of Michigan, where he was chairman of the piano department. In September 2000, Anton Nel was appointed as the Priscilla Pond Flawn Regents Professor of Piano and Chamber music at the University of

Texas at Austin, where he teaches an international class of students and now heads the Division of Keyboard Studies. Since his return he has also been the recipient of both the Austin-American Statesman's Critics Circle Award for his performance of the Rachmaninov Second Concerto, as well as the



University Cooperative Society/College of Fine Arts award for extra-curricular achievement. In 2001 he was appointed Visiting "Extraordinary" Professor at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa, and continues to teach master classes worldwide.

He has three solo CDs as well as several chamber music recordings to his credit. The 2005/6 season saw three new releases: "Anton Nel in Recital", as well as the complete Beethoven Sonatas and Variations for Piano and Cello (with Bion Tsang) by Artek Recordings (with distribution by Naxos) and his performances of the Faure Ballade and Franck Symphonic Variations with the Philharmonia Virtuosi, on the ESS.A.Y label.

Anton Nel became a citizen of the United States of America on September 11, 2003. He is a Steinway artist.

## NMTA Conference 2007 Guest Pedagogue - Samuel Holland

Samuel S. Holland is an associate professor of music, and head of keyboard studies and pedagogy at Southern Methodist University Meadows School of the Arts. Dr. Holland holds degrees in performance from The University of Texas and the University of Houston where he studied with John Perry and Abbey Simon, respectively. He received a Certificate in piano pedagogy with distinction from the New School for Music Study and a Ph.D. music education with an emphasis in piano pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Holland has pioneered the application of electronic and MIDI technology to performance and teaching in both contemporary and classical idioms. His current and former students have received consistently high

recognition in state, national, and international competitions. He has co-authored over 25 critically acclaimed books with Frances Clark and Louise Goss, including the latest edition of *The Music Tree* (Warner Bros., 2000). His articles have appeared in the *Encyclopedia of Keyboard Instruments* (Garland, 1994), in every major piano journals in the US, and in the English *Piano Journal*. He is the author of *Teaching Toward Tomorrow: A Music Teacher's Primer for Using Keyboards, Computers, and MIDI in the Studio* (Alfred, 1993). Active as a composer, recitalist, clinician, and pop musician, Dr. Holland has presented hundreds of concerts and lectures throughout North America, Europe, and Australia. He has served on the board of directors of the

World Conference on Piano Pedagogy and as both a trustee and executive vice president of the Frances Clark Center for Keyboard Pedagogy.



## District Festival Contact Information

Western District  
Friday and Saturday - May 11-12  
Western Nebraska Community College -  
Scottsbluff  
Postmark Deadline - April 14  
District Chair: Robin Brening  
1415 "S" Street  
Gering, NE 69341

Lincoln District  
Saturday, May 19  
Westbrook Music Building – UNL  
Postmark Deadline – April 14  
District Chairs:  
Svetlana Yashirin/Debra Heald  
22117 Adams St.  
Eagle, NE 68347  
402/781-9328  
debra@encore-studio.com

Omaha District  
Saturday, May 5  
UNO - Strauss Performing Arts Center  
Postmark Deadline - April 7  
District Chair: Diane Hill  
16516 Spring Circle  
Omaha, NE 68130  
402/330-1899

Central District  
Saturday, May 5  
Hastings College – Fuhr Music Building  
Postmark Deadline – April 2  
District Chair: Mindee Rowan  
710 Shoreside Dr.  
Hastings, NE 68901  
402/461-4501

\* The State Festival will be held in Kearney at UNK October 27-28, 2007.

\* Because of strong theory scores, beginning at the May 2007 district festivals, the passing theory grade will be raised to 60%.

\* Also beginning at districts, updated adjudication forms will be used which include a grid to aid judges in providing concrete suggestions to students.

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Nebraska Music Teacher - NMTA Newsletter

Opus 54, No. 1

## NMTA Calendar of Events

<b>February 15</b>	Travel applications due (Ken Bales)
<b>February 22</b>	Service and teaching nominations due (Ken Bales)
<b>February 28</b>	Proposals for proposed sessions at the 2007 NMTA Conference due (Larry Jones)
<b>March 5</b>	NMTA Board Meeting - Mahoney State Park
<b>March 23 - 27</b>	MTNA National Conference - Toronto, Ontario
<b>April 2</b>	Central District Festival application deadline
<b>April 7</b>	Omaha District Festival application deadline
<b>April 14</b>	Lincoln and Western District Festival application deadline

<b>May 5</b>	Central District Festival - Hastings College
<b>May 5</b>	Omaha District Festival - University of Nebraska at Omaha
<b>May 11 - 12</b>	Western District Festival - Western Nebraska Community College
<b>May 19</b>	Lincoln District Festival - University of Nebraska-Lincoln
<b>September 11</b>	MTNA Competition, NMTA Competitive and NMTA State Festival application deadline
<b>October 25 - 26</b>	State Conference and MTNA Competitions University of Nebraska at Kearney
<b>October 27 - 28</b>	State Festivals and Competitions - University of Nebraska at Kearney