



Allegro

Newsletter of the
Charlottesville Music Teachers Association
Shelby Sender, Editor
SLSender@gmail.com
Vol. 26, No. 4
December 2014

25th ANNUAL CMTA FESTIVAL

With our first snowfall of the year now behind us, the calendar page has turned to December. On that month, in big bold RED letters, you all should have **FESTIVAL DEADLINE COMING!** The Big Day is 8 weeks from Saturday.

Your advanced students should have their pieces chosen and well in hand, close to being memorized by now. You should at least have some idea of what you'll assign the younger ones. The application deadline is just after the turn of the year; now would be a good time to download it and make copies, so you can get started filling them in for each student.

If you're not sure about entering your youngest students, the answer is **YES!!** They will love it and it's a good time to get them started so when they're older they'll want to continue to earn those awards. There are lots of literature suggestions on the list you'll find on the website and guidance about using method book pieces. Contact me if you have questions.

Also, teachers, keep **YOUR** calendars clear for January 31. If you enter students, you will be asked to help out; choose your times and jobs early to get the best choices, but there's something everyone can do. And hanging around with the gang is **FUN**. Even if you aren't entering students, plan to be a part of our big landmark day.

Remember, the deadline is January 7. Scheduling will be done the following Friday and Saturday so you can get your information back to students in a timely fashion. Don't be late!

Note from Ruth Barolsky

The next **YOUNG MUSICIANS RECITAL** will be held on Sunday, January 25, at 1:30 at the Colonnades. Please send applications to me at rlbarolsky@gmail.com or 1206 Augusta St. Charlottesville, VA 22903. Applications must be in my hands by Monday, Jan. 19, at 5 o'clock. If you're using snail mail, remember, the 19th is a National Holiday. There will be no mail on Monday. So please, mail the applications early.

Applications can be downloaded from the Wednesday Music Club site. Looking forward to seeing many of you.

Note from Jeanne Jackson

Independent Music Teachers Forum

Welcome to the Independent Music Teachers Forum column, a place where members can share studio ideas and important news concerning independent teachers is covered. While IMTF issues are often business related, they can also include just about anything that helps us be our best at teaching. I'd like to hear your suggestions for future topics as well as your favorite teaching strategies. Please send them to me at jeannewjackson@gmail.com.

Today I'll get us started on a subject that is frequently on my mind, but especially so this fall: how to get my students to regularly use the best practice habits they know. When explaining that the CMTA Festival would be earlier this year, I asked my upper elementary through advanced students if and how they would change their home practice if they knew they had only one month to prepare for this event. I enjoyed their thoughtful expressions and responses which included "practicing more, working harder, practicing hard places more," etc. The student who won the award for really using her noggin started making a list at the end of each practice session about what she needed to do for the very next one.

Just as athletic coaches push their teams harder in practice than they might need for the actual sporting event, our students will perform better if we raise the challenge bar in their home practice and at lessons so they are fully prepared for their performance. With very young students, games are the way to go! One of my favorites involves numbering 6 starting places in their music then rolling a die. They must play the section with that same starting number 3 times successfully before rolling again. In very short pieces a "6" can mean playing the entire piece successfully but cannot be used until numbers 1-5 have been rolled. This dice game works well for all levels and helps break the habit of starting too often at the beginning. The randomness makes it clear which passages still need work.

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday! I feel like we are now buckling in for a very quick three weeks before another holiday break starts! I am hoping I can keep my students at least somewhat focused and productive over the next few weeks.

Don't forget to put the CMTA Festival on your students' radar- since it is much earlier this year it will be heard before you know it! Although the applications aren't due until early January, it's good to start getting commitments from your students over the next few weeks!

A big thank you to Corky for leading a great discussion on professional development last month. It always amazes me how things I learn in sessions like that come out in lesson immediately- I was quoting one of the articles in at least three lessons the week of that meeting.

Best of luck to everyone during this crazy time of year and see you in January!

Mike Anderson