



Allegro

Newsletter of the
Charlottesville Music Teachers Association

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Editor: Seung-Hye Kim

REVIEW: OCTOBER MEETING

Our October small group discussion meeting was a great success! We talked over topics such as the ethics of photocopying music, the best ways to coax shy students to talk about emotion in music, and how to deal with business licenses and tax issues as private teachers (and more!). Our members have a wealth of wisdom and experience and it was so rewarding to spend a morning learning from each other.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Join us on Wednesday, November 9 at 9:45 am at the Municipal Arts Center to hear violist Kimberly Ryan speak about creating a student chamber music program. Playing chamber music is one of the great joys of being a musician and it's never too early to introduce even our youngest students to the richness and fun of musical collaboration. Ms. Ryan started a chamber music program for young string players and pianists in Richmond, Virginia and in this lecture she will be sharing her experiences and lessons learned along the way. Hope to see many of you there!

YOUTH STUDENT RECITAL

The 2016 CMTA Youth Student Recital will take place on Sunday, November 20 at 1:30 pm at The Colonnades. Each CMTA teacher may submit up to two students to perform for this event.

This year's recital will feature the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. All instruments, including chamber ensembles and voice, may participate in The Music of Mozart. For further information or questions, feel free to contact Marie Powers Ellis at marie@ivypianostudio.com.

CONCERT ANNOUNCEMENT

On November 6 at 4 PM, tenor Joel Grow, with pianist Linda Blondel, will present a recital at Cove Church in the "Concerts at Cove" music series. Included will be vocal works by Schumann, Quilter, Work, and Scarlatti, and a Nocturne by Chopin.

[Click here for program and bios](#)

5531 Covesville Lane, Covesville, Virginia 22931, 434-245-0173

Cove Presbyterian Church is 18 miles south on US Route 29 from Charlottesville and is visible from the highway. Turn left onto Route 837 (Covesville Lane) from 29 south, left at the stop sign and the church will be up on the hill on your right. Covesville is a short 3 miles north of the Nelson County line.



PIANO DUET PARTY

Note on our December 10th piano duet party: our gathering time has been changed to 9:30 am to accommodate those folks who hope to attend the Met opera broadcast that afternoon.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear CMTA Friends,

Here are a few reflections on my trip to Winchester for the VMTA Conference:

Friday, 12:15pm – Chapter Summit Lunch

It's always exciting to pull onto the Shenandoah University campus, even when I've just been here the week before performing for their Bach-Handel Festival. This is my alma mater (three times over), and I love watching the campus grow and evolve. As I arrive at the registration table, I find that our President's Lunch has been moved to the new Health Sciences building. I'm excited to see the inside of the building for the first time – the rotunda room where we gather for lunch is elegant and full of light. We settle in for a delicious lunch and a lively discussion focused on the ways we are all trying to build a larger, more active membership. I'm not surprised to discover that social events with free food seem to draw the largest crowds! Everyone loved CMTA's December social event ideas.



Friday, 2:45pm – Independent Music Teachers Forum

I've been asked to speak for a few minutes at this IMTF session about how CMTA attracts and retains so many single-line instrumentalists. Our moderator, Gabriella Ryan jokes that food, booze, and having a violinist President surely help our cause! We break into two groups and have great discussions about how to help students get over the “middle school hump” and how to teach expression. We also help refine a survey that will go out to all VMTA members this year and be discussed at next year's conference. It is very similar to the survey Jeanne Jackson designed for us last year. All of you can expect many emails from me in the coming months encouraging participation! This will give us great access to statewide data about how we all run our studios. Because this will be “historical data” by next year's conference, we won't run the risk of violating that pesky FTC ruling.

Friday, 5:30pm – Dinner!

Shenandoah Conservatory Symphony Orchestra conductor Jan Wagner joined us for dinner at Cork Street Tavern and provided some wonderful insight into his conducting career and his work with the student soloists in tomorrow night's concert. I'm thrilled to share him with our group – I was on the search committee that brought him to SU and he's become a dear friend and colleague. However, the highlight of the evening was seeing Noriko's face when her order came out – it was probably the largest steak I've ever seen!

Saturday, 2:30pm – Baroque Dance Workshop

As my afternoon session arrived, I was excited and nervous to present a workshop on baroque dance for the conference. As many of you know, I typically do this presentation with a second person who helps teach the dances. Playing violin and calling out dance steps is even harder than it sounds! But, the presentation went smoothly, and I was pleased to have Corky and Pat in the audience for a refresher course on these dances. I love watching participants make the connection between music and dance in real time!

Saturday, 5:15pm – Fortepiano & Guitar Presentation

As a total early music nerd, this was a must-attend presentation! Beth Caluda (VMTA President-Elect) and her husband Glen performed some really delightful music on period instruments. They pointed out that the modern guitar and piano make poor partners due to balance issues, but the historical versions of both instruments blend perfectly! It was a fascinating, organic sound.

Saturday, 5:45pm – Dinner

I must admit, our two CMTA dinners were probably the highlight of the trip. Our chapter brought the largest contingent (nine) and we invited a couple of friends from other chapters to join us for our final meal together. We took full advantage of the unlimited salad bowls at Olive Garden, and had great chats about our favorite moments from the conference. Having missed it, I was interested to hear from everyone about the orchestra rehearsal that morning.

Saturday, 8:00pm – Orchestra Concert

Though the rest of our gang had to get back to Charlottesville, I stayed to hear the Concerto Competition winners perform with the orchestra. The concert opened with the orchestra performing Huapango. I was beaming with pride at how good my former orchestra sounded!

All of the soloists were amazing, but the pianists stole the show. Sixteen-year-old Andrew Ganahl played the first movement of Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 2 with a maturity and flair well beyond his years. Shenandoah Conservatory doctoral student Annie Wong wowed us with the lightning-fast finale of Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No. 1. Now back home in Charlottesville, I'm exhausted but at the same time energized from meeting colleagues and attending such great sessions and concerts. I hope even more of you will join our conference caravan next year!

All the best,

David McCormick