



CAMTA Newsletter

Editor Heather Vedder

Inside This Issue:

From the President	1-2
Calendar At-A-Glance	2
New Webmaster	2
Minutes	3-4
Studio Openings	5
Board Members	5

From the President

I have a bit of an embarrassing confession to make to all of you: I deplore conferences. As a quintessential homebody, I love being in my own world with my own family, pets, food, and bed. I also am a person who likes to walk and move—sitting is not my forte. In spite of this, as the president of CAMTA, I realized that I should attend the MMTA Conference both for my edification, and for the benefit of the group.

I chose to attend online albeit reluctantly because my elderly mother will be at my home many times this fall, and her health is somewhat fragile. It was when I tried to log in for the second session, a “happy accident,” (a la Bob Ross), occurred. The Zoom link simply would not allow me into the session. I emailed a few people but was informed that there were technical difficulties. Since I had already set aside the time for education, I opted to play the excellent SAT Panel Presentation from the MMTA webinar series. It was then that something magical happened. Suddenly, as if a switch had been flipped, I realized why conferences are important to all of us. I call them the three R’s of conference attendance.

As I listened to the presenters for the webinar and later, the conference, I heard information that was **relevant** to me. As an independent music teacher, I want to constantly learn how to be a better teacher. If I can glean one or two ideas to help little Johnny learn to be a better musician, my time has been well spent. So many of the presenters had tidbits tailor made for the studio teacher. I have had the joy of sharing these new ideas with my students in the weeks following the conference.

A second “R” of conference attendance is **relationship**. I attended the President’s meeting on Friday night and listened as the other
(continued on page 2)



CAMTA members at the 2021 MMTA conference.

CAMTA Calendar 2021-2022

NOTE: Masks are required for attending in-person meetings.

Tuesday, November 9th: CAMTA Meeting
Jemal Tavadze, 9:30, Mount Hope United Methodist Church

December: No CAMTA meeting

Tuesday, January 11th: Virtual CAMTA Meeting, 9:30, Zoom

Saturday, February 26th, 2022: Tentative Date for the Keel Competition

Saturday, March 12th: SAT, MSU

Member Happenings

Sheryl Iott just had a book published.

Thinking and Playing Music: Intentional Strategies for Optimal Practice and Performance is available from Rowman and Littlefield. She also has a Youtube channel at

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UClrzNe_Ax1SORdR6xdXcSCg

Gail Lytle Lyra will be performing for Lansing Matinee Musicale at Ascension Lutheran Church on November 3rd at 1:00.



Heather Vedder and Kathy Richardson at the 2021 MMTA Gala Dinner

From the President – continued

presidents presented problems they faced, great ideas from their chapters, and hopes for the future. Kathy Richardson did an excellent job facilitating a great discussion. I felt a kinship with the other chapter presidents as a result. I also experience that kinship with many of you when we connect at CAMTA meetings. It is a wonderful thing to talk to a colleague who truly understands one's job in ways that even the most understanding spouse cannot.

Last is **rejuvenation**. There are times we need to renew our minds, develop new techniques, and purchase new supplies. I loved hearing from teachers who presented things that worked for them and some wonderfully creative ideas that I had not previously considered. It has been fun to use some new tried and true materials. Additionally, the energy and excitement that is generated as a result of new thought processes has also been a benefit for my students.

We live in a busy world with a veritable feast of information readily available to us. It would be tempting to think that we can get all that we need from those resources; however, I am convinced this is not true. We need the all important human element of life—the each other that can only be truly present when we are willing to connect. Whether a conference or a CAMTA meeting, I urge you to attend, participate, and experience your own “magical moment” that facilitates relevance, relationship and rejuvenation to you as a teacher and musician. I hope to see you at the next CAMTA meeting or next year at the MMTA conference in Kalamazoo.

Linda Jones
CAMTA President

New Webmaster

A huge thank you to **Laura Johnson** for becoming our new CAMTA webmaster! If you have information that needs added to the website, please contact Laura at ilovenewsongmusic@gmail.com.

Piano Day

Chia-Ying Chan will be hosting a Piano Day at Saginaw Valley State University on November 13. The event itself will include a masterclass, lecture and recital. All junior high, high school, and college-aged pianists are encouraged to register for the masterclass and all events are open and free to the public. Contact Chia-Ying at cchan@svsu.edu for more information.

CAMTA October 12, 2021 Meeting

In attendance: Kathy Richardson, Sheri Iott, Penny Draper, Gail Lytle Lira, Heather Vedder, Mary Jane Miller, Chin-Ying Chan, Zhao Wang, Linda Jones and Joan Wierzba

The meeting was called to order at 9:35am at Mount Hope United Methodist Church.

President Linda Jones introduced a **new member: Chin-Ying Chan**

Webmaster: Linda reported that Laura Johnson is the new webmaster for CAMTA. Let her know if you want anything on the website or if something needs updating.

Miho Segal is working on updating the CAMTA yearbook. She recently got the files and hopes to have it ready by the November meeting.

Treasurer's Report: none. Amber not able to come; she tested positive for Covid.

Heather asked teachers to register their students for the **Halloween Hoot**. Registration is due Monday, Oct.17. Fourteen students registered so far. Halloween Hoot is at Faith Lutheran Church Oct 23 at 1:00pm.

MMTA Conference was held at U of M in Ann Arbor on Friday & Saturday Oct.8 & 9. The feeling of having the conference at the university was very favorable and next year in will be in Kalamazoo, probably at Western Michigan. Penny encouraged more teachers to come because it is a great experience with good speakers and updated information.

Chapter Presidents' Meeting: Linda said they discussed "Teacher of the Year" guidelines; Piano Book Club, where a teacher describes how she or he uses different method or other piano books perhaps at monthly meeting. There was a discussion on SAT (see below).

Joan suggested looking at the **American Music Teacher Magazine** Oct/Nov.2021 for the article on Aging Backwards by James Litzelman about Miranda Esmonde-White exercise program for stiff muscles. Gail mentioned also Creative Wellness with deep tissue massage for quality relief on muscle stress and strain.

Sheri Iott wrote a book called: "**Thinking and Playing Music**" as a resource for piano teachers. She has a You-Tube channel: google: Sheri Iott "Thinking and Speaking" and subscribe to her You-Tube for an interactive webinar that she will be giving.

SAT: Carl Richardson will continue as the data entry person. Thank you, Carl.

CAMTA needs an Application Chairperson. The registration is on-line it is not that difficult of a job.

Changes in SAT:

1. Not all three pieces must be memorized if the student does not plan to go to semi-finals. But at least one piece must be memorized to receive a score for the pieces played. It is up to the teacher discretion on encouraging memorization.

2. Sight reading: the student can play the Sight reading lines out loud. In the past they could only ghost play with the time they were preparing.

3. Melody Playbacks are to be played three times in a row for the student whether the student wants to have it three times.

Gail Lytle Lyra will perform for LMM on November 3 at 1:00pm at Ascension Lutheran Church. The Spartan Dischords will be the second part of the program.

Zhao Wang from Central Michigan University gave an excellent presentation on Collaborative Piano:

1.The history.

2. Collaborative playing with other instruments, Sonatas and concerti score reductions.

3. Importance of collaborative piano playing in rehearsals, choirs, Festivals and church.

Piano Master Class at Saginaw Valley College on November 13. For information, ask Zhao Wang and Chin-Ying Chan.

Please read your MMTA newsletter is a good source of information.

Respectfully submitted by

Joan Wierzba, CAMTA Recording Secretary

Studio Openings:

Deena Agree, Okemos: Piano
Okemos
deenailene@gmail.com

Natalia Bezuglova, East Lansing: Piano
517-303-5474
www.class-jazz.com

Jeanne Fangboner, Lansing: Voice and Piano
517-393-5341
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Joseph P. Henig, Okemos: Piano
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4191 Indian Glen Drive
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Sheryl Iott, Lansing, West side:
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CAMTA NEWS Submission Deadline:

Send information for the January
newsletter to Heather Vedder at
heathervedderpiano@gmail.com
by January 1st, 2022.