

The Enquiring Music Teacher

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Olympia Music Teachers Association

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President's Corner

Wishing you a very happy New Year in 2008!

We have a lot to look forward to in OMTA this coming year! Our Beethoven's Hair Project this month will provide us opportunities to reach out to our community in a new and fresh way by making our association's presence known and making new friends. Adjudications are just around the corner, as are the Contemporary Student Recital in February and also the Jazz Recital in May, opportunities for our students to perform and sharpen their talents.

On a little different note; I just finished reading the latest edition of American Music Teacher Magazine. I was really pleased as a major part of it is directed to the topic of Improvisation! I've been an "Improv" person all my life, having grown up in a family of Musical Improvisers. My grandparents were self-taught and very capable "fiddle" players, my mother improvised at the piano and sang beautifully. Playing by ear, improvising is just something that I've always done and not really known how or why. Teaching others to improvise, now that's a different matter! However, after reading the articles I've made it my New Year's Resolution to begin working with my students along this line more and more. If you are interested in doing the same, we should maybe get together at the end of the year and compare notes! How did the experiment work? I'll be excited to at least give it a try and let you know how it goes with my students!

Once again, my wish to all of you in OMTA is for a happy, rewarding and *very musical* 2008!

President Jan Rowen Music

Master Classes January 25-27 with Dr. Jeanine Jacobson and Sandra Palmer

Winter Master Classes dates are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday on January 25th, 26th, and 27th, 2008. Fees are due by January 8th. Thank you again to those of you that are opening your studio for this Chapter project! Contact Cherie Felts if you have any questions.

Contemporary Music Festival:

Here is the date for the next OMTA festival recital:

"Contemporary Music Festival"

February 16, 2008 1-5 PM

United Methodist Church, Eastside and Legion

Please contact John Van der Brook at lessons@klavier.ms if you have any questions.

Adjudications Timelines:

January 8, 2008 - Deadline date for submitting registration forms with your checks. If you do not plan to attend the meeting you will be expected to deliver it in person to Yenneys or to Sue's home by this date.

Mid-February - Sue will e-mail or call all participating teachers when Adjudication schedules are available at Yenneys.

March 3-8 - Adjudications at United Churches

March 9 - Honors Recital

If you have any questions, please contact Sue Dick at 943-9800 or email sue_b_d@hotmail.com.

A Visit from our State President:

Mary Kaye Owen was our honored guest at our December luncheon, and along with her delightful antics and stories, shared the following interesting and useful information:

Alaska Airlines may still be offering great rates (they were as low as \$198 round trip) to Denver (where the National Convention is being held in March). One place to check on air fare is at Travelocity.com. The next national convention will be in Atlanta.

Visit the website of the Kansas State Music Teachers Association at www.ksmta.org/musicprogressions-guide.pdf to view the musicianship program that our state is procuring to replace the current theory program.

Certification Statistics: 14.4 teachers nation-wide are either state or nationally certified. 15.9 of our state's teachers are either state or nationally certified, and our state rates 22nd in the nation. 26% of OMTA's members are either state or nationally certified.

The next state conference theme is "On the Waterfront" and will be held at the conference center in Bremerton in late June. Make your reservations now for the Hampton Inn which is right across the street.

WSMTA members are urged to be on the lookout for information being sent to them regarding a summer workshop on the subject of recreational music making.

The Olympia Music
Teachers
Association

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Jan. 8 - Chapter Meeting at Yenney's
- Jan. 27-29 - Master Classes with Jeanine Jacobson and Sandra Palmer
- Feb. 12 - Chapter Meeting at Yenney's
- Feb. 16 - Contemporary Music Festival, United Methodist Church

*****Please remember to not wear strong scents (perfumes, oils, body lotions, etc.) to our meetings due to the sensitivities of some of our members. Thank you.*****