



MILWAUKEE AREA PIANO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

April 2021 Newsletter

<https://www.maptapianoteachers.org/>

Happy Spring! It is so wonderful to see daffodils blooming.

We will be meeting via Zoom on Sunday, April 18th. The time printed in the directory has been changed to allow time between the end of the meeting and the beginning of the program. We will have members of MMTA and GM-WMTA joining us.

Please RSVP to Karen if you will attend the Program at kbertucc@gmail.com
You will be emailed a Zoom link, password and attachment for the 3 p.m. Program.

12:30 p.m. Board Meeting

1:30 p.m. General Meeting

2:30 p.m. Break

2:45 p.m. Login for the Program.

Non-members may attend for a \$15 fee. Please invite your teacher friends!

3:00 - 4:30 p.m. Program presented by Dr. James Johnson, joining us from his apartment in New York City. His topic is, "What to Teach in Place of" He will review Baroque, Classical and Romantic pieces that we all tend to use for recitals and auditions and suggest new literature that we should explore and consider teaching in place of the "old war horses."



James Johnson maintains an active career as a concert pianist, organist-choirmaster, and educator.

He has performed and/or recorded with the Boston Pops, the Royal Philharmonic, the Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) Philharmonic, the National Symphony, and the National Radio Orchestra of Slovenia. His recordings have appeared on the "Best Recent Recordings" lists of Clavier Magazine.

His lineage as a pianist can be traced back to Rachmaninoff, Liszt, and Beethoven through links with his teachers, Ozan and Patricia Benkman Marsh, who studied with Rachmaninoff himself, as well as with Emil von Sauer.

From the early days of his career, critics have frequently and favorably compared his playing to keyboard giants such as Horowitz. Johnson is a Steinway artist.

His biography appears in *Who's Who in America*, and is in *Living Legends*, a publication of the International Biographical Centre, Cambridge, UK.

MAPTA 2021 Young Artists Award Winners

Levels 12-14

Sr. Annarose Griffin Memorial Award

1st Place: \$200 **Cindy Bian** from the Studio of Rick Saler

Levels 9-11

Clara Saler Memorial Award

1st Place: \$100 **Shreya Girish** from the Studio of Rick Saler

2nd Place: \$ 90 **Lydia Otto** from the Studio of Janet Acker

Honorable Mentions: Jasmine Sun from Studio of Sam Ecoff
Alex Meer from the Studio of Eileen Haeuser

Levels 7-8

1st Place: \$ 75 **Casey Merson** from the Studio of Christine Weege

2nd Place: \$ 60 **Johanna Luo** from the Studio of Rick Saler

3rd Place: \$ 50 **Aniket Singh** from the Studio of Sam Ecoff

Honorable Mention: Owen Xie from the Studio of Sam Ecoff

Congratulations to these fine students and their teachers!

The Young Artists Competition, Honors and Trophy Auditions were held via videos and Dropbox this year. Everything ran very smoothly thanks to Chairmen Christine Weege and Cathy Anwar.

The Junior Honors Recital and the Honors Recital were uploaded to the MAPTA YouTube Channel and was viewed by students and their families on March 28th. Since then, we have had a total of 78 people view the video. This channel is unlisted and can be seen only with the link:

<https://youtu.be/M5cPEGvuSFY>

We all hope that we will be back to auditions at Hulbert Piano next year and Junior Honors and Honors Recitals at Mount Mary University.

Due to the conflict with the Packers' playoff game on the day of the January meeting, we did not discuss the MAPTA Constitution revisions. We will discuss, and hopefully approve, the Constitution this month.

The Constitution with revisions is attached to this email. Please take time to read it before the meeting.

MAPTA 2021 Summer Music Festival



MAPTA will hold the 2nd Summer Music Festival again this summer. The purpose of this event is to encourage summer music study. The profit from the festival will be used for the Young Artist Competition Awards and Honors Recital

Students will make videos and send them to Dropbox as they did last summer.

New medals and neck ribbons this year!

June 19th ~ Registration forms & fees due.

July 1-30 ~ Videos accepted

August 22 ~ Medals & rating sheets ready

Offer your students a special summer event and support MAPTA at the same time! Students who participated last year said that they want to enter again this year.

The Music Teachers National Association held their national convention last month. Members attending were asked what their biggest challenge has been during the past year from the following list. I have listed them in the order of most concerned about to the least. There were approximately 1,100 people who ranked these from 1 to 10.

1. Solving the technology issues of teaching online 47.26%
2. Zoom fatigue 43.20%
3. Feeling disconnected from others 39.86 %
4. Uncertainty about everything 28.64%
5. Keeping students motivated to continue lessons 26.73%
6. Worry over the future of performances 25.78%
7. Keeping myself motivated 24.34%
8. Health concerns 20.29%
9. Other (please specify) 18.38%
10. Maintaining household income 11.93%

It is interesting that the MAPTA Board chose this month's topic from Dr. Johnson's list. At the MTNA national conference last month, there were many seminars focused on encouraging teachers to use new repertoire by reviewing the works of many women composers and composers from many countries. "Diversify Your Teaching Repertoire," "Music of Brazil," "Nordic Composers and Selected Works," and the piano music of Duke Ellington, Florence Price and Margaret Bonds were all presented.

See you at the April meeting!