



# KCMTA

KANSAS CITY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

KCMTA Newsletter Vol. 14, #6  
February 2014  
[www.kansascitymusicteachers.org](http://www.kansascitymusicteachers.org)

Jennifer Fink, NCTM, President  
Dr. Janet Fetterman, NCTM, President-Elect  
June Bonge, Newsletter Editor

## President's Corner



Greetings from inside the polar vortex! As I sit down to write this month's message, the temperature outside is set to rise to a high of 19 degrees... a forecast a rather creative group of musicians in Norway would consider "ideal" concert conditions!

The Ice Music Festival celebrates winter with an orchestra of instruments constructed from harvested ice, snow and other natural materials. In the hands of the right musicians, these elements produce a rather unusual and beautiful sound. For a little winter fun, check out [this YouTube performance](#) or read more about the festival in [this interview from NPR](#).

Although our temperatures don't reflect it, KCMTA's "spring" semester is in full swing. We have an exciting line-up of workshops in the coming months, including our own Beth Grace in February. Thanks to workshop chair Julia Scherer, who has arranged for a wonderful variety of speakers to inspire and motivate us this year!

The 2014 Multi-Piano Concerts are also fast approaching. KCMTA will rock the Lied Center with the sounds of the "Don't Stop Believing Tour" on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't ever experienced a Multi-Piano Concert, I'd highly recommend carving out a few hours of your Sunday afternoon to attend this year. You'll be blown away by the power of a stage full of 16 grand pianos! Special thanks to concert chair Jennifer Lacy and her team who have worked tirelessly to make this year's event run seamlessly, and to our fantastic conductor Doug Talley.

At the end of February, we'll have an opportunity to hear some of KCMTA's finest young artists perform at our Concerto Competition and Recitals. We're pleased to have the opportunity to partner with the Heritage Philharmonic to showcase two of our most talented students in concert. Mark your calendars for their performance with the Philharmonic on May 3<sup>rd</sup>! We extend our thanks to Kari Johnson, Melody Stroth and the Heritage staff for leading this year's events.

I hope that you and your students are looking forward to taking advantage of some of the many opportunities that KCMTA will offer this spring. As we eagerly wait for the temperatures to rise, may your days and evenings be filled with the warmth of joyous and wonderful music-making!

Musically yours,

**Jennifer Fink, NCTM  
President**  
[jen@jenspianostudio.com](mailto:jen@jenspianostudio.com)

## Support KCMTA with a donation to Music Circles

Your tax-deductible donation to the Music Circles program helps our organization continue to provide exciting and dynamic opportunities for young musicians across the Kansas City metro area.

**Donations can be made online at**  
[www.kansascitymusicteachers.org/](http://www.kansascitymusicteachers.org/)

# February Workshop

Julia Scherer, NCTM, VP of Workshops  
[sheerjoypiano@gmail.com](mailto:sheerjoypiano@gmail.com)

## Musical Destination, Technical Journey

*Practical Solutions to Common Technical Problems*



**Elizabeth Mueller Grace, MM, NCTM**

**Certified Instructor of the Taubman Approach  
Golandsky Institute**

We are all on a fascinating journey as musicians, performing pianists, and teachers. Each of us has a unique road to teaching musical joy and fulfillment. The students that come our way and the music we are asked to perform and teach are the pathway to our personal growth and development.

Elizabeth Grace had the misfortune of developing a career-threatening injury—followed by the good fortune of finding a solution that has allowed her to play better than before, with much greater ease. She was given the opportunity to start over, to re-examine what she did and why. Having traveled this difficult and painful path, she feels a strong commitment to helping others play the piano with effortless artistry.

A technique is built step by step over a period of time. In order for a student to play musically and with beautiful tone, correct body mechanics must be functioning. Ideally, as we address short-term problems, we are also building long-term solutions. As teachers, we must know each student's destination and how to teach them to use their body in order to make this possible.

Easy short-term fixes as well as long-term strategies for addressing issues including collapsed joints, arpeggios, chords, leaps, octaves, and repeated notes will be presented.

**Elizabeth Mueller Grace, MM, NCTM**, enjoys a multi-faceted career as performer, teacher, clinician and adjudicator. She is a member of the performing artist faculty at the Lamont School of Music Summer Academy at the University of Denver.

Ms. Grace regularly performs with Dr. Janet Fetterman in duo-piano and four-hand collaborations.

The recipient of numerous prizes and awards, Ms. Grace served as Keyboardist in the Houston Symphony, Topeka Symphony and as Principal Keyboardist in the Omaha Symphony. For fifteen years, she was a member of the performing artist faculty of Rocky Ridge Music Center in Estes Park, Colorado and served as the Center's Music Director for eight years.

Ms. Grace has taught at Rice University, Houston, Texas and Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. She is a Certified Instructor of the Taubman Approach through the Golandsky Institute, Princeton, New Jersey and regularly coaches with Edna Golandsky and John Bloomfield, New York City. Ms. Grace has taught many award-winning pre-college students and also has extensive experience teaching the principles of injury prevention and recovery. She attracts students seeking additional training because of injury or technical limitations to her studios in New York City and in the Kansas City area. A nationally certified member of the Music Teachers National Association, Ms. Grace has worked with pianists from the United States, South America and Europe.

Ms. Grace graduated summa cum laude with a Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music and holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Nebraska Wesleyan University. She was the first recipient of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Fellowship Award given for advanced musical study.

Ms. Grace resides in the Kansas City area with her husband and has two sons.

### Workshop Information

February 4, 2014, 10:00 AM  
Schmitt Music  
General Meeting at 9:30 AM

## Master Lessons with Beth Grace

**Elizabeth Mueller Grace** offers Technique Clinics and Master Classes for students of all ages and levels. In the teacher's private studio or in a group setting, Ms. Grace will explore with the teacher and the student problem-solving strategies for thorny technical hurdles that impair musical performance. These sessions can be presented in conjunction with a Teacher Workshop or as an independent offering.

Master Classes are an interactive experience between private teachers, students and the Master Teacher. The emphasis of the Master Class is to discover avenues for the student to transform the printed score into a convincing musical experience. Special emphasis is placed on the interdependence of technique and interpretation in the learning process.

*"Beth demonstrated concepts from her workshop titled "How Healthy Hands Unlock Musical Potential" to my students. She encouraged them in a friendly way, and she quickly changed their understanding of tone production. My students gained so much in a very short time!"*

—Sally Buxton, NCTM  
President, Kansas State Music Teachers Association



### Multi-Piano News: The Concerts Are Here

KCMTA presents "Don't Stop Believing Tour!"

Sunday, February 9th, 2:00 and 4:30 PM

The Lied Center, Lawrence, Kansas

Come enjoy the 2014 Multi-Piano Concerts with over 500 performers, 16 grand pianos, 23 original videos presented on the Lied Center's enormous screen, and 1 extraordinary conductor!! This year we feature a musical tour of rock ballads, cover songs, as well as a variety of musical soul, R&B, Disney and pop repertoire, arranged by the most popular pedagogical writers of the day, narrated with visual media created by the film studies classes at Blue Valley CAPS program (Center for Advanced Professional Studies). Tickets may be purchased for \$5 at the door (cash or check only—credit cards not accepted).

The first Multi-Piano rehearsal on Saturday January 18<sup>th</sup> was quite a success! **Congratulations to our conductor, Doug Tally**, who is such a master at working with the students!

We'd like to express a **special thanks to Schmitt Music** for hosting the rehearsal and providing all of the grand pianos that will be used in this year's concerts! Without their generous support, we would not be able to have this wonderful event. Please take the time to thank the Schmitt Music employees when you see them.

Also, we would like to express our a **big thank you to the fabulous folks at the Lied Center**, for loving this event, making it run smoothly and working diligently behind the curtain.

Please check out the KCMTA [Spreadshirt store](#), where you can order 2014 Multi-Piano Concert t-shirts and other merchandise. The merchandise features a design created by CAPS interactive design students and is available in a wide variety of styles and colors. Three dollars from the sale of each item goes to benefit the Multi-Piano program.

## Welcome to New Member

Please add the following information to your yearbook:

**Alec Tauscher**  
[Alec@TauscherMusic.com](mailto:Alec@TauscherMusic.com)  
913-205-7232  
Overland Park, KS  
Piano

SEE YOU SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9<sup>th</sup>!

# Newsflash from FALL FESTIVAL

Kathy Judd & Emily Yeh  
*Fall Festival Co-Chairs*

Every teacher ever involved with Fall Festival can now view all current and past students' points that accumulate toward plaques. Just email Rick Tauscher at rick@lucasgraphics.com and ask for the website, a login, and the password. He will get back to you with the information.

It is imperative that each teacher access the website because beginning with Fall Festival 2014 you will need to know your (teacher's) ID number and your students' ID numbers. This information will be put on the enrollment form. The data bank of students is incredibly large after so many years. This should help alleviate name misspellings, confusion over transfer students (we need to be notified of this!), and students who return after a "break." Also, plaques can be ordered and delivered much sooner.

If you are a new teacher to this event, a new number will be assigned to you. If you have a new student who has never entered Fall Festival, a new number will be assigned to him.

**Please do this now and not wait** until it is time to put together your enrollment. It is one thing you can do and have ready to go for Fall Festival 2014!

*P.S. Please pick up your plaques at Schmitt Music if you were contacted.*



## KCMTA Calendar Spring 2014

### February

- 4 Workshop & General Meeting @ Schmitt Music
- 8 Multi-Piano Rehearsal #2 @ Lied Center
- 9 Multi-Piano Concerts @ Lied Center, 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- 11 Executive Board Meeting @ Schmitt Music
- 21 DEADLINE for Achievement Auditions Enrollment
- 23 Concerto Competition @ Schmitt Music, 1 p.m. start
- 23 Concerto Recitals @ Schmitt Music, following competition

### March

- 4 Workshop & General Meeting, Board meeting @ 9 a.m. before workshop
- 5 DEADLINE for Music Progressions Enrollment
- 22-26 MTNA National Conference – Chicago

### April

- 1 Workshop & General Meeting
- 1 DEADLINE – Outstanding Teacher Service Award Nominations
- 5-6 Achievement Auditions @ Village Music Academy
- 8 Executive Board Meeting @ Schmitt Music (Budget Meeting)
- 11-13 Music Progressions @ Village Music Academy
- 13 Achievement Auditions Honors Recital @ Schmitt Music, 2 p.m.

### May

- 3 Concerto Competition Winner's Recital
- 6 Workshop & General Meeting
- 20 Executive Board Meeting @ Schmitt Music

## Music Progressions

Julie Dean, NCTM  
VP, Music Progressions  
[missjupes@gmail.com](mailto:missjupes@gmail.com)

Music Progressions will be held April 11-13, 2014 at the Village Music Academy. **Post-mark deadline for registration is Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.** Please note that registrations will not be accepted after this date or with any enrollment form other than the current one, which can be obtained from the KCMTA [website](#). All fees (\$25 per student) and the [Teacher Work Form](#) must be included. Teacher packets will be distributed via email.

Students will receive a certificate of participation, adjudicator's critique, test results and a colorful ribbon designating their level of achievement.

Preparing your students for Music Progressions is easier than ever. The [curriculum guide and handbook](#) are available for free download. Wendy Stevens has several teaching resources on her [website](#). These include free Web Rewards curriculum for each level and rhythm and ear training worksheets. Available to purchase and download are practice theory tests, sight playing examples and her Rhythm Menagerie curriculum. KCMTA president Jennifer Fink has developed several free games which focus on tested theory concepts. These may be downloaded from her [blog](#).

New teachers are most welcome to jump in with one or several students. Consider volunteering to help out with the event. Whether you are new to the program and need a helping hand or are a veteran teacher with a question, please call (913) 205-7047 or email Julie Dean, chair.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- |    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| 2  | Anne Becker            |
| 3  | Steven Spooner         |
| 6  | Robert Weirich         |
| 6  | Jack Winerock          |
| 11 | Donna LaBach           |
| 14 | Lisa Studtmann         |
| 16 | Elaine Barnard         |
| 17 | Pat Thompson           |
| 18 | Becky McLeod           |
| 21 | Becky Briggs           |
| 21 | Tatiana Ioudenitch     |
| 29 | Hemda Salomimer-Horner |

## Reminder!

Just a reminder that Achievement Auditions is earlier this year. It is on April 5th-6th at Village Academy and the Honors Recital is Sunday, April 13 at Schmitt Music.

**The deadline for enrollment is February 21, 2014.**

The Repertoire Syllabus and Technique Syllabus and all forms are online. Please refer to the [website](#) under Achievement Auditions for everything you need. For additional questions, please e-mail:

*Hemda Salomimer-Horner, NCTM  
VP of Auditions  
[hemdahsh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hemdahsh@sbcglobal.net)*