

# KCMTA

KANSAS CITY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

KCMTA Newsletter Vol. 14, #5  
January 2014  
www.kansascitymusicteachers.org

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

## President's Corner



Welcome to 2014! I hope that each of you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season, and were able to relax and carve out some well-earned down-time before the start of the new semester.

For those of us in the world of education, January is not truly the beginning of a new year. Instead, it marks a mid-point: an ideal time to re-evaluate and take stock of goals that have been accomplished, and those that are yet to be achieved. After the busyness of the holidays, January ushers in a return to the routine days of winter and gives us an opportunity to renew our focus and purpose.

The renowned pedagogue Frances Clark had much to say about the goals and purpose of teaching music. As we each take stock of where we stand mid-way through the journey of our year, I'd like to offer a few of her quotes as food for thought. In reading these inspirational words, it is my hope that you will find something that awakens or renews your passion and focus as you return to a new month of teaching.

*My primary goal as a teacher is to create a climate in which my students can experience continual musical, intellectual, and emotional growth, and to become increasingly dispensable to them in the process.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Teaching is not telling. Tellers belong in banks, behind bars.*

*Meet the student where they are, not where you are, and not where you want them to be, but where they really are.*

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*The art of teaching: Creating an environment in which a student wants nothing more than to learn, and having the right materials for the situation.*

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*There's music in every child. The teacher's job is to find it and nurture it.*

*(Note: The [Frances Clark Center blog](#) offers a delightful page-size printable of the last quote that you can print and keep in your studio. [Click here](#) to download a copy.)*

May you and your students enjoy a productive and inspired "middle" of the year!

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/)

## January Workshop

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

### Color and Composing: A Winning Combination in Learning to Read Music

*Merrie Crawford Skaggs & Nan Crawford Funkhouser*

There IS something new under the sun—MerrieNan Melodies! This interactive session will expose you to a revolutionary way to help students learn to read music easily and joyfully.

Merrie Skaggs and Nan Funkhouser, founders and co-creators of MerrieNan Melodies, will demonstrate their unique approach to making reading music accessible and fun for beginners.

Betty Smith, NCTM, and KCMTA member, started 12 beginners with this method and is an advocate for this beginning approach. Merrie and Nan will present a session for KCMTA similar to the one being presented at their MTNA Exhibitors Showcase March 24, 2014, at 1:00 -2:00 at the MTNA National Conference in Chicago.

MerrieNan Melodies was created to fill a void. While teaching piano, Nan, a classically trained musician who played French horn with the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra for 25 years, searched in vain for music that was written in both treble and bass clefs using the same notes at the same time so that students could compare the clefs with each other.

As she and her sister Merrie, a lifelong career educator, collaborated on the educational principles needed to create a new approach to reading music, MerrieNan Melodies (MNM) was born. They use **color**, **composing**, and the **holistic teaching of concepts** to help beginners make sense of the music notation system. More information about their approach and samples of the materials are on the [website](#).

Also learn how over 450 kindergarteners through fourth graders are learning to read treble AND bass clefs in a public school classroom setting. Most importantly, come and learn how this program can make a difference for YOUR beginning students!

## Biography of Skaggs and Funkhouser



Merrie Crawford Skaggs and Nan Crawford Funkhouser are sisters who have collaborated on the creation of MerrieNan Melodies. Merrie and Nan bring a unique combination to the field of music education.

Nan graduated from Wichita State University with a bachelor's degree in Music Performance and a minor in Piano Performance. She played French horn with the Kansas City Symphony for 25 years. She has taught both French horn and piano for over 30 years.

Merrie earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction. She taught for 13 years in public schools before shifting her focus to teacher education at Baker University where she taught for 26 years. She was Chair of the Undergraduate School of Education during the four years prior to her retirement from Baker University.

Nan knows what is required to achieve a high level of musical ability and Merrie has devoted her career to teaching children and their teachers. An in-depth understanding of musical principles combined with the application of proven teaching theories led to the creation of MerrieNan Melodies. Nan and Merrie have had great fun creating a different approach to teaching music reading. Both are interested in supporting the joyful education of music students of all ages.

### Workshop Information

January 7, 2014 - Schmitt Music  
9:30 a.m. General Meeting  
10:00 a.m. Workshop

# Multi-Piano Concerts

Jennifer Lacy, MP 2014 Chair  
Grand88key@aol.com



In twenty-one years of concerts, Multi-Piano has grown from 141 students on 11 studio pianos to over 500 students on 16 grand and concert grand pianos with the addition of **video, advertising, merchandise,** and sustaining wonderful **partnerships.** Thanks to all of the MP chairs and founders who have nurtured a small sapling into a lush landscape.

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## Concert T-Shirts Now Available on Spreadshirt

The “Don’t Stop Believing Tour” concert t-shirts are now available to order in time for the first rehearsal! The shirts feature a fantastic design newly created by CAPS graphic design students and are available in a variety of colors, sizes and styles. \$3 from the sale of each item goes to benefit the concerts. Visit our [online store](#) to order yours now! (Definitely just have a look at this year’s ultra *fantastic* design!)

## Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorship space is available in the concert printed program again this year for parents and teachers who wish to give a personal congratulation to their students or child!

**Parents** may submit a message of up to 30 words, at a cost of \$15. Order forms will be on hand and may be turned in at the first rehearsal, or mailed before the **January 25th deadline.** Teachers will be receiving details and order forms by email this month.

**Teachers** will again be able to place studio recognition “ads” in our program to honor your hard working students, bring salutations on behalf of their dedication as well as promote your studio business! Look for details and pricing in emails this month.

## Teacher Studio Ads to Promote Your Teaching Business

Feeling especially creative? Incorporate clip art or graphics with this year’s theme the “Don’t Stop Believin’ Tour” and help highlight your own studio! Ads will run on the huge Lied Center screen both before and after the concerts on February 9<sup>th</sup>!! Contact Jennifer Fink ([jen@jenspianostudio.com](mailto:jen@jenspianostudio.com)) with questions or for examples of pre- and post- show teacher advertisements.

**Parents can also benefit and promote their own private businesses through advertising!**

Contact Jennifer Fink for business advertising information and forms.

KCMTA has a continued and treasured partnership for “in kind” gifts with: **CAPS program, Kawai Corporation, and Schmitt Music** and many thanks to each of them!

Consider making a gift through Music Circles or by offering these sponsorship ideas and opportunities to families that enjoy and support the Multi-Piano concerts. There are some fun ways to support this event!

See you all at our first rehearsal in a few weeks and a smile and big warm hugs to all our volunteers!



# KCMTA - Heritage Philhamonic Young Artist Concerto Competition

Dr. Kari Johnson, Competition Chair  
*karijohnsonpiano@gmail.com*

Calling all Young Artists! The KCMTA-Heritage Philharmonic Concerto Competition is fast approaching. This competition offers exceptional piano and instrumental students an opportunity to perform in concert with the Heritage Philharmonic and earn scholarship prize money.

**Please note:** the deadline for the 2014 Young Artist Competition has been **extended to January 31, 2014.**

Competitors should prepare one memorized movement of a concerto from the standard repertoire. All selections must have an available orchestral accompaniment and be approved by the conductor of the Heritage Philharmonic prior to the competition. Please contact Kari Johnson with any repertoire questions.

High school pianists and instrumentalists age 14 to 18 as of the competition date (February 23, 2014) are eligible to enter. **All students must bring proof of age with them to the competition.** (Failure to bring this will result in disqualification.)

First-place winners will perform with the orchestra in concert on Saturday, May 3rd at Tri-City Ministries.

For more information and enrollment forms, visit the [KCMTA website](#).

*President's Note: We are grateful to Dr. Kari Johnson, who has stepped in mid-year to chair this event. We also express thanks to Aine Wendler and Julie Watson for their contributions to this year's competition. Thank you!!*



## KCMTA Calendar Spring 2014

### January

- 7 Executive Board Meeting (9:00 a.m.)  
Workshop & General Meeting (9:30 a.m.)  
Schmitt Music
- 18 Multi-Piano Rehearsal #1 @ Schmitt Music
- 31 DEADLINE for Concerto Competition & Recitals  
Enrollment

### 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



## **Congratulations!** **Jennifer Lacy named 2013** **Maureen Conway Award Winner**



*Keys 4/4 Kids Founder and Executive Director Newell Hill presents Jennifer Lacy with the Maureen Conway Award*

KCMTA is proud to congratulate Jennifer Lacy, recipient of the 2013 Maureen Conway "I Inspire Kids to Believe in Themselves" Award. The award is presented by Keys 4/4 Kids, a local non-profit organization that seeks to inspire young people to believe in themselves through the arts and mentorship. The organization generates most of their program revenue from the donation, restoration and sale of pianos.

The Maureen Conway Award is named after a high school history teacher who inspired founder Newell Hill to reach young people in his community through the creation of Keys 4/4 Kids. The award recognizes teachers who go to exceptional lengths to inspire their students and awaken the potential that lies within them.

**To learn more about Keys 4/4 Kids, the Maureen Conway Award, and their other wonderful programs, visit their website at [www.keys44kids.com](http://www.keys44kids.com).**



## **Tip of the Month Forums**

Barbara Githens, KCMTA Forum Moderator  
*barbara@heartnsoulmusic.com*



Need some tips or have some to share? Visit the [forum page](#) on the KCMTA website. Forums are not time sensitive, so feel free to contribute to current and past topics! Here's a peek at our upcoming topics.

**January: What do you do to keep your studio dynamic?**

New year, new goals and recharged students spark a bit of imagination. Any tricks up your sleeves?

## **Changes In Yearbook**

Please make the following changes to your yearbook.

### **Tatiana Ioudenith**

*Phone number: (913) 710-4336*

*E-mail: [t.yudenich@gmail.com](mailto:t.yudenich@gmail.com)*

### **Mary Grant**

*Instrument: Violin*

*E-mail: [garciam@juno.com](mailto:garciam@juno.com)*

### **Emily Rowland**

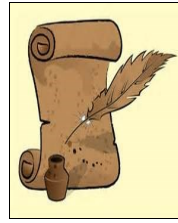
Email address: [emily.adelle.rowland@gmail.com](mailto:emily.adelle.rowland@gmail.com)

Remember to always check the [website](#) to ensure accuracy of your contact information.

Thank You!!

# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Corinne Rope  
Millie Mehnert, NCTM  
Suzanne Steinle  
Sharon Eckart  
Susan Van Hole  
William Stewart  
Cynthia Siebert  
Calvin Permenter, NCTM  
Diane Abelson  
Gladys Crowder
- 3 Lisa Cattanach
- 4 Jennifer Lacy
- 5 Susan Aber  
Michael Davidson  
Milla Portman
- 6 Un Chong Christopher  
Aurelien Boccard
- 7 Bridget Clonts
- 9 Dovie Fields  
Sarah Helm
- 11 Jean Drumm
- 12 Pei Xi Chen
- 13 Mandy Keltner
- 16 Rhonda Meeker
- 17 Kira Warner
- 18 Bobbie Perkins  
Jane Blessing
- 19 Alaina Hardy
- 21 Beth Grace, NCTM
- 23 Deana Haines
- 25 Joseph Myers
- 26 Marcia Fernandez
- 27 Annette Adams
- 31 Michael Kim



## Congratulations!

Two of our NCTM 101 class participants have received the national certification designation from MTNA. Please be sure to congratulate Lisa Cattanach, NCTM and Julie Dean, NCTM for this wonderful accomplishment.

Both Lisa and Julie were members of KCMFTA's first NCTM 101 class. They join fellow class members Janet Jamison, NCTM and Dr. Kairy Koesheva, NCTM in this fine achievement. Stay tuned for future exciting updates, as several other classmates wait to hear back from MTNA as we go to press.

If you are interested in knowing more about the national certification process or joining the next NCTM 101 class, please contact:

Lisa K. Studtmann, NCTM, Certification Chair  
*lkstudtmann@hotmail.com*

## Concerto Recitals

The KCMFTA Concerto Recitals provide a unique opportunity for students to perform concerto repertoire in a non-competitive setting.

This year's recitals will take place immediately after the KCMFTA-Heritage Philharmonic Concerto Competition on Sunday, February 23rd.

**The deadline for registration has been extended to January 31.**

For more information and enrollment forms, visit the [KCMFTA website](#).

*Thanks to Melody Stroth for coordinating this year's recitals!*