



September 1, 2016

Fall Newsletter



2016 – 2017

VMTA Calendar

October 22, 2016

*Fall Conference, featuring
Gilles Comeau*

November 13, 2016

*Student Recital and
State Competitive Auditions
in Richmond*

January 7-8, 2017

*Eastern Division
Competitive Auditions in
Boston*

January 20 & 21

*Monster Concert at Essex
High School*

March/April 2017

Spring Festival

Welcome

Hello again everyone:

Teachers make great leaders! Teachers are motivators. Teachers encourage and inspire. Teachers are helpful. Teachers are good listeners. Teachers celebrate good ideas and great achievements of their students and of those with whom they work. Teachers believe in others. This describes you!

How can VMTA help its members harness their own leadership potential? MENTORING! You can be a mentor. You can seek out a mentor.

Engage...educate...encourage. These are the methods for maximizing the potential of any individual, teacher, or organization for ultimate significance and success. These are the methods of a mentor leader.

Engage all members to take active roles. By serving in different areas of our local and state association, members gain the perspective of the different parts that make up our VMTA. As an involved member, you expand your thinking to help manage organization-wide decisions that are good for all members. It can be as simple as sharing your creative thoughts with an article in the VMTA newsletter.

Educate members with the tools they need to be effective leaders. The VMTA Board is currently in the final stage of posting all VMTA leader job descriptions on the VMTA website. To serve the VMTA, you do not need to “recreate a wheel”; however, new and inventive thoughts are vital.

Encourage members by acknowledging their ideas and contributions as valuable. All VMTA members are encouraged to become involved and share their hidden skills. Let your voice be heard! VMTA needs to celebrate your achievements. VMTA will be more relevant to you when you do.

VMTA is now in its 51st year. Many have served, and now it is time to bring VMTA to new levels of service to music educators, teachers and students. There is such satisfaction in being involved in a thriving music organization. Joy comes from serving others. Teachers do this every day. VMTA needs more leaders as well as more followers with fresh ideas. Let your voice be heard, and let me or another board member know of your interest to get involved in VMTA. We are only a click away. We can have as many programs as we have volunteers to lead them.

Claire Black, our competent Secretary for two terms, will now use her knowledge to serve as VMTA's Competitive Auditions Chair. **Patty Bergeron**, who so ably planned countless conventions, ended her tenure with a memorable 50th anniversary celebration and QUAD State Convention. She will now serve as our Membership Chair. Former Commissioned Composer Chair, **Susan Nicholas**, who selected Vermont's first Honorable Mention composer, Pierre Jalbert, has already planned VMTA's next conference on October 22 with Gilles Comeau from the University of Ottawa. She will be our new Conference Chair.

It is always invigorating to have new personalities join the board. We are happy to have **Laurel Maurer** join the VMTA Board as President-elect, and **Jina Smith** as our new newsletter editor. Each one has unique skills, ideas, and energy to add to our leadership. Welcome to Laurel and Jina.

Enjoy the teaching and mentoring.

Marie Johnson, VMTA President

www.vermontmta.net

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.

2016–2017 MTNA Student Competitions

The entry deadline for the 2016–2017 MTNA Student Competitions is Wednesday, **September 14, 3:00 P.M. EASTERN time.** Online applications will be available in August.

Competition levels:

Junior: ages 11–14 (Piano, String, Woodwind)
 Senior: ages 15–18 (Brass, Piano, Piano Duet, String, Voice, Woodwind)
 Young Artist: ages 19–26 (Brass, Piano, String, Voice, Woodwind)
 Chamber Music: average age 18–26 (String and Wind)

Composition:

Elementary: ages 5–10
 Junior: ages 11–14
 Senior: ages 15–18
 Young Artist: ages 19–26

Find Competition Guidelines here.

For further information, contact:

Linda Stump, NCTM
 MTNA Director of Competitions
lindastump@mtna.org



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Composer Commissioning

Unfilled at this time.
 Contact Marie Johnson if interested in this position

Farewell

"Hi everyone, After many many years as a VMTA member this is a note to say so long but not goodbye. I now have a new address:

104 Brooksby Village Drive, Apt. WWT 111, Peabody, Mass. 01960. Brooksby Village is a large, very active retirement community close to my family.

When I was a newcomer to Vermont I was introduced to the VMTA by Barbara Williams. That was a lucky day for me when I discovered your wonderful organization. I am so grateful for the hard work of volunteers who helped me establish the Richmond Suzuki Piano Studio by offering playing opportunities for my students, for the inspiring lectures and workshops and, not the least, the camaraderie which embraced me from those early days in the late 80's to now. Many, many thanks. Love to you all and good luck for the 2016-2017 season. "

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Vermont Music Teachers
Association State Conference

Saturday October 22, 2016

Speaker:

Dr. Gilles Comeau,
University of Ottawa

**Scientific Research and
Brain Studies: What do
they have to do with music
teaching and music
reading?**

Fall Conference

Vermont Music Teachers Association State Conference

Saturday October 22, 2016

Dr. Gilles Comeau, University of Ottawa, Speaker

Scientific Research and Brain Studies: What do they have to do with music teaching and music reading?

The learning of a musical instrument is a very complex acquisition that requires motor skills as well as auditory, visual, and cognitive skills. In this presentation, Dr. Comeau will introduce recent studies of instrumental music learning to provide insights that may influence our teaching practices. In order to address a number of uncertainties and unsupported beliefs, the following topics will be discussed:

- Motivation and music lessons: how can we address the drop-out rate?
- Sensitive period: are there real benefits to starting an instrument at a very young age?
- Learning by ear versus note reading: is there supporting evidence for one approach over the other?
- How can we make practicing more efficient?
- Becoming musically literate: how can we improve music reading skills?
- Brain plasticity: will music study make you smarter? Do music lessons enhance children's skills in mathematics and language?
- Piano method books and the introduction of music notation: how are the musical symbols introduced, sequenced, and reinforced?
- Colorful illustrations in contemporary piano method books: what is the real impact?

This conference will demonstrate how scientific investigation can contribute to our understanding of music learning as well as have a positive impact on our teaching practices by helping us to expand the diversity of our choices in teaching.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| • 8:45-9:45 | Registration and VMTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING |
| • 10:00-11:15 | Session One |
| • 11:30-12:30 | Session Two |
| • 12:30-1:15 | LUNCH |
| • 1:15-2:30 | Session Three |

About Dr. Gilles Comeau:

Dr. Gilles Comeau is a professor at the School of Music, University of Ottawa. He is the co-ordinator of the piano pedagogy and music education sectors. Dr. Comeau has been the beneficiary of numerous research grants, including a grant from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation to develop a 1.2 million dollar research lab for piano pedagogy. He is the author of several books including *Comparing Dalcroze, Orff, and Kodaly: Choosing Your Approach to Teaching* and the five volume series, *An Illustrated History of Music for Young Musicians*. He is the author of over 20 Education Kits to be used by music and arts teachers as well as many scholarly research articles in music education and piano pedagogy. Dr. Comeau authored the MTNA e-journal article of the year for 2015, *Colorful illustrations in piano method books: A pilot project investigating eye focus*. His research concerns aspects of piano learning, teaching, piano method books, music reading notation, piano playing health injuries, and video mediated learning.

2016 Vermont Music Teachers Fall Conference Registration Form

Saturday October 22, 2016 Richmond Free Library

201 Bridge Street, Richmond Vermont

Deadline for registration and guaranteed lunch is October 15, 2016.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE CONTACT _____

E MAIL _____

CONFERENCE FEE: Please check the appropriate category

_____ VMTA Member \$35.00

_____ MTNA (Member from another state) \$45.00

_____ Non-Member \$65.00

_____ College student with ID Free

_____ Lunch fee (see below) **\$14.00**

Please enclose a check for the **TOTAL** amount to:

Vermont Music Teachers Association = \$ _____

Panera Bread Lunch selections: Please check sandwich or salad and **circle choices below.**

_____ **Sandwich** on homemade bread served with chips, cookie, and beverage.

Ham and Swiss / Smoked Turkey Breast / Tuna Salad / Mediterranean Vegetable

Bread: Country White / Multi-grain / Rye / Tomato basil

Mayo / mustard / lettuce / tomato / onion

_____ **Salad** served with French Baguette, cookie and a beverage.

Seasonal Greens with balsamic dressing

Greek Salad with Greek dressing

Caesar Salad with Caesar dressing

Please complete this form and mail with enclosed check to:

Susan Nicholas 184 Mountain View Drive, Waterbury Center, Vermont 05677

Questions? Please contact Susan Nicholas at 802-244-5537 or Snicholasvt@msn.com

Save the Date

The 2017 MTNA National Conference will take place **March 18-22, 2017** in Baltimore, MD at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront. As always, you will be treated to outstanding array of informative sessions, master classes, thrilling concerts, and exhibits. Details on the MTNA website.



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*Photo taken by Saint Michael's student
Meredith Johnson '08 while studying abroad in
Namibia during her junior year.*

Create Your Own Event

“My students would enjoy playing at the mall; however, it is too far for them to participate.”

How often do you hear this comment? If you are a teacher in this situation, VMTA encourages you to schedule your own special events in your corner of Vermont. VMTA Board members are more than willing to assist you in organizing local events such as playing in your mall or town hall. Years ago, my daughter had a flute recital in our garage. It was fun and we have pictures showing lots of smiles. Be creative. It might be memorable for you and your students.



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Upcoming Concerts

Impressions in Sound and Color A Violin-Piano Program

Violinist Letitia Quante and pianist Claire Black present works by Debussy, Ravel, Prokofiev, and Ysaye. With displays of paintings created in the same year as each composition, the duo opens windows to history through Impressions in Sound and Color.

Friday, September 9, 7:30 p.m., Richmond Free Library in Richmond
Admission is free. Donations accepted.

Piano Trio Debut

Letitia Quante, violin; John Dunlop, cello; Claire Black, piano
St. Paul's Cathedral, 2 Cherry Street, Burlington

Two of Vermont's leading orchestral players, violinist Letitia Quante and cellist John Dunlop, join forces with pianist Claire Black for their premiere as a piano trio. All avid soloists and chamber musicians in the regional scene, they are delighted to present a riveting program of works by Tchaikovsky and Martinu..

Saturday, October 1, 7:00 p.m., Richmond Free Library, 201 Bridge St., Richmond
Free admission. Donations accepted.

Sunday October 2, 7:30 p.m., Cathedral Arts Weekend Series, St. Paul's Cathedral,
Cherry St., Burlington
General Admission - \$20. Students 15-22 (with ID) and Seniors - \$10. Children 14 and under - \$5.

Vermont Virtuosi presents "Pipe Dreams 5".

Vermont's only professional flute choir -from the petite piccolo to the colossal contra bass-performs new works by David Gunn and Dennis Bathory Kitz and classical transcriptions by Debussy, Vivaldi, Bernstein and Leroy Anderson.

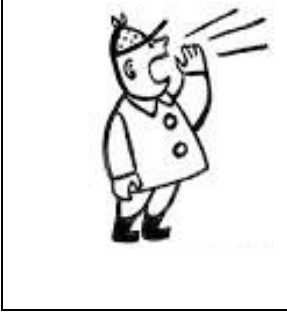
Friday, September 30, 2016 at 7:30 pm, at the First Baptist Church in Burlington

Saturday, October 1, 2016 at 7:30 pm at Saint Michaels Episcopal Church in Brattleboro

Sunday at 3 pm at the Unitarian Church of Montpelier

Admission is free/donations are welcome.

For more info go to LAMaurerflute.com



Member News

From Paul Orgel:

Sebastian West was the keyboard soloist in a performance of Bach's "Brandenburg Concerto, No. 5" at the Central Vermont Chamber Music Festival.

Henry and Nathan Wu participated in the Walnut Hill School's (Natick, MA) Chinese Performing Arts program.

Among my upcoming concerts this fall are an all-Mozart solo benefit recital at the Middlebury Community Music Center on October 2, at 4 PM, and a performance on UVM's "Lane Series" with members of the Music Department, Saturday, September 24, 7:30 PM featuring music by Mozart, Bartok, (the Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion) and George Crumb.

From Petr Kepka:

From September 1 to end of month I will have a small exhibition at City Market in downtown Burlington of my pictures from Prague. I hope that you will see it and enjoy my beloved city how I see it.

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New Member

Hello Vermont Music Teachers! I'm Samuel Whitesell, a classical and jazz pianist and piano teacher from Potsdam, New York who recently moved to Burlington to start a private piano studio and look for musical opportunities in Vermont. I completed my B.M. and M.M. in piano performance from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam where I studied classical and jazz piano, collaborative piano, and piano pedagogy.

I have taught piano privately to a wide variety of students in the Potsdam area for around 10 years, offering students an eclectic mix of classical study, rote learning, playing by ear, and exploration of blues, jazz, rock, pop and other styles of music at the piano. As a collaborative pianist, I have worked extensively as a freelance accompanist for Crane students in lessons, recitals, and master classes at the school. I have also served as an accompanist for choirs and as a pianist and substitute organist for churches in the Potsdam area. Since 2011 I have made numerous appearances on piano at the Burlington Discover Jazz Festival with my twin brother, Vermont-based saxophonist Jake Whitesell and with other musicians.

I'm excited to join the VMTA community! I wish everyone a happy and productive year, and I hope to get the opportunity to meet in person in the near future!

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cannot be put into words and
that which cannot remain
silent”

— Victor Hugo



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Vermont Virtuosi



"Vermont Virtuosi concerts are now among the most rewarding chamber music performances in the state."—Barre-Montpelier *Times Argus*.

2016-2017 Season

Pipe Dreams 5. The Vermont Virtuosi Flute Ensemble, Vermont's only professional flute choir, performs new works and classical transcriptions. Sep. 30 and Oct. 1 and 2, 2016.

Twilight at the Opera. Singers Sarah Cullins and Wendy Hoffman join flutists Anne Janson and Laurel Ann Maurer and pianist Claire Black in a panoply of luscious operatic arias. Nov. 5 and 6, 2016.

New Beginnings. Clarinetist Karen Luttik, flutist Laurel Ann Maurer, cellist Emily Taubl, and pianist Paul Orgel perform Brahms' Op. 114 clarinet trio as well as newly commissioned works by Vermont composers Gwyneth Walker and David Gunn. March 4 and 5, 2017.

April Cool. Flutist Laurel Ann Maurer, violinists Letitia Quante and Jane Kittredge, violist Paul Reynolds, and cellist John Dunlop play Mozart, Debussy, Jacques Hétu, David Gunn, and other cool composers. April 1 and 2, 2017.

The concerts are free; donations are appreciated. For venues and other data, visit www.LAMaurerflute.com or www.facebook.com/VermontVirtuosi.

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