

from President-elect Donna Toney:

Our state convention can be a wonderful time of reconnecting with our colleagues, sharing good ideas and considering new and perhaps better ways to deal with our businesses and pedagogy! How can we teach and attend convention in the same week? The answers are here! Many teachers hate to miss a week of teaching to attend convention. We are preparing students for ensemble festival, fall auditions and Christmas recitals.

Consider these ideas to both teach *and* attend the LMTA Convention during the same week:

Group Lessons on Monday and Tuesday:

Popcorn and a Movie: Invite students to attend a group lesson and enjoy "Beethoven Lives Upstairs", "Mr. Bach Comes to Call" or other DVD/videos about music or musicians. For sources, check out Friendship House, arkivmusic.com or other sources. Better yet, borrow dvd's from a fellow teacher! Of course, serve popcorn and bottled water to students!

Fun and Games: Invite students to attend a level-based group and focus on theory games and/or performances. Introduce Theory Builder Worksheets from Igreg, Ltd. and explain concepts for the first few pages.

Composer Study: Plan a group lesson focusing on a particular composer or subject. Try Russian pianists, German composers, Impressionistic Music/Art - the field is limitless and wonderful DVD's are available to demonstrate. What could be better than seeing great musicians play?

Ensemble Lessons:

Schedule duet/duo/trio/quartet partners to come for a thirty minute practice, back to back and schedule all students in two days - one day if you're clever! This is valuable time, especially if LMFC Ensemble Festival is early November!

Recital:

Present students in a recital! Feature solo or ensemble music; encourage parents or siblings to play with your students- make it a family affair!

Playathon:

Plan with other local teachers to present students in a playathon, encouraging donors to sign up as sponsors and donate the money to LMTA's SOS Fund. Your students and families will feel a sense of accomplishment as they play/give for others and families needing help to continue music lessons will much appreciate all efforts!