From the President  Katherine Tobey

As I write this article, we are rapidly approaching the end of the semester. It's a frenetic time of year as we prepare for rallies, juries, recitals, graduations and more. There are several things I’m counting on to help me stay focused (and sane!): the sure knowledge that summer is near (and hopefully a little “down” time); the support of colleagues; the burst of energy among my students as they, too, realize how little time is remaining in the semester; and the enthusiasm I bring back with me from the MTNA National Conference. My dream-come-true would be for every member of LMTA to be able to attend an MTNA National Conference.

I feel sure the more than thirty LMTA members who attended the MTNA Conference in Denver would agree: meeting the people who are responsible for our teaching materials, sharing ideas and experiences with colleagues from all over the country, getting advice from the best-of-the-best – what a “high!”
I came back from Denver feeling inspired, energized and validated. I also came back feeling that we have one of the best state MTA’s in the country. Did you know that attendance at our state conventions is exceptionally high compared to many other states (and I hope it will be even higher this coming year!) and that we also offer far more educational sessions at our conventions than many states? Did you know that five of our members who have in the past presented at our state conventions presented sessions at the National Conference this year?

President-elect Donna Toney presented a wonderful session for Collegiate Expo Saturday on setting up a professional studio. Several presenters later in the conference (including Ingrid Clarfield) quoted Donna. How wonderful that new and prospective teachers could benefit from Donna’s experience and expertise. In addition to firming up plans for our 2008 convention (see Donna’s article below), Donna made great contacts and even began planning the 2009 convention. Immediate Past President Sue Steck-Turner served on the Community Outreach Panel which was a conference favorite. Our Playathon is on the cutting edge, and many other states plan to join the community service bandwagon after hearing about what we and several other states have done in the public service arena.

Three of our members shared their research related to group piano instruction. Susanna Garcia and Chan Kiat Lim (University of Louisiana at Lafayette) presented a session describing their success with using video clips to emphasize the kinesthetic elements of piano playing through teacher modeling (WEB-based Videos in Group Piano Teaching). Nan Baker’s poster session (The Effects of Peer Teaching and Peer Collobaration on Students’ Achievement and Attitude Toward Keyboard Skills) showed how practical experience affects undergraduate group piano students’ level of achievement and attitude toward selected keyboard skills. Congratulations to Nan on her appointment as Assistant Professor of Piano Pedagogy at the University of South Carolina beginning in the fall. Nan’s duties will include teaching piano pedagogy and coordinating the Community Music Program.

A highlight of the conference was the Foundation Gala. We were so proud to be there for Sue Steck-Turner when she was honored as our Foundation Fellow. Sue's professional accomplishments and leadership skills are truly exceptional. How fortunate we are to have her in Louisiana!

I hope many of you will be able to join us in Atlanta next spring for the 2009 MTNA National Conference, and in Albuquerque for the 2010 Conference. But you don’t have to wait until then to experience the excitement of such a gathering. The 2008 LMTA State Convention
(October 23 and 24 in Shreveport) promises to be a best-ever event. Donna Toney, Ross Smith and Martha Bordelon are going all out to make it a wonderful event for all of us. See Donna’s article to whet your appetite and make plans now to schedule a Playathon or group lessons to replace your private lessons that week so you can come to Shreveport and find out for yourself why so many of us wouldn't miss an LMTA Convention!

While you have your calendar out to “reserve” October 23 and 24 for the State Convention, mark down these other important dates and deadlines:

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<th>Links</th>
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<td>Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge</td>
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<td><strong>MTNA Competitions</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Playathon in Shreveport</strong></td>
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Congratulations to MTNA Director-elect for the South Central Division, Charles Jones! We are so grateful to Charlie for his dedication to LMTA and MTNA, and we know he will be a wonderful advocate for all of us in his new position. We also welcome David Easley (member of BRMTA) as our new Vice President/Publicity. David takes the place of Keith Chamberlain, who has resigned due to other pressing responsibilities. Those of you who know David know that his enthusiasm is highly contagious. We really look forward to having David on the Executive Committee.

We gratefully acknowledge two generous contributions to our Students Helping Students Fund, from the RKE Valley MTA in Virginia, and the Broward County MTA in Florida. The Broward County MTA sponsored a Musicthon, with over 300 students from 18 private studios performing in a two day fund raising event. See Sue Steck-Turner’s article for more news about the SHS and the LMTA Playathon.

The LMTA Board will meet this summer for its first annual retreat. The Executive Committee will convene Friday July 11 at the Wesley Center in Woodworth for an intensive
The 2008 LMTA Convention in Shreveport has become a “must attend” event for LMTA members and guests! October 23 and 24 will be filled with energizing sessions from our featured presenter Melody Bober, composer and clinician Carolyn Setliff, and our talented Louisiana presenters who are excited to share their inspirations with others. Highlights will be showcases from Alfred Publishing and Theory Time, multiple strings sessions, and panel discussions to encourage and inspire both collegiate faculty and collegiate chapter student members. Dr. Ross Smith, head of Centenary’s piano department, is our host on this beautiful campus. The Hurley Music School encompasses several buildings that are handicapped-friendly and will allow multiple sessions to be held simultaneously, all in lovely settings. Joining Ross as co-host is Martha Bordelon, GSMTA President. After much investigation, Martha has reserved a lovely hotel and banquet site for all members to enjoy. We are most grateful to Ross, Martha and the members of GSMTA for welcoming us and shouldering the responsibilities incurred by the local association and college.

Melody Bober, nationally recognized composer, teacher and presenter will spend two “rich and full” days with us, conducting two sessions, an Alfred Showcase and a Master class for late elementary and intermediate students. She will also judge the Upper Elementary Auditions held on Friday afternoon. Melody’s energetic teaching style and her wonderful compositions have made quite an impression on teachers in our state. She is one of the most requested clinicians and we are truly fortunate that she is coming to share with us! Carolyn Setliff is a teacher/composer/clinician from Little Rock, Arkansas. Her works have been showcased by many publishers, most recently Hal Leonard. Carolyn will present two sessions on composition – one for teachers and one for students, helping them to “tweak” their own compositions for publishing. Interestingly, Carolyn is a native of Lake Charles and a graduate of Centenary College. She is delighted to be back in Louisiana.

The Whited Room in the Byum Commons will be the site for our Thursday luncheon meetings and Friday’s
luncheon session, Chamber Experience, which will include live performances by the Ark-La-Tex Chamber Project. We will be including several voice sessions, the very popular IMTF session – even a basic “Surfing the Web” guide to navigate the LMTA and MTNA websites and a presentation from Ken Boulton, Grammy-nominated LMTA Member.

Personally speaking, I sometimes tend to feel isolated as an independent teacher. What an inspiration it will be to share with other self-employed teachers, network with collegiate faculty and students, and gain insights into pedagogy and the business of teaching. I offer my plan, which is already on my calendar, that will enable me to attend the convention and still see my students that week: Sunday, October 19 – Playathon held in my church with several other teachers, proceeds to benefit the Students Helping Students Fund. My students will play ensembles of all kinds and several teachers will perform as well – of course parents and friends are invited! Monday and Tuesday: tie up any “loose ends” and Wednesday - head north to Shreveport. For other ways to see students and still attend convention, click here. I have never had one parent complain about missing a private lesson during convention week. Make plans early and notify parents – they will be glad to see you return with new enthusiasm to your studio on October 27!

We invite all independent teachers, college faculty, collegiate members and guests to join us for a wonderful convention with a rich variety of offerings to meet every palate.

Foundation
Sarah Roy, Foundation Chairman

Money collected from the Recycled Music Sale and Silent Auction is deposited in our LMTA account. With these funds, we can honor a deserving member of our organization as an MTNA Fellow by contributing $1,000 or more to the Foundation Fund. The Foundation Fund supports numerous grants and awards. Check http://www.mtnafoundation.org/ or your American Music Teacher for more details.

Recycled Music Sale:
Your no-longer-used or duplicate music, music games, books, CD's, videos, etc. are someone else’s treasure: sheet music: 10/$1; collections: 3/$1; CD's: $1; miscellaneous: 3/$1 or as marked. (Items of greater value, such as computer programs or games, expensive games, etc., are individually priced.) Yes, it takes some time to “clean house”, but making space for new teaching materials while “passing on” your “hand-me-downs” brings joy to you and those who choose to buy your used, but still-good, items. Each fall, at our LMTA State Convention, we all have a chance to “shop and swap.” Yes, it takes some time to “shop” at our Annual Recycled Music Sale, but many will tell you of the good things they purchased at rock-bottom prices.

It's time for “Spring Cleaning” in our studios. Best wishes as you place your “recyclables” in a convention-ready container awaiting our upcoming October gathering in Shreveport.

Silent Auction:
Do you recall your first Silent Auction? I remember resisting looking at the items for sale, but finally ending up buying a “bud vase” lapel pin that actually holds a tiny flower. I’ve never worn it, but I still admire it in my drawer from time to time, hope to find a flower for it, and know that I contributed to a good cause - SAI. Since then I’ve come to enjoy viewing the tempting items people bring to the LMTA Convention Banquet “Silent Auction”, as well as buying several of them. They make great gifts for yourself or someone else, and you contribute to another good cause – Us Music Teachers and Our Students.

Next chance you get, take part in this fun event. Spend a little for MTNA.
College Faculty Forum  
Joni Jensen, CFF Chairman

At the LMTA Convention in October the College Faculty Forum will present a panel discussion on college teaching concerns such as recruiting, obtaining grants and other funding, time management, balancing teaching and practicing, keeping resumes current, etc. Additionally, there will be time for audience members to ask questions. Participating on the panel will be Ross Smith, piano-Centenary College, Paul Christopher, strings - Northwestern University, Christine Allen, piano - Northwestern University, Kenneth Boulton, piano - Southeastern University, and David Bernard, voice - Southeastern University. Moderating will be Joni Jensen, piano - Tulane University.

Collegiate Chapter News  
Steele Moegle, Collegiate Chapter Chairman

Who says there is no free lunch? Louisiana Music Teachers Association will hold its third annual Collegiate Chapter Luncheon at the convention in Shreveport this October. Five collegiate chapter members/prospective members from each university/college will receive their lunch provided courtesy of LMTA. This luncheon is a wonderful opportunity to get to know other college students from across the state.

Collegiate chapter members, you will NOT want to miss the upcoming state convention. In addition to our luncheon, we will feature a panel discussion called Career Paths in Music. Patti Misiata, our IMTF Chair, will discuss opening an independent music teacher studio. I will discuss methods and practices for applying to graduate schools, as well as getting a collegiate job. We will also have an expert to discuss being a freelance musician. We will be there to answer your questions. This discussion will take place prior to our luncheon on Thursday, October 23. Mark your calendars and come with your questions ready!

Composition  
Thais Perkins, Coordinator MTNA/LMTA Composition Competitions

Composition Competition 2008...start thinking about it now!

As we reach the end of another (fabulous) year of teaching, it’s time to plan ahead for entries into this year’s MTNA / LMTA Composition Competitions. The LMTA Elementary Composition deadline is September 15th, and the MTNA deadline is September 7. Click here for LMTA Elementary Composition Competition information and forms. Click here for MTNA Composition Competition information and forms.

In the meantime, I would like to introduce you to the work of Kathleen Winn, Gifted and Talented Music Instructor for the Zachary Community School System.

Kat came to the Baton Rouge area after her move from the Mississippi Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina. Her degrees are in Theory and Composition, and in her position in Zachary, she has developed a composition program with her gifted music students that I think you will find intriguing.

Last year, she handed me a CD of pieces composed by her students using Macintosh computers and the program ‘Garage Band’, which provides basic material in many categories (voice tracks, percussion, instrumental harmonic patterns etc.). I thought the compositions were amazingly creative and reflected each student’s individuality and talent, even though each student was utilizing the same basic technological
suspected that the students could not possibly have created these fabulous works!

This year’s theme is world music. Each student chose a country or region, and researched the music, instruments, and culture of the country they had chosen, writing a composition to reflect what they had learned. They will present their compositions in a public forum next week. The evening is titled ‘Collage 2008 Goes Global’. It is billed as a ‘CD Release Party’! Students will each have a table with their music being played through a sound system. They will offer facts about their respective countries and the music found there, and offer a taste of the local cuisine.

The mailer says ‘meet the artists – experience world music – get your CD autographed!’

I think that the marriage of research, technology, and creativity meets so many needs for the students of this century. If you want to reach them most effectively, it is important to access the technology they are using. If you can offer this and also involve the students in expanding their knowledge base, then everyone wins.

Although the MTNA/LMTA Composition venues do not (yet) include technologically-produced pieces, I have been very impressed with this approach to composition. I know that many of our teachers utilize theory programs and other current technology in their studios. I would be willing to bet that many of your students would be very attracted to Garage Band and other programs currently available to them if they want to try their hand at music creation and production.

I hope that many of you are planning to enter your students’ compositions in the competitions this fall. As always, please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Local Association News
Local Association Presidents

from Lafayette president Sarah Roy:
LPTA’s "Moo-a-thon" held in December was a huge success, raising $6100 for Heifer International. In November LPTA members were treated to piano concerto performances by two ULL students, accompanied by their teacher, Chan Kiat Lim.

from Baton Rouge president Shelley Hays:
We are very proud of our new website http://brmta.org/ and of BRMTA members Donna Toney and Nan Baker who presented sessions at the MTNA Conference in Denver.
We had three wonderful programs this year:

from Shreveport president Martha Bordelon:
The GSMTA Annual Solo Performance was held in November, and in December students played Christmas Carols in the Bossier Mall. Other events included a luncheon at the Glenwood Tea Room; a local CPA spoke and gave advice on taxes. Centenary College was host to Baroque Sonatina Festival and LMTA Rally.

Students Helping Students/Playathon
Sue Steck-Turner, SHS/Playathon Chairman
In this year of the Olympics, SHS (Students Helping Students) challenges teachers and students to go for the gold in doing good. The SHS State Playathon will be held on Saturday, October 25 at Centenary College in Shreveport. Plan early to attend this wonderful event.

Playathons are a new and exciting performance opportunity for students - no required list to choose from, no competition - and no memorization! To prepare for a playathon, students and teachers compile a list of repertoire which the student plays well and then time the total performance length. The teacher enters the student in the playathon and the students begins to solicit sponsors who will pay a dollar for each minute the student plays. Click here for forms. Last year's playathons raised over $3000 for the SHS Fund.

This year we would like to encourage all teachers and students who are unable to travel to Shreveport, to schedule a playathon in their area in October—perhaps the same day, or maybe the week of the LMTA Convention. Several teachers in Baton Rouge are planning to hold a playathon in lieu of lessons that week so they can attend convention without the worry of missed lessons. Perhaps you could try Halloween week when students would rather party than attend lessons—let them party at a playathon!

We will be giving special gold, silver and bronze awards to the local affiliates who raise the most money. Don’t miss out on these one-of-a-kind awards! Start planning now to be a winner—a winner who makes everyone a winner!

The SHS Fund has been established to support students in need of financial assistance to continue their music study. The fund is augmented by funds raised through playathons and by contributions. We gratefully acknowledge the recent generous gifts by the Broward County MTA (FL) and the RKE Valley MTA (VA) to this fund. Since September 2007, SHS has paid out over $1800 to twelve students in the state to subsidize tuition, purchase keyboards and music and to repair instruments.

For additional information and questions about the SHS Fund and SHS Playathons, contact Sue Steck-Turner at steckturner@hotmail.com.

Technology Tips
Barbara Cockerham, Technology Chairman

This quarter’s “Technology Tips” will consist of a concise review of Rising Software’s newest version of Auralia. Auralia offers the music teacher a wonderful platform to aid in building aural musical skills in students. Students can progress from early beginning levels all the way through very advanced aural levels.

If the student chooses to begin honing his skills in level 1, a short blurb describes what pitches will be tested. The student can then choose to enter this area, a different level, or a custom level. Even if the student changes level a short description of the level advises the student about which notes will be included in the drill.

My favorite aspect of Auralia is the fact that students can interact with the software with either a MIDI keyboard or a microphone. Music students can play or sing their answers into the computer.

The publishers of Auralia, Rising Software, offer a second program entitled Musition that thoroughly develops the musician’s basic musicianship levels. We reviewed this piece of software in our most recent Technology Tips article. Auralia and Musition integrate together very well. They have the same basic format so that the
student doesn't have to learn a whole new program.

Auralia comes with impressive record keeping facilities. A teacher or teachers can utilize the built in syllabus that is a part of Auralia. Auralia also offers the teacher an opportunity to import the teacher’s own curriculum syllabus. Teachers can even customize tests for each individual class of students. The students can then take the test within the Auralia program. Auralia will do all the grading for the teacher.

Musition is a wonderful program that you will want to use in your studio or classroom. Check out their website at http://www.risingsoftware.com/ to download a free demo of the program.

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**String Area**

**Paul Christopher, String Area Chairman**

Our "guest" string authority for this issue of the Score is Dr. Isidor Saslav. Dr. Saslav was the Head of Strings at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, from 1993 until 2003. After studies with master teachers Mischa Mischakoff, Josef Gingold, and Ivan Galamian Dr. Isidor Saslav became the concertmaster of and soloist with the Buffalo Philharmonic and the Minnesota, Baltimore, and New Zealand Symphony Orchestras and the orchestra of the Round Top Festival in Texas, which he helped to found with conductor Leon Fleisher in 1975. Dr. Saslav has also served as concertmaster of the Indiana University, Dallas, Kennedy Center Terrace Theater, and Baltimore Opera Orchestras and has been a member of the Detroit Symphony, the Chautauqua Symphony, and the Orchestra of the Festival Casals (Puerto Rico). In addition to serving as a co-editor for the Henle Edition (12 Haydn Quartets), Dr. Saslav created a modern performance edition of Mozart's 6th Concerto with Lukas Foss; as soloist gave the Minnesota Orchestra premiere of Wieniawski's F# Minor Concerto; with Ann Saslav commissioned and gave the world premiere performance of Elie Siegmeister's "An Entertainment in Four Movements for Violin, Piano and Orchestra" with Sergiu Commissiona conducting; is among the few violinists in the world to have performed as soloist (with the Baltimore Symphony) all three of Bruch's concertos for violin and orchestra; and performed as soloist in Dallas the original 1844 manuscript version of the Mendelssohn Concerto No. 2 in E Minor Op. 64, one of the few violinists in the world to have performed this version.

Dr. Saslav's article is entitled "How to Play in Tune on Stringed Instruments." He says, "What a title! As if all which might be learned on this topic could be incorporated into one brief article when performers spend a lifetime perfecting this skill. Nevertheless, there are certain scientific acoustical principles which can be applied to launch the student on his or her way toward that goal. This article is oriented toward violin players. Simply apply by analogy the relevant information to the viola and cello fingerboards." Click here to access "How to Play in Tune on Stringed Instruments."

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**Harp Rally**

**Catherine Anderson, Harp Rally Chairman**

We had a lovely Harp Rally with fourteen students representing four different teachers. Delaine Fedson from the University of Texas in Austin came to adjudicate and present a masterclass, and she was absolutely wonderful. The following day we held a memorial concert for harpist Mary Abbay Sayle Gourley, and many of the local students also performed on the concert. It was a fitting and beautiful service, and a great way to end the rally weekend.
New Orleans Piano Competition

Have you experienced the New Orleans “Cliburn?”

Come and spend a week in the beautiful city of New Orleans and immerse yourself in the vast repertoire written for the piano performed by some of the most talented pianists you will ever hear! Attend the 2008 New Orleans International Piano Competition & Keyboard Festival/Piano Institute, July 20-27, 2008 at Loyola University.

The goal of the competition is to provide opportunities for the most gifted and communicative musicians to further their careers and to offer to the community an opportunity to discover the world’s finest pianistic talents. To this end, the Twentieth New Orleans International Piano Competition (NOIPC) will be held in conjunction with the Keyboard Festival and Piano Institute, both hosted by the Musical Arts Society of New Orleans, July 20-27, 2008.

The excitement begins on Saturday night, July 19th with our opening Piano x 5 concert! On Sunday afternoon, famed Turkish pianist, Idil Biret, will present the opening recital at 4:00. On Monday through Friday, master classes and lectures will held during the day for the Piano Institute students with the Institute faculty and jury members of the competition including Idil Biret, Constance Carroll, Alan Chow, Frank Heneghan, Shearon Horton, Stanislav Ioudenitch, Paul Pollei, Anne Schein and Nelita True. You will have the opportunity to hear many talented junior high, high school and college students. The Piano Institute ends with a recital and a concerto competition. (All Piano Institute master classes and lectures are free and open to the public.)

The competition takes place each evening in the beautiful Roussel Hall Auditorium at Loyola University. After hearing all twelve contestants play two different programs, three finalists are chosen to play on Sunday afternoon, July 27, for the finals. You can also vote for your favorite pianist for the audience favorite prize! (All-Event passes and individual tickets will be available.)

To lighten things up a bit, have fun at the Cricket Club on St. Charles Ave. with dinner and a jazz concert on Saturday evening. Lodging is available at a reduced rate at the Hampton Inn on historic St. Charles Ave. in the Garden District, a short trolley ride from Loyola University! Be sure to mention you are coming for the competition!

The next issue of the Score will be a combined Fall Score/Convention Bulletin. It will be printed in hard copy and distributed at the LMTA Convention in Shreveport. The Fall Score/Convention Bulletin will include a Membership Directory and listing of Certified Teachers.

Remember to pay your dues by July 1 so your name will be included in the Directory.

Click for a printable version of the Spring Score.