

## FOREWORD



This is my fourth and final year to serve as Vice President for Student Activities and to complete the MSMTA Student Activities Handbook. One of my duties is to assist chairs to find venues for the MSMTA student activities. Three things are to be considered—cost, capacity and location. Some facilities are too expensive for our limited funding. Some do not have enough rooms for our big events such as piano solo and piano ensemble festivals. We would like to have a central location for most members. The ideal venue for all the required criteria is Clarice Performing Arts Center at College Park. However, we can only use this facility during the school breaks and holidays. For the past four years, I have had joy and sorrow to obtain venues for student activities—the journey depicting this challenge during my first year appeared in an article in the February 2002 issue of the MSMTA Newsletter, *Maze of Venues for the MSMTA Student Activity Events*. I have a dream in

which Bill Gates donates to MSMTA a performing arts center for the student activities.

We are indebted to all the chairs who spend their invaluable time to run the events as smoothly as possible for the benefit of the MSMTA members. We would like to especially commend Dr. **Jean Hsu** who chairs two big events—Piano Concerto Competition and String Solo Festival. The former involves rehearsal, competition, and winners' concert that she conducts with her orchestra. She is a conductor of a local symphony orchestra and a children's choir, in addition to her studio teaching and part time school teaching. Her work ethic, energy level, and efficiency are admirable and gain our respects.

Others who hold two chairmanships include **Douglas Guiles** and **Ann Matteson**. The former founded and heads Chase Sonata Award and Gottlieb Piano Competition. Both events offer the most advanced piano students an opportunity to compete and perform. The events are usually held on the same day and same location each year. Ann Matteson founded and chairs High School Piano Examination that requires extraordinary coordination with local high schools. She also chairs Composers' Circle Composition Festival. She has been around for ages doing these two events so efficiently that nobody ever notices her existence.

A special student event, Chamber Music Festival, has been chaired by Dr. **Nancy Roldan** for some time now. The uniqueness of this event is that she not only chairs but also gives master class to the participating students as an all-day event. She also chairs MTNA Chamber Music Competition. As to the MTNA/MSMTA Competitions, **Marilyn Stoughton** coordinated with Douglas Guiles, **Dr. Hui-Yen Chang**, and Dr. Nancy Roldan to hold the events at UMBC this year.

Co-chairs make tremendous contributions to MSMTA. **Hyun Park** helps out two events: Piano Ensemble and Piano Concerto (She also chairs Piano Concerto Competition for Montgomery County Chapter). Others are Dr. **Tzi-Ming Yang** for Piano Solo, **Judith Silverman** for String Plus, **Ellen Sakai** for High School Piano Examination, **Anita Ho** for Voice, **Faye Bonner** for Piano Concerto, **Bonnie Kellert** for Keyboard Musicianship, and **Jeanne Wernly** for Jack Weaver Strings. Jeanne Wernly even goes out of her way with charm to obtain a venue at Kent Mormon Church this year.

After a year's hiatus, **Catherine Stewart** comes back this year to chair String Plus. We also appreciate other chairs: Dr. **Bok Hwa Kim** for Music Achievement, **Marjorie Lee** for E. R. Davis Competition, Dr. **Chien-Tai Chen** for Jack Weaver Strings, **Luba Turkevich** for Musicianship, **Spencer Fellow** for Guitar, **Richard Hartzell** for Voice, and **Katherine Williams** for Piano Ensemble in addition to her role as President of Montgomery County Chapter. This year we have a new event. In memory of her son, **Claudette Horwitz** founded and chairs a new Violin and Piano Duo Competition. We wish her a successful year and years ahead.

Last of all, I thank former president **Gary Dinn** and current president **Joselyn Makowski** for their guidance. I also thank all the MSMTA members for their support during the past four years.

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