

## January Meeting:

Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 /9:30AM

### BOARD MEMBERS

President:	Alicia Operti
Vice President:	Christina Dragone
Past President:	Ann Chen
Secretary:	Eric Parker
Treasurer:	Linda Budge
Member at Large:	Irina Semenov

### STANDING COMMITTEES

Awards (APPE):	Sonia Geoffrey Ann Chen
Certification:	Janice Derian
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Honors Recitals:	Ellen Nixon Barb Marek
Membership:	Irina Semenov
Newsletter:	Alicia Operti
MMTA/SAT:	Diana Munch
Outreach Recitals:	Ellen Nixon Kathy Ranus
Rockin' the Keys:	Janice Derian
Teacher of the Year:	Brenda Krachenberg
Teacher Referrals:	Debra Cox
Website/	Margarete Thomsen Christine Smith

**Guest Speaker:** Garik Pedersen – Eastern Michigan University

**Location:** Evola Music of Canton

**Topic:** “How Steinway Won the War”.

Dr. Pedersen will be giving a fascinating talk. The story about WWII, when Steinway specially built upright pianos and airdropped them including crates of music scores, to boost the troops’ morale. Professor Pedersen will also perform pieces from Tin Pan Alley along with a retrospective view of that era of music, history, culture and more!



Garik Pedersen has taught piano at EMU for over 25 years. In addition of his contribution as a renowned pedagogue, he is a Steinway artist and his performance career as soloist and chamber musician has taken him to venues throughout the United States, Europe, Canada, Central America, Taiwan, and the Philippine Islands. Dr. Pedersen is the immediate past President of the Michigan Music Teachers Association.

### S.A.T

Congratulations to all the students (and their teachers) who participated in our MMTA Student Achievement Testing Days for this year. LAPTF hosts one of the largest groups of students for this event statewide. 401 students were tested at our test sites at Schoolcraft College and the Steinway Gallery on March 5, March 10, and March 12.



Thanks to all LPTF members and volunteers who donated their time and energy to make our SAT run smoothly. Thanks also to SAT Chairperson Diana Munch and SAT Committee Members Christine Smith, Janice Derian, Ellen Nixon and Brenda Krachenberg for the work they did to organize this event. There will be a trophy sorting work day TBA sometime in April. Please stay tuned for the date and details.

For next year's SAT, we are considering having the event on two days – AM & PM sessions on day number one and AM, PM, and evening sessions on day number two. The SAT Committee is planning to have a lunch time discussion on SAT for 2018 following the May 3 Annual Meeting. The discussion will include some basic things about the new handbook, fall meetings pertaining to SAT and things we can do to improve our SAT for 2018

### **Honors recital:**

The Honors Recital took place on March 26<sup>th</sup> at Steinway Gallery. Students from seven teachers participated in a wonderful display of excellent performances.



### **Award for Piano Performance Excellence:**

Deadline for Applications: April 7<sup>th</sup>

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScZ8PPIThxoSrZDWKu-EPh9juv39bVuu5pPXssMsk0SJMLS4g/viewform?c=0&w=1>

Audition Date: April 15, 2017

Recital Date: April 23, 2017



## **From the President's Desk:**

Dear Colleges:

For many years, the announcement of Spring connects me to the upcoming MTNA Conference.

I am also looking for the event that would stay in my mind to identify the City, the year of that conference and the featured guest artists, such as: 2014, Las Vegas – Lang Lang – Ann Schein – James Galway. 2016, San Antonio – Emanuel Ax – Seymour Bernstein.

This year, my expectations were met once again. On my first morning, I attended an advanced piano Master Class conducted by the legendary Leon Fleisher. What a treat! It gave me enough insights and substance as to feel my trip justified and get ready to come back home. His fruitful imagination, witty comments, perfectly targeted corrections, and sensitive connection with the student, clearly defined for me the characteristics of an ideal teacher.

When there is more than one option, choosing the lecture to attend is the most challenging task for me. Some days, there were up to five choices in the schedule, a fact that made me always wonder, “What did I miss?”

A unanimous pedagogical approach incorporated into old and new piano methods, emerged with tremendous authority from the exhibitors’ showcases. Each method book offers online material for practice, theory, ear training and technic correlated to each assignment and the online access is free with the purchase of the book.

It was also William Gillock’s centennial celebration where his amazing contribution to the piano literature was highly appreciated by exploring some of his compositions.

Michigan excelled once again in the quality of its teachers. The 1<sup>st</sup> Prize for MTNA’s Senior Performance competition went to Heather Gu, a student of Logan Skelton of Ann Arbor.

It has been a wonderful musical spa for me, very tiring but highly recommended.

I hope to meet you all next Wednesday during our last scheduled presentation.

Special thanks to Christina Dragone for planning and arranging the outstanding programs she presented during the year.

Refreshment and coffee will be served. Our thanks to Jeannette Myers who volunteered to be our host for this meeting.

**Alicia Operti**  
LAPTF President