

# QUAVERS

## Kitsap Music Teachers Association Monthly News

*April 2020 News Digest - Find Full Event Details at our Website, [kitsapmusicteachers.org](http://kitsapmusicteachers.org).*



### **President's Message:**

A needle scraping across a record. A freight train's horn. A blaring tritone. When you hear these in the movies, you know that someone's life is about to be turned inside out, shaken around and upended. Did this happen to you in the last three weeks? Suddenly we are all staying at home, washing our hands, and trying to become instant experts at giving lessons online. We worry about our elderly relatives, our friends and neighbors – frankly, even ourselves. Will our income remain steady? Will there be T.P. at the store next week? Will we get sick?

In the midst of uncertainty, I treasure the hours I spend teaching, because it helps take my mind off what is going on in the rest of the world. My students have easily transitioned to interacting online, probably because it is their native habitat. I am more relaxed as a teacher because I can't just reach over and "fix" poor playing position, nor can I blame the scratchy sound coming through my speakers solely on the student's inconsistent bow technique. Instead we play "copy cat" games to learn notes and rhythms, catch up on neglected theory assignments, or show-and-tell our way through fixing intonation and adding fingerings. We laugh at video glitches and commiserate about slow internet. I assign more fun pieces if it just isn't the time to launch into new demanding repertoire.

The KMTA board is exploring ways to help us all stay connected so we can share ideas and resources and HOPE. The articles below will explain how to join virtual get-togethers in April, how the Music Literacy Program will be administered, and more.

Finally, it was always the plan to hold a vote by email on the pending KMTA Bylaws revision. Now, that is even more necessary! Watch your in-box for this email and register your vote promptly. We would like to have 2/3 of the active members respond by April 15.

To your good health, and good Zoom/Skype/Facetime!

**Jane Melin**

President, Kitsap Music Teachers Association

## **From the VP: Meeting News**



Hello, fellow "distance teachers"! We have not met since January, and with our current situation, when will we be able to see each other again?? Well, in person, we don't know, but virtually, *next week!* We are going to hold an online Zoom member meeting on **Friday, April 10th at 11 a.m.** The details for how to join in will be forthcoming, but please mark your calendars. This is a change from our original April meeting date, but it is on the second Friday which is our typical meeting time, so hopefully you will all be available (but note the later start time.) It will be so nice to see each other's faces! Aside from typical chapter business, we will be discussing the ins and outs of teaching online--a most relevant topic for just about all of us! If you have some insights you would like to share, please be prepared to do so! We are all on a steep learning curve, and all in the same boat, so let's help each other out! In the meantime, please check out Anita's and Mary's articles below for some timely tips for online teaching.

"See" you soon!

**Laura Meredith**

Vice-President, Kitsap Music Teachers Association

## **Due Dates for Senior Celebration and Outstanding Scholar Awards**

The due date for the Outstanding Scholar Awards is May 1. Please send these to Dianne Johnston at [diannej23@comcast.net](mailto:diannej23@comcast.net).

The due date for Senior Recital information is April 15. Teachers are asked to submit

a list of the names of their Seniors along with the piece they will play, a photo and short bio. Send this info to Eva Crim at [emcrim219@gmail.com](mailto:emcrim219@gmail.com). The Senior recital has been scheduled for May 16 at St. Antony's Episcopal church. However, considering the status of current events, May 16 may not be a date for gathering. We are currently working on an alternate plan, likely to involve video submissions or similar online approach. Please send in your senior information, as it will help us to decide how best to proceed.

## Carnival Update

Good morning KMTA friends. As you know, our Music Carnival, scheduled for April 25, has been cancelled and Plan B is in full swing. Tests and answer keys have been printed and are in the process of being organized into packets for each teacher. Ribbons are expected to arrive April 10th. These tests and corresponding ribbons then will be organized into studios and be available for pick up by April 13, or be mailed by April 15. Attend our online Zoom membership meeting on April 10th at 11 am for more information and an opportunity to ask questions.

### **Your role in the testing process--what you can expect:**

Upon receipt of your tests and ribbons, begin testing. You will need to decide how you wish to do testing - in person, remotely, or a combination. We ask that testing is completed by May 8. You will have answer keys for tests with the exception of theory tests. Please score tests using the answer keys and return ALL tests and keys to me, Diane Layton – 8295 Saddle Trail NW, Bremerton, WA 98311, by May 15. At this time we do still have a general meeting scheduled for May 8, so you may want to consider wrapping things up to return tests etc. to me at that meeting. Certificates and seals will be mailed by May 22, or you may pick them up from me at my home.

We will not be including answer keys for the theory tests. These scores are the only scores that the state looks at and in order to preserve the integrity of the test results and provide consistent scoring, we have decided that Diane and Dianne will do all theory test scoring.

Because this is an evolving situation, this plan is not carved in stone. As more changes and details develop we'll keep you posted, especially if it involves further changes to our newest plan. We encourage you to see this crisis as an opportunity to be creative within your studio and to learn. Try new ideas or learn new techniques (like how to do remote teaching!) Most importantly, practice grace. We all need a lot of grace right now, teachers and students alike. With a positive attitude we can get through this AND come out of it with more knowledge, strength and compassion for ourselves, our students, and their families.

Please stay healthy and keep on making music!

Questions: Call, text or email any of us on the committee:

Diane Layton, NCTM, Music Literacy Program Chair

360-613-2917, [mrsboxL1@yahoo.com](mailto:mrsboxL1@yahoo.com)

Dianne Johnston, WSCTM, KMTA Music Literacy Program Co-Chair

360-930-0168, [diannej23@comcast.net](mailto:diannej23@comcast.net)

Debra Florian, NCTM, KMTA Music Carnival Chair

360-434-8684, [flostudio@comcast.net](mailto:flostudio@comcast.net)

Melanie Stroud, NCTM, KMTA Carnival Co-Chair

360-434-2117, [melaniejoymusic96@gmail.com](mailto:melaniejoymusic96@gmail.com)

## Assistance for Online Music Teaching

Anita Rose would like to share this site and program, as it has so much to offer music teachers! If you are looking for support or information about online teaching, be sure to include this site in your search.

<https://www.mymusicstaff.com/online-music-lessons-mms>

## Audio settings for music lessons using Zoom

If you are using Zoom for your online music lessons, here is a tip that GREATLY improves the sound quality!

Built into Zoom is an audio enhancement feature that reduces background noise, cancels echo, and utilizes a particular audio codec meant more for spoken voice rather than the dynamic nature of music. This feature is on by default, and though it's excellent for regular conference calls, it adversely affects the quality of the sound of a musical instrument over the Zoom call.

The two main settings we need to change are:

- disable the audio enhancements and enable the original sound of the microphone.
- disable automatic volume control so that the dynamics in the music come through.

**Teacher and Student need to make these changes at both ends of the call for maximum benefit.**

Note that this feature — preserving original sound — is not supported on phones and tablets, so teachers and students should both be using a laptop for online music lessons if at all possible.

These two links will help guide you through the process of enabling the original sound feature:

<https://youtu.be/eb5dg98cSEM>

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/115003279466-Preserve-original-sound>

Mary Grant

## **Do you have info to distribute to KMTA?**

Please send all communication items (website updates/documents, email blasts, Quavers articles, etc.) to Melanie Kurtzbein: [kurtzbein4@gmail.com](mailto:kurtzbein4@gmail.com) . Plain text in an email body and image files work best.

**Quavers** articles should be submitted at least 3 days before the end of the month.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

*Check for registration deadlines, instructions, documents, contacts and more at the linked pages.*

#### **Online member meeting!**

Friday, April 3rd, 11 a.m.

#### **KMTA Music Carnival and WSMTA Music Literacy Program**

To be administered by private studios mid-April through May 8th, 2020

#### **Senior Celebration and Awards**

May 16, 2020, or online format TBA

### **MORE FROM KMTA**

*For the latest information on upcoming events, watch for email alerts to items posted on our [News](#) page.*

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