

# QUAVERS

## Kitsap Music Teachers Association Monthly News

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



### President's Message

It is Friday the 31st as I write this, and I am so sorry to have missed the opportunities to hear and interact with Jeremy Siskind over the past two days, due to another medical emergency within my family. It is definitely a "season" I am going through, and I have to remind myself of a helpful quote: "Life is what happens to you when you're busy making other plans." A commitment to living fully in the present moment, with all its interruptions and complications, is sometimes called Mindfulness. Here's a quote I just found that describes this perfectly: "This is the real secret of life — to be completely engaged with what you are doing in the here and now. And instead of calling it work, realize it is play." (Alan Watts)

As we roll into the second half of the year in our teaching schedules and KMTA plans, I'm going to challenge you to explore new avenues of "play." Most of our Board and committee officers will complete their two-year terms in May. Yes, many of our longtime chairpersons renew their terms repeatedly to provide continuity from year to year. But our President and V.P. personnel purposefully change every two years, providing fresh perspectives and different leadership styles that I think help keep our chapter feeling fresh and dynamic. Our Nominating Committee will be seeking out people to step into some leadership roles in the near future, and if you get tapped on the shoulder, I hope you will seriously consider the call. If you have any interest in getting involved in leadership at ANY level in KMTA, I encourage you to talk to a Board officer or the current holder of a position you may be interested in. We also have pretty complete job descriptions of most positions in the KMTA Handbook, posted on our website [here](#). *A very special THANKS to **Eva Crim**, who stepped forward at the January meeting to head up the Senior Celebration!! See her article below.*

I have found that serving in leadership with KMTA has enriched my life through the personal connections and friendships, and provided me with more confidence as a teacher and mentor for my students. I have been approached to take on some new responsibilities with WSMTA starting this summer when I step down as KMTA President. While life is uncertain and my family comes first, I am excited about the possibilities. More on that in future installments!

**P.S.** The music studio in my new home is finished! You are cordially invited to come see how it turned out. I will be having a little open-house/jam session on Saturday the 15th between 1 and 4pm.

An invitation will go out by email with my street address. Here is a sneak preview:



## Jane Melin

President, Kitsap Music Teachers Association

## From the VP: Meeting News



Because we will not have a meeting (and therefore no programs) until **April 17**, I am going to review our most recent guest visit, rather than preview an upcoming one.

We had a wonderful visit from Jeremy Siskind this weekend! He held a fun and interactive student workshop on improvisation with around 80 people in attendance.

His first step was a stomping-clapping rhythm exercise that anyone can have fun with, no matter their instrument!

Next up was Jeremy's fantastic concert, featuring many of his original works, including some of his Perpetual Motion Études, as well as some jazz classics. About 150 were in attendance.

Friday morning we got Jeremy all to ourselves, as he gave us teachers 5 tips for teaching jazz. They were (for review, or overview if you couldn't make it):

1. The swing feel is more about articulation than rhythm (doo-VAH)
2. Chord symbols are giving you information, rather than instruction
3. You can't learn jazz with the same process as you learn classical music
4. Comping isn't random (it just sounds that way!)
5. Learning to improvise doesn't equal learning scales (rather, arpeggios!)



It was so fun getting to Jeremy and having him come do these events for our chapter, all thanks to the Dorothy Woodcock Endowment, and also to Melanie Stroud who orchestrated his entire visit!

**Laura Meredith**

Vice-President, Kitsap Music Teachers Association

## **KMTA PERFORMANCE COMPETITIONS WSMTA STATE RECITALIST COMPETITIONS**

Once again, KMTA will be holding Performance Competitions in conjunction with the WSMTA State Recitalist Competitions on **Saturday March 14 at Gateway Fellowship in Poulsbo.**

**Registration opens February 1, and closes on February 15** (*online registration only.*)

All the information you need to prepare yourself and your students for KMTA's competition in 2020 is now updated and available on the KMTA website. Please read through everything on the [COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS page](#), as well as on the applicable linked pages, so that you are familiar with eligibility and repertoire requirements well in advance.

**Be sure to download the Registration Worksheet** and fill it in as you work with your students. Having this worksheet at your side will make for a smooth registration process.

Thank You!!  
Mary Grant

## **Senior Celebration set for May 16**

This year's celebration to honor our seniors will be held at St. Antony of Egypt Episcopal Church from 3:30-6:00, on May 16. St. Antony's is located at 11885 Old Frontier Rd, Silverdale.

The celebration will include a Senior recital and award ceremony to recognize winners of the Outstanding Scholar Awards, followed by a reception. Gift certificates will be provided to each senior.

Teachers please help us make this a success by doing the following:

1. Send a list of your seniors along with a photo and short bio of each one to Eva Crim at [emcrim219@gmail.com](mailto:emcrim219@gmail.com) by April 15 (or sooner.)
2. Submit the Outstanding Scholar Award application by May 1 (or sooner) to Eva Crim and Dianne Johnston ([diannej23@comcast.net](mailto:diannej23@comcast.net).)

Thanks!  
Eva Crim

## **The CARNIVAL Is Coming!!!**

On Saturday, April 25, KMTA will hold our ninth annual KMTA Music Carnival! The Carnival incorporates our long-running, very successful Ribbon Festival (sponsored by the Dorothy Woodcock Endowment), and WSMTA Music Literacy Program (formerly Musicianship Examinations), along with carnival games, music games, face-painting and food to create a quality educational activity in a FUN carnival atmosphere. With the help of DWE funding, we want this to be a truly festive event that our students and teachers will look forward to each year.

The Carnival Day will run from 11:00 a.m. to approximately 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be available in the gym beginning at 12. Students, teachers and parents may bring a lunch, or may purchase lunch items at the Carnival. All volunteers, including teachers, parents and students, will receive a voucher for a free lunch entree as a small token of thanks. Exams will continue through the lunchtime hours, with teachers taking turns for breaks. Games and snacks, as well as fun live music on the stage, will be available in the gym throughout the hours of the Carnival.

We need help from all of you to make this Carnival a success! Many have already volunteered to help—thank you! More are still needed. This is a big endeavor, but it will be a fun and exciting day, and we hope you will choose to be a part. If you are new to KMTA, or haven't participated in the past, I encourage you to volunteer to help and come check it out! All teachers helping at the Carnival will be "costumed" in colorful satin top hats and sequined bow ties. Parent and student helpers will also be sporting black and white fedoras, helping to readily identify them, and adding to the festivities.

We will have a planning/training meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, April 10 before the regular monthly meeting. We will go over scoring procedures, and also procedures for the adult helpers working with you. It's important that everyone knows what they are doing prior to Carnival Day.

Please mark your calendars today:

Saturday, April 25, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Gateway Fellowship in Poulsbo

Setup: Saturday, April 25, 8:00 a.m.

Clean up immediately following the event

How to prepare:

1. Go to the WSMTA website [www.wsmta.org](http://www.wsmta.org). On the home page under Programs for Students, click on Music Literacy Program. On this page are listed the forms to download, including an updated MLP Handbook. There is also information to access additional resources to help you and your students prepare for exams.
2. If you haven't already done so, send each student home with a parent information letter and parent permission slip found on the KMTA website.
3. Contact Melanie Stroud or Debra Florian to discuss how you would like to be involved (see contact info below). There are many jobs open, large and small. We are also looking for parent and student helpers. (Students will work in shifts, so they will also have time for exams. This qualifies as community service, too!) We also are in need of several digital keyboards for the exam rooms and gym. If you have a full-size keyboard that you can bring for the day, please contact me.
4. Talk up the Carnival in your Studio. Also on the KMTA website is a colorful poster (Thanks to Jane Melin!) that you can print off and post in your studio and other strategic locations in the community to help us publicize our event to the public. Create a buzz about this fun event, and let your enthusiasm be contagious!

If you haven't participated in the Carnival and Exams before, consider entering students in even a few of the events to get a sampling of all that's available.

5. Use the registration worksheet provided on the website, in preparation for filling out the online registration form. This will help eliminate problems when you get to the online process. Use the handbook to help you determine the appropriate exam levels for each student. Err on the side of success. Strings students will be able to take all exams specially developed by Jane Melin for string instruments. Exams have also been developed for treble wind instruments by Diane Layton and Shelley Devlin.

6. Registration is all online this year!!! It will be open from Feb. 8 - March 8. Check out Mary Grant's amazing work found on our website!

7. Prepare your students to be successful. The Handbook is a great resource.

8. Please continue to check your email for regular updates in the weeks preceding the Carnival.

KMTA MLP Co-Chairs:

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

Diane Layton, NCTM [mrsboxL1@yahoo.com](mailto:mrsboxL1@yahoo.com) (360) 633-5082

KMTA Carnival Co-Chairs:

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

Melanie Stroud, NCTM [Melaniejoymusic96@gmail.com](mailto:Melaniejoymusic96@gmail.com) 360-434-2117

## **Bremerton Symphony Young Artist Competition**

The Bremerton Symphony Young Artist Competition the deadline is February 7th.

Bremerton WestSound Symphony's Young Artists Competition is open to instrumentalists and vocalists residing in Kitsap County, Belfair, or Gig Harbor, aged 18 or under on the competition date Saturday, March 14, 2020 (starting at 2pm) at Summit Avenue Presbyterian Church in Bremerton.

The Bremerton WestSound Symphony is looking for exceptional young musicians, one or more of whom may be selected as winners. Winner(s) may be invited to perform in Bremerton WestSound Symphony's Subscription Series, April 18 and April 19, and/or Chamber Concert, June 7, 2020.

This season we ask for Concertos (Arias, Songs, etc. for vocalists) for the May concerts and Solo Works including Sonatas, Suites, Arias, Songs, etc. for the June concert in two divisions:

Junior: up to age 15 on March 14, 2020

Senior: up to age 18 on March 14, 2020.

Winners will be selected from both divisions.

Full details and application may be found [HERE](#).

360-373-1722; [bremertonwestsoundsymphony.org](http://bremertonwestsoundsymphony.org)

## It's Tax Season...

Do you know which deductions you may qualify for as a music teacher? Check out this [handy article at ComposeCreate.com](#) about how to pay less in taxes. Happy tax preparations!

## 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.*

[Piano, String and Vocal Music Artistry Programs \(MAP\)](#)

February-March 2019

[Performance Competitions](#)

March 14, 2019

[KMTA Music Carnival and WSMTA Music Literacy Program](#)

April 25, 2019

[Senior Celebration and Awards](#)

May 16, 2019

### 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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[KMTA on Facebook](#)

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