

# QUAVERS

## Kitsap Music Teachers Association Monthly News

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



### **President's Message: A new but familiar face**

Dear KMTA friends,

I am going to be completely honest: I feel very overwhelmed and inadequate in this new position! Homeschooling 4 children without warning, while trying to get a fairly new business off the ground (of course with the remote learning challenges that we have all had to face) have seemed to speed up time, and suddenly I find myself here! \*Gulp\*

I have no doubt that each of you has more experience than I do in music, teaching, and/or leadership. I never would have considered myself to be “president material”, but we have a very encouraging and persistent nominating committee (who is still seeking a Vice President, but that’s a topic for another day.)

Sometimes I think to myself, “what do I have to offer as our chapter president?”

Well, here are the two things that I have identified:

-I love KMTA! I believe in its mission and have seen the good that it does for teachers, students, and our community as a whole. This is, of course, thanks to each of you, as members, contributors, and mentors.

-I am now carrying the torch of the legacy of consecutive presidents who teach something other than piano: Melanie Stroud (voice), Diane Layton (flute), Jane Melin (strings), and now me (I teach Let’s Play Music, a complete musicianship program for young children.) I am proud to represent a **music** teachers

association, not just a **piano** teachers association, and seek to reach out to music teachers of all types.

As I embark on this exciting and daunting adventure of being KMTA's president for the next two years, I look to you for support, encouragement, and a willingness to jump in with both feet! Whatever the need is in our chapter, if I can do this, you can do that! I have faith in you--in us--and together we can do amazing things!

### **Laura Meredith**

President, Kitsap Music Teachers Association



## **From the Vice-President: Meeting News**

Laura and I have traded places on this page! I didn't expect to be writing any more articles after the past 4 years, but until a new VP has been recruited, I'll be occupying this spot again.

Our next membership meeting is the Annual Planning Meeting on Friday, July 10, starting at 10am. This summer meeting is for reviewing the proposed budget for the 2020-21 year, and to discuss plans and ideas for guest speakers, topics, and special events. We hope it can be held at the lovely home of Dianne Johnston overlooking Miller Bay and Puget Sound. (The address and driving directions will be sent out in a separate email.) If a gathering of this size is still not a good idea by July, you'll receive an invitation to join a Zoom meeting for the same time. We will wrap up with a light potluck lunch and desserts. If we do the Zoom meeting, bring your lunch to your computer and stay to chat as if we were in person!

I hope to see you soon!

### **Jane Melin**

Interim Vice President

## **New KMTA Bylaws Approved!**

On May 14th, we passed the threshold and received 34 votes on our Bylaws measure, to simplify and realign outdated sections with MTNA's Bylaws. 32 voters were needed for a quorum to validate the vote. 33 voted "Yes" and 1 voted "No" because the voter felt they didn't have enough information to make an informed Yes vote.

(Non-voting equals a "No" vote when there is a quorum requirement.) The new Bylaws have replaced the old Constitution on the KMTA website.

Thanks again to the Bylaws Committee of Krista Seely, Debra Florian and Dianne Johnston for your work on this, through your own crowded schedules and personal lives. We are so fortunate to have experienced leaders like you in Kitsap!

Jane Melin

## **Quarantine MLP a Success**

Greetings Friends! The Music Literacy Project is complete. I am so thankful for the help I received from several teachers and my husband. I think it's safe to say the 2020 "Music Carnival" was one for the books!! Each week since we began this ordeal of quarantine I have asked myself, "What's the silver lining?" As we draw this year's MLP to a close, the silver lining is all of you who participated. I was so proud to report our numbers to the state, even to report that we were doing anything at all!! It was a joy to hear from people how they went about getting testing accomplished, and how students responded! WOW, has been my fallback expression when I hear how excited students were to earn ribbons. WOW, was the word I first uttered when I saw how many students wanted to participate in this virtual testing world. You all rose to the occasion and triumphed!

So here's the numbers – because it's always fun to see how we did. 17 KMTA teachers and 1 student teacher participated in MLP testing this year. 217 students actually took tests. The percentage of students who opted out at the last minute was significantly lower than in previous years – 4% as opposed to about 12 - 15% in previous years. Of those 217 students, 135 passed their theory tests with a score high enough to gain them honors, and a gold seal added to their certificate. Lastly, 73 students achieved a 98% or higher on their theory test and will be listed along with their teacher in the state newsletter. Given the craziness of the times, I think this is really something to celebrate! Hooray KMTA!

Diane Layton

## **Class of 2020 Senior Celebration**

This year's Senior celebration was a digital success, with 8 participating seniors from four studios.

Congratulations to Hannah Meehan, Summer Sanders, Jacqueline Marlow (students of Debbie Florian). KMTA Outstanding Scholar Awards were awarded to

Hannah (First place), Summer (Third place) and Jacqueline (Fourth place).

Angelo Katigbak, Emilie Scott and Owen Espinoza (students of Irene Bowling) also participated in the celebration. Owen was awarded second place for the KMTA Outstanding Scholar.

Gina Cartwright (student of Anita Rose) joined the celebration along with Jack Dutt (student of Laetitia Lehman-Pearsall).

Videos were submitted as follows. Jacqueline Marlow performed Bach's English suite #3. Angelo submitted two videos, showing him performing Brahms's Hungarian dance, at an early age, and then his Senior performance of the Debussy Ballade. Owen performed pieces by Prokofiev, the dazzling Toccata op 11 and Chopin Nocturne op 48 no 1, Jack shared an original piece titled "Holding On" along with the Chopin Polonaise in G minor. Gina performed a contemporary piece by Yiruma titled River Flows in You.

All performances were absolutely wonderful displays of our students' talent, dedication and originality. Congratulations again go to all the students and their teachers. The photos and student bios were submitted via online submission (as well as the videos). Many thanks to Mary Grant for collecting and compiling these which facilitated putting the program together.

Thanks too, to Dianne Johnston for reviewing the submissions for the KMTA Outstanding Scholar Award and compiling the results. Dianne's help with organizing this year's celebration was also much appreciated. Finally a shout out to Melanie K and Laura for their valuable technical assistance and guidance.

Looking forward to next year's celebration, which I hope will be live (and preferably without face masks!)

Respectfully submitted,  
Eva

## **Reminder about Scams**

Beware: At least two scams recently hit email boxes of KMTA members, seeking teachers and musicians.

One of them came from a supposed "Mark Lewis," who claimed to be looking for live wedding music. This email was particularly concerning because "Mark Lewis" is a known friend of a few of our members. "I was deceived at first since Mark is a friend of mine," recalled Sally Camp, "but the language in subsequent e-mails was a dead giveaway."

The second scam also contained odd language and claimed to come from England. The writer asks for "a better improvement with her playing skills and in any areas she might have difficulties with," and voluntarily demands that "I would like the lessons to hold two times a week for 45 mins each day of the lessons for a total duration of five weeks in all." Poor grammar and unusual phrases will be your clues.

Please be cautious when evaluating email requests for services. Watch for unusual language, check with another KMTA friend, avoid giving out personal information, and when in doubt, be safe by not responding. Unfortunately, since the KMTA website has a public listing of our teachers and email addresses, we are a target for scammers.

## Acknowledgements

From Jane Melin:

Please accept my apologies for missing these acknowledgements in my thank-you article in the May issue of Quavers! Huge thanks and recognition goes to the following people for their leadership in 2018-20:

Diane Layton - Immediate Past President, WSM TA Music Literacy Program,  
Nominating Committee

Megan Hennings, Dianne Johnston, Melanie Stroud - Nominating Committee

## 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

Annual Planning Meeting: Friday July 10, 10 am  
Dianne Johnston's home, or via Zoom (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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