

# QUAVERS

## Kitsap Music Teachers Association Monthly News

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



### **President's Message: We ARE Essential!**

It's quite a roller coaster ride we've been on these past 6 months! Many have become unemployed or underemployed. For a time it was "essential services only" while the economy took a nose dive. While we quickly learned how to teach virtually, some of our students stayed while some went, for varying reasons, from financial instability to digital overwhelm.

We, of course, cannot control whether students will stay with us as we continue to traverse current circumstances, but we can control our own outlook. Do you, as a music teacher, consider yourself "essential"? I hope that the answer for each of us is YES, even if our studios have gone through many changes and we may have lost students. If we consider music to be an essential part of our world, then we ARE essential! Masks can't change that, social distancing can't change that, technical difficulties on Zoom can't change that! If we stay strong in our purpose then we will prevail. This [short video](#) portrays that sentiment beautifully.

Whatever this year brings, I hope that you will take comfort in knowing that the service you provide is irreplaceable, and your commitment impacts our community and world for the better.

**Laura Meredith**

President, Kitsap Music Teachers Association



## From the Vice-President: Meeting News

Ladies and gentlemen, fasten your seatbelts and keep your arms and legs inside the vehicle at all times! Planning for membership meeting guests and topics this year has been quite a challenge, not knowing how soon we will be able to return to in-person meetings.

Membership meetings are held on the second Friday of most months, from 10am to noon. The in-person location is Central Kitsap Presbyterian Church, 9300 Nels Nelson Rd. NW, Bremerton. Virtual meetings are held via Zoom; you will receive an email with the connection details the week before.

For now, here is our tentative schedule:

**September Kickoff - Friday 9/11 at 10:00 via Zoom** - Sally Camp on mental health issues in the studio (postponed from last year, but so timely right now!!)

**October 9** - University of Idaho Chapter on "Parents as Practice Partners." These presenters were featured on MTNA's virtual conference last spring, and they'll be recapping their talk for us "live" and taking our questions through the magic of Zoom.

**November 13** - If this meeting can be in-person, Jan Music will return to talk about teaching Rhythm. If it will need to be via Zoom, some familiar faces from KMTA will walk us through Using Google Forms in the Studio.

**December** - no membership meeting, but maybe a Christmas party?

**January 8** - Tentative plans for Alexander Technique presentations for both Piano and Strings teachers. Responses from our guest speakers are not firm yet. There is a backup plan if the topic must be changed.

**February 12** - Clinton Pratt, NCTM, on Setting Studio Policies. Clinton is a frequent speaker at MTNA conferences and an editor of American Music Teacher.

**March** - no membership meeting due to MAP and Competitions

**April 9 or 16** - WSMETA President Karen Hollenback, and book reviews brought to us all by YOU!

**May 14** - Year In Review

As reported below, we have a candidate to fill the Vice President spot and take

over the authorship of this column next month! So thank you for your kind attention and I look forward to turning it over to .... *[to be continued]*

***All aboard!***

**Jane Melin**

Interim Vice President/Immediate Past President

## Nominee for Vice President



We are pleased to announce that Melanie Stroud has agreed to step in to fill the role of Vice President. We are so happy to welcome Melanie back to the board of directors! This change will need to be ratified by the membership with a vote at our next meeting on September 11th to make it official. Welcome, Melanie!

## KMTA Website - Contact Information; Teacher Listings Deadline; Updates; and Password Changes

Now more than ever, we rely on our website, [kitsapmusicteachers.org](https://kitsapmusicteachers.org), to provide up-to-date information about our organization and events to you and your students. Our Board members and committee chairs are listed [here](#), and their phone numbers and email addresses are [here](#).

The linked listings on the [Find A Music Teacher](#) page on KMTA's website are a benefit of membership. Our policy has been to only include teachers on this page whose annual MTNA dues have been paid by our first meeting in September. This year we are postponing the deadline to **September 30**. If you are having financial difficulties renewing your MTNA membership, please remember we have a special fund to help you out! Contact a Board member for more information.

The [Members Only](#) page of our website contains links to our complete membership list (including addresses and phone numbers), and event signup forms. For security, we change the password each year to access

this page. You will receive it in a separate email, since Quavers is a public document.

Most of the information on the website right now still refers to last year's events. Event chairs are responsible to update their pages on the website. The replacement information can be sent to Melanie Kurtzbein, our Internal Communications Chair. Tech-savvy event chairs who would like to update their own pages on the website are welcome to do so. They will need a different password to log in to the site's editing dashboard. To receive this password and any assistance needed to edit the website, contact Jane Melin, Technology Chair.

## **A Personal Invitation to Virtual District IV Conference October 4, 2020**



As the presenter for the Virtual District IV Conference, I'd like to extend a special invitation to my own Kitsap County Chapter members to join me in this virtual conference. Because the conference is online, no travel is required. You can "attend" from the comfort of your home. The registration is inexpensive—WSMTA members pay \$15.00 for the entire day (from 10AM-3PM). Clock hours are available for public school teachers.

The conference takes place on October 4. The first session from 10AM-Noon explores some of the influences that may have been instrumental in allowing Debussy to realize his compositional goals. The information is broad based and examples will come from Debussy's instrumental, vocal, and piano works.

The afternoon sessions from 1-3PM are all about efficiently managing some of the non-musical aspects of running a teaching business.

Here are links that have more information.

Website for conference:

<https://sites.google.com/view/districtivconference/home>

Registration for conference:

<https://sites.google.com/view/districtivconference/home>

Hope to see you “there!”

Joann Richardson, NCTM

## **Kitsap Young Musicians Festival on Hold for Fall**

As you know, new cases of COVID-19 in Kitsap County have increased significantly over the summer. At this time, it appears unlikely that we will be able to hold the Kitsap Young Musicians Festival this fall. To date, I have not found a venue that is willing to rent their facility to us in the coming months for student recitals. If things improve significantly this fall and Kitsap County moves to Phase 3, I will contact these venues again. In the meantime, let's all stay safe and stay healthy and help to stop the spread!

Krista Seely  
KYMF Chair

## **Technology Update**

As a few of us were swapping new technology discoveries at a recent meeting, we realized that everyone may want to be in on the conversation. So we created a space here in Quavers to highlight technology that we all might find helpful. If you encounter technology which makes your job easier, send me a line about it and I'll include it here. This may be especially useful to all of us during this time of social distancing and online teaching! Thanks in advance!

GeniusScan is my most recent discovery. It is an amazingly handy free app for iPhone or Android in which you can quickly scan documents and export them as JPEG or PDF files. The app creates an easy-to-read black-and-white copy, unlike standard scanners, which can produce images which are faded or darkened, and also take a while if you are copying from a book and having to continually lift the lid and place the pages carefully!

Give it a try!

Melanie Kurtzbein

Internal Communications Chair

## **Haven't finished exploring the MTNA virtual conference? There's still time!**

MTNA's virtual conference is still available--at the moment, that is! There is no end date listed, only that it will be available for "an extended period of time" (which it has been already). Hurry and check out those sessions that you haven't gotten to yet; this is one of those "limited time" offers that could disappear anytime!

## **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 . 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**

KMTA September Kick-Off meeting Friday September 11, via Zoom

Membership Renewal Deadline: September 30, 2020

District IV Conference with Joann Richardson:  
October 4, 2020

**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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