

# QUAVERS

## Kitsap Music Teachers Association Monthly News

*February 2021 News Digest - Find Full Event Details at our Website, [kitsapmusicteachers.org](http://kitsapmusicteachers.org).*



### **President's Message: For the LOVE!**

So, why do YOU teach music? Is it the convenience of flexible scheduling, being your own boss, or working from home? While those are all potential benefits, I hope that you do it because you LOVE music and you LOVE teaching it! (And maybe the side benefit of being a KMTA member, which of course you also LOVE, right?)

Now, the next question to ask yourselves is, how easily can your students see that love, both of the music, and of the joy of teaching them? We know that every minute counts in our too-short lesson times, but while we're trying to jam-pack all the tidbits and technique tips, let's make sure we're infusing our love of the wonder and the miracle that music is, because that's what really motivates us all.

So, your challenges, should you choose to accept them, are:

- 1) Go and play a piece you LOVE. Don't worry about mistakes, about tempo markings, about anything except the joy that this music brings you. Bask in it; fall in love with it all over again.
- 2) When a student of yours plays something wonderfully, instead of saying something like "you did a great job with [dynamics/counting/whatever]", make eye contact (which may be looking into a camera), give a big smile (if you're masked, make sure it's showing in your eyes), and say, "wow, I LOVED that! You just made my day!" And see if you just made *their* day.

Social distancing or not, we can all share the love.

**Laura Meredith**

President, Kitsap Music Teachers Association

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

You may love the teaching part of being a teacher, but are you feeling like you're at the end of your rope with parents always asking about rescheduling lessons, late payments, students quitting over the summer, etc...? Then this month's program is for you! Clinton Pratt will share with us his tips for "Migraine-Free Management!" Join us after the business meeting on Feb. 12 for this presentation!

**Melanie Stroud**

Vice President

**Clinton Pratt: Biography and About his Presentation**

Clinton Pratt maintains a successful studio in Cincinnati and has 18 years experience with students of all ages and skill levels. He is an active member of MTNA and OhioMTA, and has served on local and state boards. Clinton has been a Nationally Certified Teacher for 10 years and received the honor of "Teacher of the Year" for his district in 2016.

He has given presentations on multiple topics at local and state conferences, MTNA, and the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy. He has been published in *American Music Teacher*, and he currently sits on the Editorial Committee for the journal as well. Clinton is an experienced adjudicator not only as an RCM examiner, but also for numerous other festivals and competitions.

Clinton's diverse background includes a Master's degree in Piano and further training in Jazz, Recreational Music Making, Alexander Technique, and Dalcroze Eurhythmics.

Clinton prides himself as being an expert at studio policies, often helping other teachers become more efficient, organized, and less stressed! Don't mistake his organizational skills as always being so serious, though. His students laugh and have fun in lessons, especially while working on their annual multimedia concert which

fuses music with art, movement, and videos!

### **Migraine-Free Management — Operating an Independent Studio with Less Stress**

Many teachers complain about having to deal with attendance, rescheduled lessons, late tuition payments, summer enrollment, forgotten materials, communicating effectively with parents . . . And that's just the tip of the iceberg! This session will offer solutions to the many stresses of operating an independent studio.

With my experience and persistent desire to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of my policies and procedures over many years, I have come to the point where I rarely deal with these common problems anymore. With 50 students in my studio, everyone pays on time, has great attendance, and they don't demand rescheduled lessons or refunds. 95 percent continue throughout the summer, and we have an average retention rate of 5 years!

During my presentation, I will go over many of the common policies and offer ways to streamline and make them less stressful—to free up more of your time and energy to focus on teaching! I will show how to calculate flat-rate tuition, how NOT to have to deal with rescheduled lessons, “makeups”, refunds, or credits; how to collect payments on time, how to retain students over the summer, and how to better communicate with parents.

Even though this is a serious and business-oriented topic, my personality combined with anecdotes and humor will create an interesting, engaging, and actually FUN session for audience members!

Having discussed these issues with hundreds of teachers online and in local meetings, I sympathize with them, but can offer real solutions!

### **MTNA Virtual Conference, over 75% off!**

If you are interested in "attending" the MTNA virtual conference this year, KMTA has you [mostly] covered! After registering, you can submit your receipt to Sally Camp to be reimbursed \$150. Earlybird pricing is \$195 through February 16, so don't delay! [Register here](#).

Conference details:

The virtual conference will take place March 13-17 and include live interactive sessions. However, the session recordings will be accessible until June 1st. After February 16 the price increases to \$245, and registration remains open until May 28.

## Minutes from January membership meeting.

Please review the [minutes from the January membership meeting](#) before our next member meeting. If everyone reviews the minutes before we need to approve them, we are better able to streamline our meetings to keep the business portion shorter. Thank you in advance!

## KMTA Performance Competition and WSMTA State Recitalist Competition

**Registration** for our 2021 Virtual Competition will be open from February 15 until midnight on February 28, 2021.

You can find updated instructions, repertoire guidelines, eligibility rules, registration worksheets, parent letter, dates, fees, deadlines and more on the KMTA website under the Calendar and Events tab; [Competitions and Awards](#) page.

*Things to remember:*

Print and fill out the [Registration Worksheet](#) ahead of time for a smooth registration experience. This is for planning only - registration will be online. KMTA will send out a notice and link when it goes live.

**Invoices** will be sent after registration has closed. Please do not make a payment until you have received your invoice.

**Performance videos** must be recorded after January 1, 2021 and uploaded to YouTube, designated "unlisted".

- \* Set up the camera so that judges can see the student from head to toe.
- \* The student should NOT announce their name or repertoire on camera.
- \* Identify the video by **repertoire only**. Do not list the name of the student or teacher on the video.
  
- \* Registrants will receive a Video Link Submit Form after registration has closed.
- \* The deadline to submit videos is midnight on Saturday, March 13, 2021.

Looking forward to an exciting, inspiring collection of performances from our young musicians!

Mary Grant

## MAP: Virtual Honors Recital

The Music Artistry Program is approaching, and that means the Honors Recital is coming soon as well.

Due to the current situation, the 2021 Recital will happen virtually.

Please email the unlisted YouTube links of your selected student videos to Laura Meredith, at [laurasletsplaymusic@gmail.com](mailto:laurasletsplaymusic@gmail.com), by March 15th. She will create a special Honors Recital playlist on our KMTA YouTube channel, which students will be able to share with their families and friends.

You can either send her a playlist link or individual links, whichever is easier.

More updated information will be sent your way if there is any.

Sun Gamble

## Preparing for MAP online

Are you wondering how all of the "paperwork" will come together for MAP online this year? Are you comfortable using Google Drive and sharing links to sheet music and videos? Attend our membership meeting February 12th to watch a demonstration of how to fill out the online MAP forms for your studio, as well as add links to sheet music and YouTube videos.

Melanie Kurtzbein

## Music Literacy Program and Carnival

Even though our Carnival can't happen this year, the Music Literacy Program is going strong! Registration will be open March 1 - April 1. Tests will be available for printing, and we will have more information on how you can run these effectively in your own studio! These exams are a fantastic way to measure what your students are absorbing, and can give you insights into areas that they might need to improve. There are fairly easy ways to adapt these tests to either in-person or online lessons in your own studio. We'll plan to discuss this at the April meeting, so bring your questions!

Melanie Stroud

## Do you have info to distribute to KMTA?

Please send all communication items (website updates/documents, email blasts, Quavers articles, etc.) to Melanie Kurtzbein at [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 2021

[Virtual Performance Competitions](#)

March 2021

[In-Studio/Online WSMTA Music Literacy Program](#)

April 2021

### 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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