

# QUAVERS

## Kitsap Music Teachers Association Monthly News

*January 2022 News Digest - Find Full Event Details at our Website, [kitsapmusicteachers.org](http://kitsapmusicteachers.org).*



### **President's Message: Be childish! (or at least childlike)**

For the past couple of years, I have only taught children ages 0-7. It has been quite a change from the “standard” piano teaching of older children, teens, and adults! But amid the random somersaults, the interesting sound effects, and the near-constant distraction that may make me wonder, “are they getting anything out of this?!” I have to say that I am learning a thing or two from *them* and how they learn. Here are a few of my observations about how we can learn like they do:

**-find the fun!** Doesn't saying “caterpillar” have a more interesting ring to it than “1-e-and-a”? They can both be 16th notes, but which is more fun and, therefore, more memorable?

**-use your imagination!** Put a story to a piece to remember the form, or to imagine what the composer was thinking or feeling when it was written.

**-experiment!** When was the last time you played the piano with your eyes closed... or with your toes?? It might be helpful to adopt the mantra, “there's no such thing as a bad idea”.

**-do what makes sense!** Back to the 16th notes... why call them that at all? There are 4 in a beat! Just call them what they sound like, and the technicalities don't necessarily matter.

**-learn together!** Kids don't learn in classes just for the efficiency factor, it is shown that they learn better when they are with peers. Get yourself a “learning buddy”!

**-use your whole body!** Involve as many senses as possible (sight, sound, touch), as well as fine and gross motor skills, and you've entered whole-body

learning (one of the philosophies of Dalcroze, as taught by Jan Music).

**-don't be afraid of mistakes!** Most kids are okay with making mistakes as long as no one is implying that mistakes=problems. A mistake is often a necessary stepping stone to getting it right, so make lots, and learn from them!

**-be a sponge!** Kids learn so fast, and they won't waste much time hanging onto the "old" way of doing things.

Many of these examples could be applied in music, or in many other learning environments. See what could apply for your students--no matter their age--and more importantly, for you!

PS If you were looking for a "New years resolutions" article, refer to last [September's issue](#), since that was the beginning of our new teaching year!

### **Laura Meredith**

President, Kitsap Music Teachers Association



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

Our January KMTA meeting will take place January 14th on Zoom--the link will be sent out prior to the event. Our business meeting will take place at 10am, followed by Deborah Rambo Sinn giving the rest of her presentation on articulation that was cut short during the WSMTA conference this summer. The first half was wonderful, and I can't wait to hear the rest! She will briefly recap the original presentation; you are in for a treat!

### **Melanie Stroud**

Vice President

To expedite minutes approval at our next meeting, please review the minutes from our November membership meeting [HERE](#).

## **Strings MAP Registration**

Hello Strings teachers and Happy New Year! It is time to register your students for MAP. The deadline is swiftly approaching, January 15. For your convenience, please click on the following links to access the MAP Handbook, a registration worksheet, and a handy guide to navigate the WSMTA MAP registration forms:

[MAP Booklet](#)

[Registration Worksheet](#)

[WSMTA MAP Registration Guide](#)

Please note that if you have not yet been in touch with me, or if your anticipated minutes have changed, please contact me before registering, at [kurtzbein4@gmail.com](mailto:kurtzbein4@gmail.com).

The WSMTA office will reopen after the holidays on Jan 3. Please test your WSMTA account login early, so that if you need assistance with account lockout, Carrie ([wsmtaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:wsmtaoffice@gmail.com)) or Jason ([jason.kuo@gmail.com](mailto:jason.kuo@gmail.com)) will be able to help you.

I'm looking forward to an enriching event! Don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions.

Melanie Kurtzbein  
Strings MAP Chair

## **KMTA Performance Competitions and WSMTA State Recitalist Competitions**

Once again, KMTA will be holding Performance Competitions in conjunction with the WSMTA State Recitalist Competitions on Saturday March 26 in person, at Gateway Fellowship in Poulso. Registration is online only, opening February 20, and closing March 6. All of the information you need to prepare yourself and your students for KMTA's competition in 2022 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 now, and start filling it in as you work with your students this month. Having this worksheet at your side will make for a smooth registration process in February.

Mary Grant

## **Music Carnival**

Happy New Year to one and all! I hope your holidays were fun and restful, and that you are feeling ready for the busy music season ahead! January brings a stepped up pace for preparing for our annual KMTA Music Carnival and Music Literacy Program exams, scheduled for Sat. April 23. This year we'll be offering a hybrid MLP, where teachers with students who are unable to attend our in-person event will have access to the exams during a limited window, like we did last year.

Within the next two weeks, all Carnival/MLP materials will be updated and made

available to you on the KMTA website. These include a parent information letter, registration form/permission slip, volunteer form, and publicity poster. When these materials are ready on the website, we will send out a direct KMTA email containing more information. Please watch your email for that.

The deadline for registrations will be March 15. If you have any questions, or still need to volunteer to help, please contact:

KMTA MLP Co-Chairs:

Dianne Johnston, WSCTM  
diannej23@comcast.net  
(360) 930-0168

Diane Layton, NCTM  
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(360) 633-5082

KMTA Carnival Co-Chairs:

Debra Florian, NCTM  
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(360) 434-8684

Melanie Stroud, NCTM  
melaniejoymusic96@gmail.com  
(360) 434-2117

## **Volunteers needed at WSMTA Conference**

We are looking forward to an in-person state conference this year! It is scheduled for June 23-25 at Lower Columbia College in Longview. Laura Curtis, Co-Chair of WSMTA 2022 Conference, is still in need of volunteers to help with the following jobs:

Banquet  
Monitor  
Packet  
Presenters  
Publicity

Job descriptions for each of these can be found [HERE](#). If you feel you could help with any of these, or would just like more information, please contact Laura Curtis:  
curtislj@whitman.edu

## **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 \(MAP\)](#)

Piano MAP: February-March 2022

Strings MAP: March 4-5, 2022 with Dr. Svend

Ronning

Vocal MAP: February 5, 2022 with Cynthia Vaughn

[Performance Competitions](#)

March 26, 2022

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

April 23, 2022

[Senior Celebration and Awards](#)

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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[KMTA on Facebook](#)

[KMTA Website](#)

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