



Newsletter of the Peoria Area Music Teachers Association February 2014

Editor: Liz Reed

Website: pamta.org

2013-2014 Officers: **President** – Janet Dickerson, **Past President** – Polly Steward-Sharp, **First Vice President** (Programs) – Brenda Conroy, **Second Vice President** (Membership) – Polly Steward-Sharp **Secretary** – Liz Reed, **Treasurer** – Karen Thompson

UPCOMING PAMTA MEETING AT THE PIANO GALLERY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH AT 10:00 A.M.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY VOCALIST, TANA DiPIAZZA (ACCOMPANIED BY MYRNA BIETZ), AND PIANISTS, JUSTIN KOTHENBEUTEL AND ROSA CHANG

Tana has an extensive background including singing with Milwaukee's Florentine Opera Company, and the Metropolitan Opera's Touring Company for young American singers. In addition, she signed with the William Morris Agency and has performed with dozens of American opera companies and symphonies around the U.S. and Europe as well as performing with European Opera companies in Florence, Rome, Paris and Vienna and as a soloist with some of the world's major conductors. She met her husband, Gabriel DiPiazza (a former PAMTA member) when he was the rehearsal accompanist at the Florentine Opera Company. They married in 1960 and became life-long partners in music. They moved to Peoria in 1965 when Gabe took a music faculty position with Bradley University. From 1976 to 2003, they lived in Texas where Gabe taught at the University of Texas. They both spent the summer of 1977 teaching at the American Institute of Musical Studies in Austria. After their children were on their own, they returned to Peoria in 2003 to teach private lessons as well as perform in the area. Gabe passed away in March of 2012. This is Tana's first performance since Gabe's passing. The music that will be performed by her is music he picked out for them to work on about two years prior to his death. Tana will be accompanied by PAMTA member, **Myrna Bietz**.

And our favorite young couple, PAMTA members **Justin Kothenbeutel** and **Rosa Chang**, virtuoso pianists, will also perform for us.

This is a program you don't want to miss!

AIM

Pam Eyerly, AIM chair, reminds you that Performance Exam registrations are due no later than the PAMTA meeting on February 24th. She would also welcome them even earlier! Please contact her if you have any questions about filling out the paperwork for the Performance Exams. (Please note you must fill out a repertoire sheet for each student – both the music approval sheet and the sheet the judge will be using to make comments on as well as the main registration list of your students who are participating). Exams are \$8.00 per student, and medals for first timers are \$5.00 each.

MTNA CONFERENCE

National Conference is coming up on March 22 – 26 in Chicago. What an opportunity to be able to attend a national conference with it being right in our own back yard so to speak! Information is available on the MTNA website as well as in *Music Teacher* magazine. If anyone is interested in carpooling (or even riding up on the train together) and also if anyone is interested in sharing a hotel room, please let other members know.

PAMTA RECITALS

DUET FESTIVAL

The duet festival was a success with 17 duet teams participating from a total of 8 teachers. Brenda Conroy reminds everyone who participated to please complete the survey she sent you, and return it to her.

HONORS RECITAL

Honors Recital will be held at First Christian Church on Saturday, April 26th. Deadline for registration is two weeks before hand – April 12th. Registration may be done on the PAMTA website – pamta.org or mailed to Becky Gebbink.

SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship competition has been cancelled this year due to lack of enough participants.

SONATA/SONATINA FESTIVAL

Please start thinking about next year's festival. We will need 4 or 5 teachers to set it up and get it going. It will be held one year from now, but the planning will need to start soon. If you are interested in helping with this, please let president, Janet Dickerson, know.

MASTER CLASS

A master class will be held on Saturday, March 29th at 3:00 p.m. at the Piano Gallery. Dr. Rochelle Sennett of the University of Illinois will be the teacher. She would like 4 or 5 intermediate level or higher students to play. If you have a student you would like to have participate, please submit the student's name and the piece they would like to play to Brenda Conroy. Please note we are holding this on a Saturday so the student does not have to miss school. Also this is a prime opportunity for other students to come and observe and learn.

MARCH MEETING

The March meeting will be held one week earlier than normal due to the MTNA National Conference being on the 4th Monday. The date of the meeting will be March 17th and it will be those PAMTA members who would like to perform a new or favorite piece, plus we will have a round table discussion. You may send your suggestions for discussion to Brenda Conroy. Also if you are going to play, please just let her know. An example of something to discuss would be: *A student has informed you they will only be taking two more lessons from you. What do you teach the student during these lessons, etc?*

BRADLEY UNIVERSITY SUMMER PIANO CAMP

This will be held for middle school and high school students, ages 11-18, who are interested in enhancing their ongoing piano experience. It will run from Monday, July 21st through Friday, July 25th. Daily drop off will be between 7:45 and 8:00 a.m. and pick up will be at 5:30 p.m. A variety of courses in keyboard musicianship, music history, jazz improvisation and music composition will be offered. There will be social activities as well. A final concert will be held at Dingeldine Music Center at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, July 25th and will feature solo and ensemble performances by all the students. This is a commuter camp only with the cost being \$295 which includes meals and a camp t-shirt. Registration is due June 1st online at: <http://bradley.edu/academic/departments/music/piano/>. For questions, please contact **Dr. Chee Hyeon Choi** at cchoi@fsmail.bradley.edu or 309-677-2599. Dr. Choi is a member of PAMTA.

Bradley University also presents **KEYBOARD CONVERSATIONS WITH JEFFREY SIEGEL**. The next program will be Monday, March 10, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at Dingeldine Music Center, 1417 Barker Avenue and is entitled "Gershwin and Friends." The program includes Gershwin's solo piano version of *Rhapsody in Blue*, Copland's *Cat and the Mouse*, Gottschalk's *The Union*, and the Peoria premiere of Leonard Bernstein's unpublished *Meditation on a Wedding*. Admission is free.

MEMBER NEWS

Myrna Bietz will again join the heart of Illinois Wind Quintet at the Eureka College Chapel in McCallister Hall on March 4th at 7:30 p.m. They will perform Beethoven's *Quintet in E Flat Major, Opus 16*.

Pam Eyerly will perform with the Prairie Wind Ensemble on Sunday, March 23rd at the ICC Performing Arts Center at 2:30 p.m. If you aren't attending the MTNA National Conference that weekend, please come hear a concert that includes classical transcriptions, whimsical selections, poignant melodies, Dixieland merriment, daredevil velocity, and just plain musical FUN! Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$6.00 for seniors.

Ann Williams has a new e-mail address: awmstpiano@mtco.com.

In memory of **Jane Harms** who passed away on January 22nd, PAMTA donated \$50 to Jane's church, Northminster Presbyterian, to be used for the purchase of music for the church. Jane will be very much missed. She was an active member of PAMTA and served the organization in a variety of capacities over the years. Before her passing, Jane requested that her husband sell her pianos. One is a Kawai Grand Piano bought new in 2004 and is in excellent condition. The other is a Yamaha Studio Upright with cherry finish and was bought new in 1996 and was her main teaching piano. It is in very good condition. For more information, please contact Dave Harms at 309-635-4105. His address is 817 W. Chestnut, Chillicothe IL 61523.

There are no meeting minutes in this newsletter since the January meeting was cancelled due to bad weather. Let's hope for good weather next Monday. See you then!