



## From Your President...

As I write this I realize that many of you across the state are still without power. Regardless, I hope you all had a holiday season filled with peace, plenty, and health. I wish each of a beautiful new year!

The fall has been filled with OMTA activities. I attended the East district conference at OBU. We had an attendance of 41, including presenters. We thank our four co-presidents for their hard work in coordinating all the details for the conferences. Thanks are due to Heather Laners and the Stillwater local association for hosting the MTNA / OMTA competitions at OSU.

We have submitted materials to national for the 2008 Affiliate of the Year Award. Also, I will be helping monitor the division competitions at S.M.U. in Dallas

at the end of January. I hope you have noticed the "Teacher Referral" tab on our website: [www.okmta.org](http://www.okmta.org).

It is not too early to begin planning to attend MTNA's 122<sup>nd</sup> annual conference which will be March 29-April 2, 2008, at the Hyatt Regency Denver and the Colorado Convention Center. See the December/January AMT or [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org) for a schedule, hotel reservations, travel and tour information, and online registration. There are 10 sessions devoted to Group Teaching / Recreational Music Making and Pedagogy Saturday has been reinstated. Please remember that you will need to stay through Wednesday in order to attend the MTNA Awards Brunch.

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## '08 OMTA Conference Artist & Clinicians

I send my heartfelt thanks to everyone for all the wonderful cards and messages about the recent death of my father, Lyndell Watkins. I also really appreciated the beautiful peace lily. Dad was my piano teacher from age 12-21; I also took much of my undergraduate college coursework from him. At the age of 82 he retired from playing the piano and organ due to macular degeneration and took up the harp. He formed a performing harp duo with my mother, who was my teacher from age 4-12.

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### Mark Your Calendar:

- ◆ '08 MTNA Conference—March 29-April 2
- ◆ '08 OMTA Conference—May 30-31, OKC
- ◆ Next OMT submissions deadline—March 15

## Try Something New This Year

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The beginning of a new calendar year is a fantastic time to encourage new members to OMTA and MTNA. Membership dues through June 30 are pro-rated to half price. There is plenty of time to join and participate in spring auditions. Spread the news!

For current OMTA certified members the beginning of the new year is a great time to check your renewal date to see if this is the year for you to turn in your points folder or college teacher verification form to renew your certification for another 5 years. Renewal dates are listed on your points folder, on your certificate, and in the OMTA directory. In addition we will send an email or paper notification reminder this spring. Renewal materials must be mailed to the Vice President for Membership before July 1. If you have turned 65—congratulations!-- you are eligible for Emeritus status with no further need to renew certification, as well as a reduction in yearly dues. Just let us know, and we'll celebrate with you.

Renewal dates are also in the directory for those who hold MTNA certification. You should receive a notice directly from MTNA this spring if your certification is up for renewal, and your materials should be submitted directly to MTNA.

Provisional members, wouldn't this be a great year to complete your certification? OMTA allows six years of provisional status, but it does not take that long to review the theory and history study guides and take the open-book tests, or to compile your notebook and video demonstration. Our fine Provisional Chair, Claudette Hudelson, is eager to help you with your certification questions and tests. She has successfully mentored quite a few teachers through the certification steps in recent years.

For everyone, try something new this year—a new kind of recital, a new composer's work, a new method book, a new welcome sign or bulletin board, perhaps a new slogan. Go to workshops and hear about new materials and approaches. Encourage a new teacher. Change can be great renewal for all of us.



**Dr. Kathy Thompson, NCTM, VP for Membership & Certification**, is Associate Professor of Music at Oklahoma Christian University where she teaches piano, pedagogy, theory, and string ensemble. She studied music at UT Austin, Abilene Christian University and OU. She is past-president of COMTA. She enjoys performing piano duets with Paula Hutton and playing viola with the Oklahoma Community Orchestra.

[www.okmta.org](http://www.okmta.org)

[www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org)

## '08 OMTA Conference, con't.

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Its time to get excited about the 2008 OMTA Conference May 30-31! Our Conference artist is James Giles. Pedagogy clinicians are Forrest and Akiko Kenney. Members can see them in a featured article on the back page of the AMT. Thomas Laners of OSU will give a CFF presentation on the piano music of Ned Rorem.

I hope you're all safe and warm!

**Sylvia Ryan, NCTM, President-Elect**, is a third generation piano teacher and church musician. She received a DMA in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from OU, studying with Digby Bell and Ed Gates. She is a founding member of NIPTA, the parent organization of NAMTA, and NAMTA immediate past president. She teaches independently in Norman.



## from Your President, continued

(Continued from page 1)

We hope you have marked your calendars for our 2008 OMTA conference to be held May 30-31, 2008, at the Louise M. Bass School of Music on the campus of Oklahoma City University. The conference call will be in the March 2008 issue of the OMT.



**Dr. Robert McFadden, NCTM, President of OMTA**, is professor of Music at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He teaches Piano, Music History, and Music Literature and Appreciation courses, and accompanies several ensembles at the university. He is active as a collaborative pianist, adjudicator, and lecturer. He has performed and adjudicated throughout the United States, England, Mexico, and Hong Kong.

## Student Presenters for Conference

I hope this finds you well and ready for the new year ahead. Sylvia Ryan and I would like to remind all of the Collegiate members and advisers on the fast approaching deadline of March 24, 2008 for students who are interested in presenting for the State Conference in June 2008.

Please send your proposal either by email or snail mail to me. If you need guidelines or have any questions, please let me know at [ccharoenwongse@ucok.edu](mailto:ccharoenwongse@ucok.edu).



**Dr. Chindarat Charoenwongse, Collegiate Chapter Chair**, teaches piano pedagogy at the University of Central Oklahoma. She has taught at Chulalongkorn University, Kasetsart University, and Chintakarn Music Institute where she served as the director of piano department. An active piano pedagogy clinician, she presented workshops, master-classes, and lectures for Alfred and Hal Leonard publications.

## What MTNA Can Do For You

Do You Know ---about the many services offered by MTNA? A few services include:

For students, the Music Study Award, the Studio Festival Program and the Music Achievement Award Program.

Awards for the Teacher of the Year Award, Local Association of the Year Award, State Affiliate of the Year Award and Collegiate Chapter and Advisor of the Year Award.

Legal consultation

Grants for local association projects and workshops

MTNA Marketplace for publications, cards, pins, and gifts

To read about these and more, visit the website at

[www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org)

Plan to attend the national conference March 29-April 2, 2008 in Denver.

To ask questions about MTNA and its services, please contact me or call Rachel Kramer toll free at the MTNA headquarters 1-888-512-5278.



**Karen Harrington, NCTM, VP of Local Associations** has been teaching piano in Tulsa for 25 years and as of this year is also an adjunct professor at Tulsa University. She has produced music theory games, including *Forward March*, through her own company and has several theory publications out with Hal Leonard. Karen has served as TAMTA president, OMTA Northeast District president, president of MTNA's South Central Division, and as a director on the MTNA Board.

*Make the next OMT a special issue!* Submit your local news, activities and pictures to your Editor for the April Issue.

Deadline for submissions is **March 15th**. Email to: [mrs.pennington@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.pennington@gmail.com) or mail to: 8117 E 60th St. #1124, Tulsa, OK 74145

## from MTNA: Performathons

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Did you know that your local MTNA association can set up outreach programs that can and will involve all of your students?

We all know that music brings people together. Music brings joy and comfort to everyone. Our goals at MTNA include reaching out to the community and involving greater numbers of our students in music making events. In New Jersey, under the banner of the Children Helping Children Performathon (CHCP), we have found a way to further both of these goals.

The Children Helping Children Performathon is an opportunity for all students to perform in a non-competitive arena, while helping those in need. It has been a huge success in our state. Unlike any other NJMTA or MTNA activity, the Performathon has brought together students and teachers from all levels. We saw many students and teachers who do not feel comfortable in a competitive atmosphere come forward and feel proud and comfortable to perform and to make a contribution to something beyond their own families and studios.

Our Third Annual Children Helping Children Performathon will take place February 2–3, 2008, at Westminster Choir College of Rider University. Again, Westminster will be donating all of the hall time for 12 hours of performances.

In the first two years, NJMTA raised money for the Child Life Program at Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital (part of Roberts Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Jersey) and for the New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity. This February, we will be raising money for Ronald McDonald House Charities.

For those of you who may not be familiar with Ronald McDonald Houses, they are houses that are in close proximity to a children's hospital. They provide a "home away from home" for countless families around the globe. The RM House has facilities in 47 states and the District of Columbia and 15 in Canada. In New Jersey, we will be writing checks to three RM Houses—Ronald McDonald House of New Brunswick, Ronald McDonald House of Long Branch and Ronald McDonald House of Southern New Jersey.

The Children Helping Children Performathon has been an exciting and rewarding experience for many of us in New Jersey. For anyone interested in learning more about the Performathon, please contact me (Betty Stoloff, New Jersey MTA president) at [bhstoloff@gmail.com](mailto:bhstoloff@gmail.com).

At the 2008 MTNA Conference in Denver, I will be chairing a panel on Community Outreach. I look forward to sharing many ideas with you.

### *Save your Association time and money! Sign up to receive the E-OMT.*

**What is the E-OMT?** The E-OMT is this same publication, your Oklahoma Music Teachers Association Newsletter, except it arrives in your email inbox! You receive the OMT and the important information you need faster, you can print the forms you need right off on your printer (instead of taking a trip to make a copy), and you save OMTA postage and printing costs. Plus, the E-OMT arrives in your inbox in COLOR!

To sign up, just send an email to your editor, Sharon Pennington, at [mrs.pennington@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.pennington@gmail.com), requesting your email address to be added to our email subscription list. And a BIG thank-you to you who already signed up for helping out our Association!

## Preserve the Future: the MTNA Legacy Society

As I sit at my computer to write this article, I can look outside and see the beauty of an Oklahoma ice storm. There is a downside in that the Bradford pear tree next door was uprooted and fell across the utility easement. It seems obvious that in Oklahoma planting a tree does not guarantee a legacy for the future. Is there **something** we can do to have a lasting effect?

Jeanne Grealish writes for MTNA Foundation Fund: "A lifetime spent in music reminds me of my own struggles and how much the kindness of others has meant. It also makes me aware of the many gifted young people, both performers and teachers, who need a boost along the way. **With this in mind, I have committed to MTNA by becoming a Legacy Society Member.** This simply means, MTNA is included in my long-range plan and will.

Do you realize that the simple gesture of including MTNA and its Foundation in your will for whatever amount large or small will place you in that special group committed to preserving the future of music performance and teaching? It is not how large the designated gift, but the fact that

you care enough to share your belief in the importance of music."

You may find out more about the Legacy Society by contacting Music Teachers National Association, 441 Vine Street, Suite 3100, Cincinnati, OH 45202-3004.

Have you remembered to make a contribution for this year's Oklahoma Fellow Fund? It is not too late!

OMTA participates each year in the State Pride Drawing at the National Conference. Many of you Oklahoma composers contribute your latest works. Please consider doing that again this year for the Denver Conference.

I wish you a Happy New Year and hope 2008 brings you challenges to conquer and satisfying results in which you can rejoice!

**Judith Macha, NCTM,**  
MTNA Foundation Chair,  
graduated from Washburn  
University in Topeka, Kansas, where  
she studied piano with Dr. Lawson  
Jones. She has taught piano in  
Kansas and Oklahoma for 28  
years. She served in various  
capacities on the local, district, and  
state levels of KMTA and currently  
serves as president of TAMTA.



**Summer PIANOKC:**  
Keyboard Connections featuring renowned pianist/clinician  
**Dr. Nelita True**  
June 30 - July 2  
at the University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, Oklahoma  
2 Workshops and 2 Master Classes per Day  
Piano Ensemble Sessions with UCO Piano Faculty

**Enrollment**  
Two undergraduate or graduate credit hours  
Non-credit through the Central Community Music School

**Categories of Participants**  
Performers-will play in Dr. True's master-class  
Observers-all interested students and teachers

For more information please contact Dr. Chindarat Charoenwongse (405) 974-3425  
ccharoenwongse@ucok.edu or Dr. David Forbat (405) 974-5149 dforbat@ucok.edu;



Sharon Pennington gave birth to her son, Nathan Kendrick Theodore Pennington, on October 21st. He weighed 8 pounds, 14 ounces and measured 21 inches long. Kendrick is healthy and happy and Sharon is enjoying being a mom!

# Membership News

## CONGRATULATIONS

### NEW STATE CERTIFIED MEMBERS

Harrison, Sharon—Sapulpa  
Mason, Michelle Joan—Ardmore  
Spannagel, Yiuka Chan—Temple  
Schelp, Katharine Jo—Ponca City

Piano  
Voice  
Piano  
Piano

### NEW PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

Fellman, Sarah—Claremore  
Kendrick, Shirley—Edmond  
Mason, Michelle Joan—Ardmore

Piano, Violin  
Piano  
Piano

### STATE CERTIFICATION RENEWALS

Thomas, Cherie Nan—Broken Arrow

Flute

## ADDRESS CHANGE/CORRECTION

Fink, Theresa: musicfun4u2@webtv.net  
Griswold, Durah: 1924 W Easton St, Tulsa, 74127  
Horvath, Nedda: 2110 S 70th St E, Muskogee, 74403  
email: neddacliff@yahoo.com  
Hutton, Paula: 1317 Harding Avenue, Edmond, 73013,  
phone: 359-0780

You are cordially invited to visit the new website of member Laven Sowell: [www.lavensowell.com](http://www.lavensowell.com)

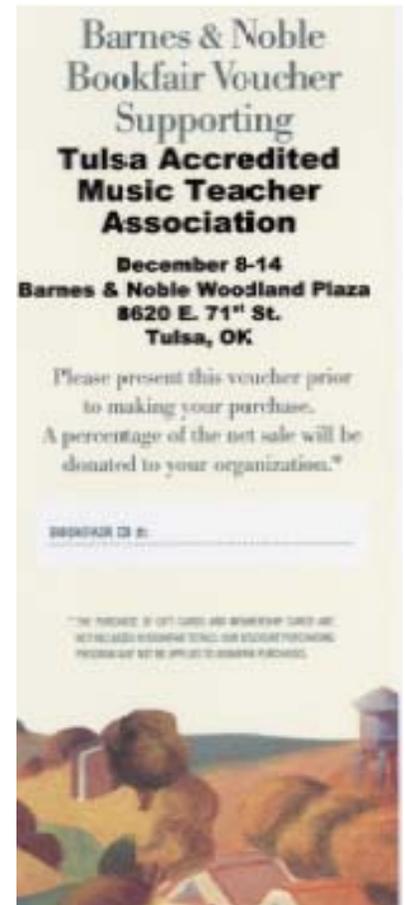
## Tulsa Accredited MTA Playathon

TAMTA President Judy Macha attended the Foundation meeting at the MTNA Conference in Toronto this past year, and heard about the Barnes & Noble Playathon held in Denver, Colorado. The TAMTA board decided to try out the idea in Tulsa during the Christmas season, and the event was chaired by OMTA and TAMTA member Linda Rice.

TAMTA's proceeds from the Barnes & Noble Christmas Playathon was about \$2900. Vouchers were handed out to students, family and friends to present during the week following the playathon, and a percentage of the sale was donated to TAMTA.

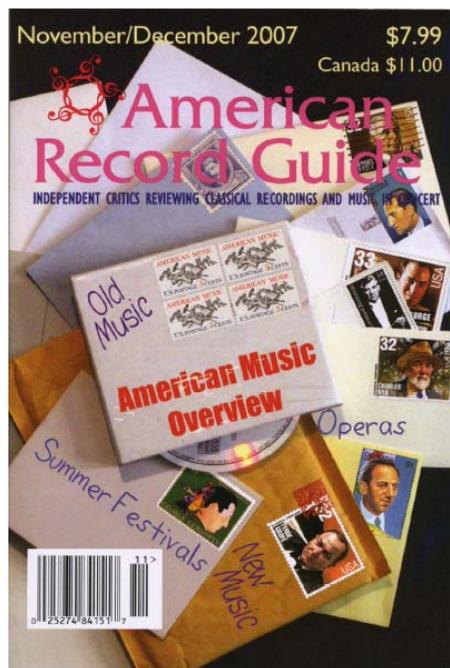
The coordinator at the bookstore did a lot of the organizing and secured a piano. Linda used e-mail to send vouchers to individual teachers, who encouraged students to distribute them to friends and family. The main expense was for mailing copies of vouchers and information to those who do not have e-mail. As TAMTA events go, there was big return for comparatively little organizing time.

If you have a Barnes & Noble in your area and have not yet tried an event like this, it is certainly a good thing for you to consider.



## American Record Guide Reviews Lanners' CD

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A glowing review of OSU Professor of Piano Thomas Lanners' latest CD release, entitled "Ned Rorem: The Three Piano Sonatas", appears in the current (November/December 2007) issue of American Record Guide, one of the two prominent magazines in the North America dedicated to reviews of classical recordings.

ARG critic Mark Lehman wrote of the works on the disc: "Their clarity, sparkle, wit, sentiment, brio, and idiomatic pianism are a continual pleasure. ... Why these sonatas have so seldom been recorded I can't imagine. They are virtuoso showpieces that couldn't fail to delight concert audiences, yet their lapidary craftsmanship and formal perfection will please the most discriminating connoisseur. ... It's especially pleasing to have all three of Rorem's sonatas on one disc, superbly played by Thomas Lanners, and in clear, vivid sound. Lanners' informative and enlightening notes are models of graceful writing, too. Anyone who cares about mainstream 20th Century piano music should seek out this superlative recording."

## We Extend Our Sympathy

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On the passing of

Lyndell Watkins

father of member Sylvia Ryan



**Oklahoma Music Teachers Association  
Newsletter**

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**Happy New Year!**

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.okmta.org](http://www.okmta.org)

