



### **HMTA Mission Statement:**

We are a professional organization of music teachers dedicated to the promotion of the art of music and the advancement of musical knowledge throughout the Greater Houston, Texas area.

# **HMTA Bulletin**

## **February 2011**

THE HMTA BULLETIN is a monthly publication of the Houston Music Teachers Association, Inc.  
A non-profit corporation affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association  
Member Texas Music Teachers Association

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

### **Calendar of Events**

#### **February 2011**

- 5 HMTA Music Festival**
- 9 Board Meeting**  
**General Meeting**
  - **Nominations for TMTA Teacher of the Year Awards**
  - **Presentation of the Slate of Officers for 2011-2012**
  - **Spring Musicales Registration**
  - ***Deadline: Chamber Music and Ensemble Registration***
  - ***Deadline Convention Ensemble Registration***
- 10-12 TMEA State Convention in San Antonio, TX**
- 19 HMTA Piano Contest First Round @ HCC Spring Branch**
- 20 HMTA Piano Contest Second Round @ HCC Spring Branch**
- 26 Convention Ensemble Audition @ KRW Music Studios**

#### **March 2011**

- 5 HMTA Chamber Music and Ensemble Contest**
- 9 Board Meeting**  
**General Meeting**
  - **Nomination for HMTA Teacher of the Year**
  - **Election of HMTA Officers for 2011-2012**
  - ***Deadline: SA Senior Award***
  - ***Deadline: SA Student Participation Award***
  - ***Deadline: Spring Musicales***
- 14 – 18 Spring Break**
- 26 – 30 MTNA National Conference (Milwaukee, Wisconsin)**

## Letter from the President

*Wilford E. Glenn Jr., NCTM*

Along with time management, delegation, leadership and motivation skills, I view the ability to be a good communicator as the missing ingredient to complete the essential toolkit for those who aspire to move into being a chairman over a particular event in this organization. Those who want to improve their communication must be able to guide and manage other departments within their events.

I am often reminded that when we were growing up we learn to eat, talk, run, walk and understand by being shown how to do these things. We will do these things either well or not so well; it depends on how well these things are taught. This process continues throughout our learning curve from childhood to adulthood to include the more sophisticated procedures of our 21<sup>st</sup> century existence. In any type of business, effective communications are essential. It is said that ‘a business or organization is a human decision-making system in which the quality of the decisions are determined by the effectiveness of the communication apparatus’. How true is this? If we want people to act on our decisions they have to be motivated to do so. To act in the right way depends on the information they need to take the right course of action and to be motivated to do it.

When you are faxing, emailing, leaving a verbal message by telephone, text, memo, or letter, one thing you should ask yourself is “Can this message or instruction be easily understood by the person receiving it?” Can you be sure that those receiving your message actually understand what you are saying? The most important limitations on people’s perceptions are often based on cultural and emotional differences. Most of us perceive what we expect to perceive. In other words, we see what we expect to see and to a very large extent hear what we want to hear. The fact that the unexpected communication may be resented is not the issue; what often happens is that the message has not actually been received at all. It has been neither seen nor heard. **It has completed been ignored.**

We want a website that meets our needs. We want to move from the horse and buggy era of communications to the cyber space era. We are moving into that realm of communication with HMTA. The time has come to make that step to the next step.

More often than not our mind tries very hard to fit impressions and stimuli into a framework of expectations. We resist any attempts to make us ‘**change our mind**’.

So, before we communicate effectively we must consider whether or not we understand what the recipient expects to see or hear. Not an easy task. If we are able to do this, we can then make reasonable assumptions about what their expectations are.

## **Piano Contest & Music Festival**

*Yelena Brusilovskaya*  
Chair, HMTA Piano Contest

Please be reminded that our piano contest will be Feb. 19 at HCC Spring Branch first round and the second round will be on Feb 20. Please check the website for more information.

Jean Lee Baker  
Chair, HMTA Music Festival

The Music Festival will be this coming Saturday, Feb. 5, 2011 at HCC Spring Branch. The schedules have been sent out to all of the participating teachers. Once the Festival has ended, teachers, please take the time to calculate your student's score. This is very important when it comes time to order the medals. A score of 1.00 and lower will qualify a student to perform in the All-Star Music Festival at the State Convention in Arlington, TX. June 17-19, 2011. Please e-mail a list of the students to me at rebpianostudio@gmail.com

## **SA Performance Contest**

Yanzi Lin  
Chair, SA Performance Contest

The Performance Contest was a great success. If you have any questions please contact me through e-mail or call me at 281-499-8166.