



# Magic Valley MTA Bulletin

January-  
February

2019

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For this newsletter, I have chosen to share 4 ideas that are central to my teaching philosophy. So, I'll get right with it:

1. Teach conceptually. I heard Dr. Rita Fuszek say this many years ago when I was a young teacher, and it has shaped my teaching throughout the years. Teaching concepts allows students to apply the concepts in many contexts. Teaching facts gives student bits of information that are not so easily applied in many situations. I can really get on my soapbox about how this applies to the teaching of music reading!!!
2. Teach for the long term. For the vast majority of our students, music will not be their profession. Winning a competition does not necessarily bestow on our students the skills they need if they are going to enjoy making music at the piano once we are out of their lives. Teach them the skills they need to become independent musicians.
3. Lay a solid foundation. I once read about a champion chess player who was asked about the secret of his success. He responded by saying that he knew the basics really well. I believe elementary piano is the most challenging and most important teaching that any music teacher can do. I do not push students into challenging repertoire, but rather focus on gaining the basic skills and concepts and applying those concepts and skills in many pieces at each level.
4. Students come to make music, not learn vocabulary. Don't forget that as you teach! As I hear Marvin Blickenstaff once say (also when I was a young teacher), students come to lessons for one reason, to make wonderful music.

Thanks for hearing me out! On another completely different note, I want to thank Sue Miller for her efforts in bringing wonderful pianists to CSI for our enjoyment. The next two concerts are January 25 and March 8. Please put these on your calendar.

Until next time,

Corrine

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### MVMTA BOARD 2018-2020

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MVMTA Pianists at the Magic Valley Mall was a great success! Thank you to Barbara Mix for coordinating the facilities and pianos, Allison Bangerter for scheduling, and Tonya Robertson for the new signs.

## MVMTA/IMTA EVENTS

**January 25, 2019**

### **MVMTA Meeting**

**Where:** Corrine Van Dyk's home:  
2316 Hillcrest Dr., Twin Falls

**Time:** 10:00am

**What:** We will be reviewing the competition and Music at the Mall, and will also be discussing smart business strategies.

**Contact:** RSVP via email to Corrine

**March 16-20, 2019**

### **MTNA National Conference**

**Where:** Spokane, WA

**Contact:** Information can be found on mtna.org

**April 5 and April 26, 2019**

### **Certificate of Achievement**

**Where:** CSI Fine Arts Building

**Time:** Assigned times

**What:** A comprehensive exam for piano students, held under the auspices of Musicians West.

**Contact:** Allison Bangerter or  
info@musicianswest.org

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**January 25, 2019**

### **CSI Piano Celebration: Kevin Ahfat**

**Where:** CSI Auditorium

**Time:** 7:30 pm

**What:** "Kevin Ahfat is acclaimed to be "poised to become one of the young heirs of the classical piano realm, with a bold, boundary-pushing, millennial style matched by refined execution."

**Prices:** General Admission--\$10, Seniors--\$8, Students--\$6.

**Contact:** Sue Miller

**March 8, 2019**

### **Ezola/Olson Duo: An Evening of Piano Duos**

**Where:** CSI Auditorium

**Time:** 7:30 pm

**What:** Emily Ezola and Kevin Olson, faculty members at Utah State University, will present a variety of piano duos written in the past two centuries.

**Prices:** General Admission--\$10, Seniors--\$8, Students--\$6.

**Contact:** Sue Miller

## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

### NANCY BUCK

Nancy Frazier Buck was born and raised in Twin Falls, Idaho, went to the TF schools for 11 years, then graduated in Burley. In 5<sup>th</sup> grade, she performed in the Lincoln School talent show, playing a classical piece, "The Old Piano Roll Blues", and accompanying a singer. Self-taught, her parents then found a way to afford her first piano lessons. As an adult, due to her own experiences, she has taught hard-working students who cannot afford lessons. She helped two of her piano students earn Jack Kent Cooke scholarships, resulting in fully paid High School Boarding School, and University Degrees. Despite the slow start, she was playing Beethoven by 7<sup>th</sup> grade with teachers Kelly Frizzelle Bond Yost and Nick Bond. During the summer the Bonds went to UCLA to finish their Masters' Degrees leaving some of their beginner students with Nancy who was not yet in 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

The following year a Liszt Rhapsody won her a Summer School Scholarship at the University of Idaho. Two years later, in Burley, with no piano lessons, Beethoven's Pathetique earned her a Music Scholarship to Moscow, where she studied with Professor David Tyler. Despite loving music, desire to be financially independent led her to a BS degree in Business Administration majoring in Accounting.

Back and forth between full-time Mom, and Corporate Accounting, mostly in Southern California, music was always in her life. There were always a few piano students, 2 Operettas, Church Pianist, Church Music Director, accompanying for numerous vocalists and instrumentalists. Most rewarding was 15 years of arranging music for a Christian mens' Quartet in which her husband sang. She added instrumentation on their CDs which sold all over the U.S. and in other countries.

In 2002 in Southern California, she left accounting in favor of full-time piano teaching. There she had a very active studio participating in numerous annual events and much Community Service.

Now, in 2018, she and her husband have returned to Idaho to retire, just months after their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. She is happy to be here and is looking forward to many happy years doing what she loves best, teaching piano.