



# Magic Valley MTA Bulletin

January-  
February

2018

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here I am at the beginning of another new year, and as I do so I am once again finding myself rereading a quote by Robert Weirich in his column Winds of Change in the July/August 2016 issue of Clavier Companion. Please allow me to share a couple of paragraphs from that column:

“Just to survive, we need to become activists for our art. At every opportunity we must demonstrate the importance of music and the value of learning to play an instrument. We can't be quiet providers of 'extras,' those life enhancers that are seen as luxuries.

If we think of our art as beautiful music, beautifully played in beautiful concert halls, attended by beautiful people in beautiful clothes, we are part of the problem. If all we are doing as teachers is coaching a louder, faster, more perfect rendition of a familiar warhorse, we are living with our heads in the sand. We are the only ones who care about the latest competition winner, and even we will soon forget the name.

Art's role in society has slipped, partly because we have let it happen.”

How do we MVMTA teachers make music a vital role in the lives of our students and, by extension, their friends and families? I'm hoping that as our association moves forward we will consider student and teacher opportunities that promote creativity, collaboration, and contagious joy. Yes, we have celebrated the success of the Sonatina Competition winners, but more importantly we need to make sure that these students and all students develop functional skills that allow them to enjoy music in their daily lives.

For the first time, our Sonatina Competition included two duet categories, offering students the fun of collaborative music. Our first-ever Piano Caroling at the Mall in December offered fun and joy for students and shoppers. Parents of my students commented on how fun the Piano Caroling was, and one shop owner left his shop to enjoy the music being made by two students who were playing a lively duet. Following their performance, the shop owner engaged them in conversation regarding the music they had just made. That seemed like contagious joy to me!

Wishing you all the best in 2018!

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## MVMTA BOARD 2017-2018

### PRESIDENT

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### VICE PRESIDENT / TREASURER

Allison Bangerter  
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## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Deadline for March - April  
newsletter is

*Friday, March 2, 2018*

**Tonya Robertson (208) 284-9120**  
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Twin Falls, ID 83301  
Tonya.j.robertson@gmail.com

## MVMTA/IMTA EVENTS

**January 19, 2018**

### **Sonatina Competition Meeting**

**Where:** Corrine's home

**Time:** 10:00

**Contact:** Corrine Van Dyk

**May 4, 2018**

### **Certificate of Achievement**

**Where:** CSI

**Time:** TBA

**Contact:** Allison Bangerter

Or for more info: [www.musicianswest.org](http://www.musicianswest.org)

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**February 2, 2018**

### **Sundance Trio**

**Where:** CSI Auditorium

**Time:** 4:00 pm

**What:** Jed Moss, an Idaho native and professional pianist, will dazzle the CSI Auditorium Stage with his collaborative performance with the Sundance Trio. Bassoonist, Christian Smith and Oboist GERALYN GIOVANNETTI, both Professors of Music at Brigham Young University along with Jed, who has performed with musicians from the nation's top orchestras make up the Sundance Trio..

**Prices:** General Admission--\$10, Seniors--\$8, Students--\$6. Please join us for this event. This Trio made their European debut in April of 2012 performing six recitals in London.

### **2017 MVMTA Magic Valley Mall Christmas Caroling**

Thank you TEACHERS and PIANO STUDENTS for participating in a very successful Magic Valley Mall Christmas event on December 16th. Thank you to Allison who set up the performance schedule, which worked flawlessly! I have sent a thank you note to Dunkley Music for providing the two digital pianos - free of charge. They hired their mover to transport and set up the pianos for us and return them to the store at the end of day. Please let them know that we appreciated their willingness to help.

I had a special call from the Mall manager to personally THANK us for offering this unique Christmas event for the mall!! The merchants really appreciated the live music and had wonderful feedback for the manager. Of course, I thanked him for allowing us to come and for setting up the special reserved areas for the pianos. The students were well prepared and I think they enjoyed being at the mall where they had friends and family. It was fun holiday time for all!

-Barbara Mix

## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

### TONYA ROBERTSON

Tonya Whittier Robertson grew up in Idaho Falls, Idaho. She began piano lessons at age 7 and liked it so much she never stopped. Her teachers in Idaho Falls included Betty Roberts and Virginia Willard. Tonya is the oldest of 7 children, and her practice time was 6:00am for her junior high and part of her high school years. Even that didn't deter her! Other activities Tonya was involved in growing up included gymnastics, dance (she was on the competitive dance team in high school), and high school choir, in which she both sang and accompanied.

Tonya spent one year as an Elementary Ed. Major at Utah State University before she felt a calling to go back to music and ended up at Boise State for the next four years as a music major. She holds a Bachelor of Music with emphasis in Piano Performance from Boise State University, with which she graduated cum laude in 2007. While at Boise State, Tonya studied with Del Parkinson. After graduating, Tonya continued studies with Dr. Parkinson for several more years, and completed her NCTM through MTNA. She also spent many years accompanying junior high and high school choirs, instrumental, and vocal soloists in District III festivals in both the Boise and West Ada school districts.

Tonya taught in Boise from 2003-2014, where she held a studio of 30+ students. She was very involved in the Treasure Valley Chapter of the Idaho Music Teachers Association. She held various board positions including chair of the Sonatina/Sonata Competition, which had over 400 participants the year she chaired! That was enough stress to last her the next decade. She is currently serving on the IMTA executive board as registrar.

Tonya's students in Boise were honored and recognized in many capacities, including TVMTA Sonatina/Sonata Competition winners and runners-up, TVMTA Certificate of Merit Honors Recital participants, NFMC Jr. Solo Festival Gold Cup Honors, being chosen to participate in IMTA Conference Master Classes, and completing graduating senior recitals. It was quite a transition moving to the Magic Valley and completely starting her studio over, but she is enjoying her group of budding beginners in her studio here!

Tonya's husband, Collin, is an accomplished former BSU wrestler and holds several titles including PAC-10 champion and NCAA Division 1 All-American. As you can imagine, they make quite the pair, the wrestling coach and pianist. They have been married since 2005. The Robertsons have 3 kids ages 6, 2, and 2 months old, so Tonya is teaching "part time" right now, keeping a studio of 13-15 students. Side hobbies she enjoys (or did before being a Mom was pretty much her main job) are reading, shopping, Zumba, running, snow boarding, and all family activities—camping, hiking, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.