



# BCMTA Newsletter

January 2010

## Summary of Events January/Feb 2010

- 1/15 – 4<sup>th</sup> General Meeting
- 1/23 – Musicthon!
- 1/30 – Deadline for Pompano Piano Competition
- 2/20 - E-mail/ Postmark Deadline for Student Day Performance Exams

[FOR COMPLETE CALEDAR LISTINGS CLICK HERE](#)

### Newsletter Highlights:

Musicthon	2
Chopin Piano Competition	2
General Meeting Info.	3
Valentina Lisitsa: Concert Reviews	4-5
Students in the news	6

*Happy  
2010!*



## Broward County Music Teachers Association

January, 2010

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Happy New Year! I hope this message finds you rested and eager for what the year 2010 holds for you and your students. BCMTA members never lack for educational and performance opportunities for our students and ourselves. We are gearing up for our one and only fundraiser, Musicthon on January 22-24. As you are all aware, we depend upon this event to fund the many events and scholarships that BCMTA offers. It is very important for all to participate by encouraging our students to get pledges of support, and to participate in the weekend long festival at the Galleria Mall. Our thanks to Melissa Milroy of the Galleria Mall, Joanna Marie at WXEL, Dean at Grandmasters Pianos and to our hardworking chairman, Wanda Wiranis and her group of volunteers who are working to help make this endeavor a rousing success.

Please tune in to WXEL 90.7 FM on Thursday, January 21 at 12:00 pm for a program dedicated to MUSICTHON.

Don't forget the postmark deadline for entering students in the Pompano Piano Competition is January 30, 2010. The website for details is [www.pompanocomp.com](http://www.pompanocomp.com). Please read the rules very carefully as some changes have been adopted.

I hope to see you all at our January 15<sup>th</sup> General Meeting featuring Jennifer Donelson. Please read further in the newsletter for more information.

I would like to express congratulations to Donald Waxman, who was featured in an in depth interview in the Jan/Feb issue of Clavier magazine. We are honored to have such a distinguished composer among our membership.

I look forward to seeing you all very soon,

Mary Beth Purchase

## President's Message



Those attending the annual Holiday Party at Diane Garvin's home in December were treated to traditional Wassailing by the Westminster Academy Choir members.

## BCMTA Board & Committee Chairs • 2009-2011

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Please contact BCMTA President, Mary Beth Purchase, if you would like to join a committee or serve on the board!

### To Piano Teachers in South Florida:

As most of you know, our big event, the 8<sup>th</sup> National Chopin Piano Competition of the USA will be held February 20 through 28, 2010 at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium, 2901 W. Flagler, Miami. For this reason we will not present the Young Pianists Concerts this season. Instead, we are offering all piano students excellent opportunity, which happens only every five years, to listen to the best young pianists from all over US.

Through the first three stages, starting on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> the competition sessions will be held from 9 am to 12 pm and from 2 pm to 5 pm. These sessions are open and free to the public.

For two parts of the final performances, on February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> when the finalists will play one of Chopin concert with the Frost Symphony Orchestra lead by Maestro Thomas Sleeper, we will have moderately priced tickets.

The Chopin Foundation is pleased to offer complimentary tickets to both parts of the Finals to your students. Ticket to the Finals part 2 on Sunday, Feb. 28 will include the Awards Ceremony.

To obtain complimentary tickets for your students, please send us your request by email not later than January 30, 2010. More information on [www.chopin.org](http://www.chopin.org)

### MUSICTHON 2010 - January 22, 23, 24

Galleria Mall - Fort Lauderdale

Twenty-six BCMTA teachers are participating in this month's MUSICTHON! For those of you that were not able to include your students, please come out to the Mall on Musicthon weekend to support your fellow colleagues and our professional organization. Encourage your family, friends and neighbors to stop by as well! What a great way to show the community how music is shaping the lives of so many students. It is our only annual fundraising event and proceeds help support the many student programs offered by our organization.

Teacher letters, sponsor letters and Student pledge forms are available on the [website](#).

## THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING

**January 15, 2010** – 4<sup>TH</sup> General Meeting. **Dr. Jennifer Donelson** - Reading Between the Lines; Or, How to Play More than Just the Right Note at the Right Time - Developing Expressive Playing and Interpretive Skills in Beginning Students.

When should students begin making interpretive decisions? At what point in their development can we expect students to play expressively? How can we help students develop as creative artists? These and other questions will be addressed in this workshop through a series of graded activities that teachers of any instrument could use to help their students become more musically independent and cultivate the ability to make compelling artistic decisions.

**WHEN:** 10:30 a.m. Friday, January 15, 2010

**WHERE:** Room 309, Performing and Visual Arts Wing of the Don Taft University Center at Nova Southeastern University, 3301 College Ave.

Here is a map of the location:

[http://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&source=s\\_d&saddr=Unknown+road&daddr=26.078583,-80.243304&hl=en&geocode=&mra=mr&sll=26.078024,-80.242875&sspn=0.009984,0.013754&ie=UTF8&z=16](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&source=s_d&saddr=Unknown+road&daddr=26.078583,-80.243304&hl=en&geocode=&mra=mr&sll=26.078024,-80.242875&sspn=0.009984,0.013754&ie=UTF8&z=16)

The University Center is located just north of the Alvin Sherman Library. Once in Davie, take College Ave. or S. University Dr. to SW 30th St. From S. University, turn east; from College Ave., turn west. Next, turn south on Ray Ferrero Jr. Blvd. You'll see a parking garage on your right. There is guest parking on the first floor for a small fee. After exiting the parking garage, continue south past the library to the University Center. The PVA wing is the side of the University Center closest to the library. Come up the stairs or elevator to the 3rd floor where we will be meeting in room 309.

**Mark your calendar now!**

**April 9, 2010** - 5<sup>TH</sup> General Meeting. **Judith Burganger** – Performance Practice in the Studio - Tips for teaching and discussing ornaments and other historically-informed techniques to keyboard students.

## REMINDER!

The postmark deadline for **Dist. VI Concerto Competition** is February 27th - firm & fixed! no exceptions. Teachers must download forms from [www.fmta.org](http://www.fmta.org)

- a) Student Activities
- b) Comp. Event Forms

**IMPORTANT!** Print ALL forms listed under DISTRICT Concerto Comp. Forms (NOT State)

There are six forms to be printed. Incomplete applications cannot be accepted.

No forms will be mailed out.

## TEACHER NEWS

The current issue of **Clavier Companion** (Jan/Feb) contains a full length interview with **Donald Waxman**, in which the composer/pianist talks about his childhood music education, how he came to write the *Pageant* series as well as various aspects of technique used in his *Fifty Etudes* and the more recent books of *Exertudes*.

## YEARBOOKS

If you still have not received a copy of the 2009/2010 yearbook, you can send a check for \$2.85 to Barbara Schaap, 7024 NW 101 Ave. Tamarac, FL 33321 and she will mail you the current edition.

There is no charge to stop by her home in Tamarac and pick up your copy. Please call first.

Barbara Schaap

954-597-1856

[barbaraphil2004@yahoo.com](mailto:barbaraphil2004@yahoo.com)

## Valentina Lisitsa: In Review

Thirteen BCMTA members and one PBMTA teacher attended the amazing concert on **January 8** presented by Friends of Music for the community. I am so very appreciative of the support of our members in promoting this remarkable pianist and keeping live performances alive! ---**Sandra Greenland**

Read what our member teachers thought of the performance and master class:

Valentina Lisitsa, the gifted Russian pianist who dazzled South Florida audiences in appearances with the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra several years ago, returned to perform a solo concert in Coral Springs on Friday, January 8. Her playing during the evening was poetic, yet at times also nothing short of technically breathtaking. Playing a generous share of Romantic works, strongly accented by several Rachmaninov pieces and balanced by two Beethoven sonatas, Ms. Lisitsa evinced remarkable control of dynamics and line. The beneficiaries were lovely tone quality and control of voicing, qualities which remained in play even as she modified her touch and pedaling to serve the style of the Beethoven sonatas. Ms. Lisitsa was also capable of bringing out the thunder of the bravura passages in her Liszt and Rachmaninov selections. It was a concert that the attentive audience, gathered at Coral Springs Charter School, appreciated to the fullest. Sandra Greenland, Linda Hanson, and the Friends of Music in Coral Springs are to be heartily commended for returning Valentina Lisitsa to South Florida once again.

---**Carolyn and Kent Morgan**

Attending the Valentina Lisitsa concert last night was a wonderful way to begin a "musical" New Year! Her performances have "wowed" me since first hearing her nearly 20 years ago when she and her husband participated in the Dranoff Two-Piano Competition. She presented an interesting program...the first half...less familiar works of Rachmaninoff and Beethoven and the last half...more familiar works of Beethoven and Rachmaninoff...ending the evening with a fantastic rendition of Liszt's "Second Hungarian Rhapsody"! Her pianism is first-rate...melodic clarity...brilliant tone quality...from the softest to the strongest sounds...breakneck speed and seemingly flawless memory skills! Perhaps the biggest delight of her performance is how she is able to project her obvious passion for the music and being able to share that love with the audience! A truly great concert that I won't soon forget!

----**Bob Beals**

The concert was amazing and will be remembered and discussed among us for some time. Valentinas's command of the instrument and her interpretation of each selection left us wanting to hear more. Her choice to personally introduce each piece prior to its performance was welcomed warmly by the audience. Her discussions reflected vast insight into the music and the composer. She was humorous and heartwarming; enlightening us with compelling anecdotes that brought a personal touch to the evening. My students and I are looking forward to attending more such offerings from the Friends of Music. ---**Mary Beth Purchase**

What a stupendous concert last night. Thank you and Friends of Music for bringing Valentina into our community to perform. My LYNN students adored her performance last night—one of them has been a great fan of hers for years and was so excited to see her live. ---**Dr. Roberta Rust**

Valentina Lisitsa piano recital at Coral Springs Charter School yesterday January 8th 2010, was a great display of her talent, her sensibility and musicianship. A very imaginative performance of Rachmaninov " 6 Moments Musicaux" Op.16 started the program with good taste, color, and a very expressive conception. Wonderful! In the difficult Beethoven Sonata Op.10 No 3. Miss Lisitsa gave a beautiful young Beethoven, with a wide range of emotions. The rest of the program, with Beethoven Sonata Op.27 No.2, a Schubert transcription, and some Rachmaninov Preludes, plus a Liszt encore, confirmed us that she is a great pianist, it is so good to listen her playing! Thanks to Miss Lisitsa and all who made possible this recital. ---**Jorge L. Herrero**

A Grand Evening. Valentina Lisitsa's performance showed prodigious technique and extremely sensitive interpretation of romantic and quasi-romantic piano repertoire. Her (no doubt) photographic memory provided a remarkably accurate presentation. We are looking forward to hearing another performance! ---**Carol DiNonno**

continued next page . . .



Friends of Music presented Valentina Lisitsa in Concert at Coral Springs Charter School on Jan. 8, 2010. Valentina Lisitsa performed an outstanding program of music mainly consisting of her favorite composers Rachmaninoff and Beethoven with additions of Schubert and ending with Liszt. There was no printed program because the artist "did not know" what she wanted to play. She has so many pieces just at her fingertips. Her "narrated" program notes were informative, insightful, and humorous. Her performance was as anticipated: fantastic. Her dynamic range was from velvety to stunning power. Her technical ability was awe inspiring and breath taking. It was a fulfilling evening. Valentina Lisitsa's artistry is available in multiple CD's and DVD's. ---**Karola Zehme**

Valentina Lisitsa was an epitome of artistry, playing with amazing technical ease and virtuosity. She was a role model to the students, demonstrating the widest range of dynamic sound and color, and variety of mood and style. Bravo and thank you, Valentina! ---**Rosalie Gregory**

I saw Valentina many times years ago in Miami at her early South Florida concerts. She has matured both musically and professionally. Her performance on January 8 was very exciting and compelling. She is able to keep the audience deeply engrossed with her interpretation of the music of the great masters. The many nuances of sound she achieves are incredible. I look forward to attending any upcoming concerts she might give in our area and also congratulate her on her many recordings and achievements in music throughout the world. ---**Dr. Barbara Kaskinen**

Pianist Valentina Lisitsa's piano recital presented by the Coral Springs "Friends of Music" on Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, was a performance I shall long remember. Lisitsa's impeccable artistry displayed an enormously broad range of tonal colors and dynamics. From the softest of pianissimos to the powerful fortissimos, she was always in command of the instrument and "at one" with the music. The audience, which included numerous young people, was enchanted with her remarks about each of the pieces she performed. Her program of two Beethoven Sonatas, Rachmaninoff's Moments Musicaux and Preludes, Schubert's Serenade and Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 was an enthralling musical experience for those of us who were fortunate enough to hear her. ---**Sue B. Colvert**

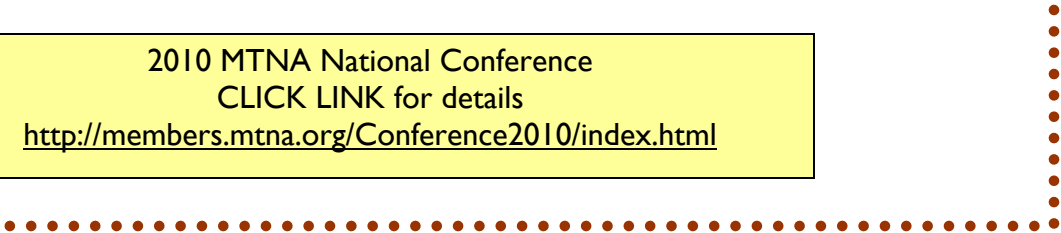
We were thrilled to go hear Valentina Lisitsa perform this weekend. What we didn't know, was we were in for a rare treat. No programs were offered at the performance. Lisitsa was introduced and walked across the stage. She announced that she hadn't decided what to perform and that she would "Go with the flow." What followed was a bevy of impromptu music that included Rachmaninoff, Shubert, Beethoven, and Liszt. Her musical ability is nothing short of amazing. And what an intimate setting to listen to such wonderful music. Many thanks to Friends of Music for this presentation. --- **Annamarie and Cory Cockreham**

**Master Class:**

Valentina Lisitsa is an extraordinary pedagogue. She offered so much knowledge and culture to our students, broadening their understanding of various (orchestral) sounds, discussing certain composers' and general styles, not to mention technical aspects of piano playing. Not only generous with her knowledge, she was also extremely kind and gracious, staying longer than necessary with the same encouraging and positive attitude. --- **Dr. Irena Kofman**

I would like to comment on her artistic imagination as she shared ideas with the students, such as her descriptions of the uniform collars and steel of the military polonaise or the way certain measures of accompaniment in the nocturne were representations of silence. She was warm, funny, and exquisitely articulate even though she was speaking in a second language. Thanks a million for the opportunity. --- **Dr. Dianne Garvin**

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## For Sale

*Classified Ads, Business Cards, and Larger Ads are all welcome in the BCMTA Newsletter!*

*This publication reaches over 100 teachers & musicians by mailing list and is available online at [BCMTA.org](http://BCMTA.org).*

Please contact Barbara Muze at [bmuze@bellsouth.net](mailto:bmuze@bellsouth.net) for additional information. Thank you!

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## Dr. Rita Hutcherson Memorial Scholarship Fund

A scholarship fund has begun in the memory of Dr. Hutcherson. Please mail donations to BCMTA Treasurer, Annamarie Cockreham, 4231 SW 54th Avenue Davie, FL 33314 Phone:954-327-0979

Checks are payable to BCMTA.  
Thank you.

[Click Here](#)  
to see how the fund  
has grown

## STUDENT NEWS

**Leanna Strouse** is pleased to announce that her student **Joseph Lubben** was accepted into the West Palm Beach Atlantic University as a Journalism major with a Violin-Piano minor. Joseph did so well in his audition, he has received a 50% scholarship. Another of Leanna's students, **Olesya Krivoruchko**, auditioned at Miami International University where she was awarded 80% to study the Violin.

BCMTA members were saddened to learn of the passing of **Barry Weinberg**, a long-time member and significant contributor to the organization and the music community. He was an inspiration to many and will be missed.

**We would like to create a memorial page for Barry on our BCMTA website. Please send any thoughts, memories, and/or anecdotes you would like to share to [bmuze@bellsouth.net](mailto:bmuze@bellsouth.net) for inclusion on the webpage.**

## *A ♪ from Newsletter Editor...*

**Next Deadline: February 7, 2010**

Teacher news, event information, yearbook updates, student news, & advertisements are all welcome! *Advertising checks are payable to BCMTA & can be sent to Barbara Muze: [bmuze@bellsouth.net](mailto:bmuze@bellsouth.net)*

Not all important announcements may fit the newsletter schedule. If you have something that needs to promptly reach BCMTA members, please e-mail Mary Beth Purchase. Announcements will then be distributed by E-mail Correspondent, Carolyn Morgan.

## GO GREEN!

Please do not print out this interactive Newsletter unless you really need to. Either save it on your computer or visit the website, [www.bcmta.org](http://www.bcmta.org) where you can find past issues dating back to 2007!