

Staccato Notes

from your MTACA president

OCTOBER

MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS

2014

October Meeting

Friday, October 3, 9:30am
Carolyn's Keyboard Corner
"Online Tech for Music Teachers"

A presentation by Dustin Summey.
Bring your ipad or smartphone!

Special Thanks to Susan Robbins and Peggy Pearson!

Susan prepared the
2014-2015 Yearbook. Peggy
planned the presentations for
this year! Thank You!

Boost your Résumé!

MTACA needs a volunteer
webmaster willing to devote about
an hour each month to updating
our WordPress.org website.

Contact Sharon Blair at
mtacapresident@gmail.com or
479-409-7183 to volunteer!



Happy October!

It's officially Fall here in Central Arkansas and we're beginning to enjoy some cooler weather! It's a special month for our family as we celebrate two birthdays: my own and that of our first child due on Oct 19! I'll include some pictures next month! Join us on Friday, Oct 3 for our monthly meeting and enjoy preparing your students for the Stampede! --Sharon Blair



The purpose of MTACA (Music Teachers Association of Central Arkansas) is to promote and advance the study of music in central Arkansas. We continually increase our knowledge in music and upgrade our professional standards, and are dedicated to promoting excellence in music through the latest teaching techniques.

MTACA Member Spotlight:

John Krebs



Dr. John Krebs with his wife and sons.



Dr. John Krebs currently teaches at Hendrix University and has served ASMTA for many years. He is currently the ASMTA Treasurer and has served as ASMTA President.

Tell us about your family.

I am married with two children. Wife Liz is a chemistry professor. Older son Erik is a graduate student in physics at the University of California-Berkeley and recently married. Younger son Bryan is a college senior who studies computer science and theatre arts.

Did you grow up in a musical family?

I grew up in the northwest corner of Iowa where my parents had a farm. My parents enjoyed, appreciated, and respected music, but as far as I know there have been no professional musicians in my family. Mercifully, there were teachers in my home town who knew what they were doing. I came to central Arkansas in 1992 because there was a job opening at Hendrix College. To my embarrassment, I had never heard

of Hendrix before I saw the vacancy notice!

When you aren't enjoying music, what do you like to do?

In off moments I like to try new foods and dabble with foreign languages. Travel allows me to indulge in both of those areas.

Tell us about your musical education.

My undergraduate study was at Northwestern University in Evanston. That might seem like a stretch for a farm kid, but I was encouraged to apply there by Genevieve Truran, an emeritus faculty member at the University of South Dakota. After taking piano lessons from her at summer band camp, she took me aside and said essentially, "I know the people here would like you to come to USD. However, I think you should be

looking at other schools. It just so happens I know someone on the Northwestern faculty, a man named Donald Isaak, and I think the two of you would be a very good match." My parents were a bit nervous about sending me to the big city, but they did not object, so I spent four years in the Chicago area. Later I did graduate work at the Universities of Illinois and Maryland.

As a student I got to hear great pianists of the day such as Arrau, Horowitz, Serkin, Brendel, Browning, and Pollini. However, the performances I continually look back to tend to be vocal and orchestral. The variety of colors and shadings created by singers and orchestras is a constant inspiration at the keyboard.

Continued on the following page.

Upcoming MTACA Events

For more events,
details & deadlines,
visit
mtaca.org

FALL 2014	LOCATION	DATE
October Meeting	Carolyn's Keyboard Corner	10/3/14
November Meeting	Carolyn's Keyboard Corner	11/7/14
5th Annual Stampede	UALR Fine Arts	11/15/14
Christmas Party; 10am	Piano Kraft	12/5/14
Students play at Wrap-Right	Wrap-Right	12/6/14
SPRING 2015	LOCATION	DATE
January Meeting	Carolyn's Keyboard Corner	1/9/15
February Meeting	Piano Kraft	2/6/15
Playathon	McCain Mall, NLR	2/7/15
Sonatina Festival, Animal Safari	UALR Fine Arts	2/21/15
March Meeting	Capitol Keyboard	3/6/15
ASMTA Region IV	UALR Fine Arts	4/11/15
April Meeting	Piano Kraft	4/3/15
May Workshop and Meeting	Carolyn's Keyboard Corner	5/1/15

Interview with John Krebs, continued.

What's one of the main things you try to teach your students?

I have taught piano since 1979, mainly to adult students, most of whom are NOT music majors. These lessons will often be the last opportunity they have to study an instrument before they go off into the world, so if there is a "main thing" I try to instill, it is a way of looking at music and the piano so that they can go on learning on their own. Much of this deals with developing efficient practice techniques.

Any books, or favorite musician role models that are your inspiration for teaching and/or performing?

For several years I had the good fortune to study under Nelita True, someone with an uncanny ability to get directly to the core of a technical or interpretive problem. One day in a lesson she remarked that everything she does as a teacher comes down to two topics—sound and timing. On the surface that sounds pitifully simplistic, but there is a deep truth in that statement, and I try in my own teaching to approach everything, no matter how complex, with that same "cut to the chase" approach.