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# The *Ritornello*

**January 2010**



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## Notes from the President

**Pablo Aguilar**



After a joyful Christmas season, now we have a brand new and shiny year ahead of us. Hopefully we had time to reflect a little on the past year, and more importantly, plan and prepare for the challenges of the new one. Without a doubt we had great activities this last year and yet more are coming.

Since our last meeting in November, Forty-five students from twelve teachers participated in the "Just Boys" recitals graciously sponsored by Paula Washington. Then the Winter Festival was a total success, featuring more than 200 students from 12 teachers and providing music for shoppers at Rolling Oaks Mall all day long on December 12. Many thanks to Heather Stagg for such an outstanding job of organizing, preparing, and carrying out this important event. You may as well want to know that for the Publication Contest, Sherilyn Coldwell received two entries, and for the Original Composition Contest, Karl Hedrick received entries from three teachers.

Please plan to attend our Winter General Meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup>. We will have from the University of Oklahoma the legendary pedagogue Jane Magrath. Her book *The Pianist's Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance Literature* has become a classic reference work for pianists and teachers throughout the country. Practical and insightful, this is an event you don't want to miss.

I hope you have a year full of rewarding teaching experiences. Happy New Year!

Pablo Aguilar

President

San Antonio Music Teachers Association

## Presenter for the Winter General Meeting Jane Magrath



January 15, 2010  
9:30 AM Refreshments  
10:00 AM General Session  
Location: RBC

Jane Magrath is well known as an author, clinician, and pianist. Her book [The Pianist's Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance Literature](#) has become a classic reference work for pianists throughout the country, and Magrath's work in the area of the standard classical teaching literature has been central to the current revival of interest in this music throughout the U.S. She currently has more than thirty-five volumes published with Alfred Publishing, and her music editions are used widely throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Dr. Magrath is frequently in demand as a clinician and teacher, and during the last twenty-five years has performed and given presentations in over forty states including Alaska, and on three continents. Her workshops and master classes have drawn international acclaim. Magrath has served as Piano Coordinator for National Conventions of Music Teachers National Association and given presentations at MTNA National Conventions, the European Piano Teachers Association Conference, the International Society for Music Education, the National Conference on Piano Pedagogy, the World Piano Pedagogy Conference and at many state MTNA conventions. Her articles have appeared in the major piano journals. She was named the first recipient of the MTNA/Frances Clark Keyboard Pedagogy Award for the Outstanding Contribution to Piano Pedagogy. For many years she contributed New Music Reviews to [Clavier](#) and the column *Polyphony* to the [American Music Teacher](#), and continues her column *Musings* through [Clavier Companion](#). Magrath currently serves as an editor for the *Piano Pedagogy Forum*. She is most at home working in the studio and classroom with students, and collaborating with faculty colleagues and area teachers.

A native of South Carolina, Magrath received her education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and at Wesleyan College, and was the first person to receive the D.M. in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from Northwestern University. The University of Oklahoma presented her with the Regents' Award for Superior Teaching as well as the Associates' Distinguished Lectureship Award on two occasions and the Rinsland Award for Excellence in Educational Research. Currently, Magrath is Regents' Professor and holds the Grant Endowed Chair in Piano Pedagogy at the University of Oklahoma, where she was named Rothbaum Presidential Professor of Excellence in the Arts and serves as Director of Piano Pedagogy. She advises masters and doctoral students in the piano pedagogy degree, and has chaired numerous documents and dissertations in the department. Her piano students have won numerous prizes and competitions.

## *Tuesday Musical Club*

The New Year for the 87th season of the Tuesday Musical Club Artist Series opens with a highly accomplished young pianist, Claire Huangci, who, at age 19 holds many honors including the 1999 World Piano Competition and the 2006 Kosciuszko Chopin International Piano Competition in New York. In 2006, Claire was named a "Yamaha" artist, the youngest pianist to receive such a distinction. Astonishing all who hear her perform, Claire's concert will be held on **JANUARY 12, 2010**, Laurel Heights UMC, 2:00 PM.

**FEBRUARY 23, 2010** will see the return of CANTUS, an all male vocal ensemble who first performed here in 2004. The school known as a virtual wellspring of activity in choral music, St Olaf in Minnesota, spawned this lively group in 1995. CANTUS is the recipient of Chorus America's most prestigious award: the 2009 Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence. Another afternoon of excellence: Laurel Heights UMC, 2:00 pm.

Tickets available at door of concerts, \$20.00 adults, Students Free. For additional information, [www.satmc.org](http://www.satmc.org) or call Mary Fleet, 344-5929

### **Online Recital Registration**

Register for Student Recitals online! The process is quick and simple. You do not have to fill in those 3x5 cards anymore. Just go to [www.samusicteachers.org](http://www.samusicteachers.org), login and follow the directions for Student Recitals. If you have any questions please contact Pablo Aguilar at 210-667-8135.

### **Winter Festival**

There were approximately 280 students representing 14 studios which performed in Rolling Oaks Mall on December 12, 2009. It was a big success and the shoppers were treated to fantastic performances from 9:30 am until 8:00 pm at three different locations in the mall. Each student received a t-shirt and a bag of candy for their participation. This is a wonderful opportunity for every teacher's studio and we are looking forward to even more teachers and students participating next year!

Music is what  
feelings sound like.

~Author Unknown



## The Piano Bench with Marie Loomis - Part One

### **THE CATALOGUER** **Otto Erich Deutsch**

It is hard to believe that it took from 1878 to 1951 for some musicologist to compile the first comprehensive catalogue of Franz Schubert's works. (Eng. publication – 1951.) The long delay may account for the fact that some people, at least in this country, knew only a few of Schubert's works – his Serenade, the Ave Maria, and the Unfinished Symphony!

Otto Erich Deutsch (Sept. 5, 1883 – Nov. 23, 1967) was an Austrian musicologist who, for all purposes, introduced Franz Schubert's masterpieces to the world at large. The initial **D.** followed by numbers refers to his catalogue.

After his studies in art history and literature in Vienna and Graz, Deutsch lectured in those subjects at the University of Vienna, and worked as a librarian at the musical archive of Anthony van Hoboken, Haydn's famous cataloguer.

Deutsch, being of Jewish background, moved to Cambridge, England in 1939, but returned to Vienna again in 1951. A new German version of his Schubert catalogue was published in 1978.

Deutsch's other contributions to the musical world include many articles on Schubert and Mozart, and the following "documentary biographies":

Deutsch, Otto Erich (1955). *Handel: A Documentary Biography*.

Deutsch, Otto Erich (1965). *Mozart: A Documentary Biography*.

(Stanford: Stanford University Press.

"My work has been conceived by my understanding of music and by my suffering."

~ Franz Schubert



Franz Schubert

"Play the music, not  
the instrument."  
~Author Unknown



## The Piano Bench with Marie Loomis - Part Two

### AIM TO GROW YOUR BRAIN

This book, by Joanne Billingsley, sounds like the ultimate “how to book”. In a way, it is – because *Aim to Grow Your Brain* is for teachers of all subjects, for parents, and for students. It is especially important for musicians and music teachers.

Billingsley is an educational consultant, keynote speaker and lecturer, and a teacher with over twenty years of classroom experience. She is currently a faculty member at Texas A&M University – San Antonio, and is an adjunct lecturer with the Texas Educational Service Center Region 20. Billingsley began her research for this book as a result of teaching challenges she encountered. **The sub-title of this work is “The Secret Mindset of Underachieving Students & Five Steps to Inspiring Greater Effort”.** You may want to insert the word “music” between *underachieving* and *students*.

*Aim To Grow Your Brain*, with a forward by Olympic Gold Medalist Josh Davis, is actually a science book; after all, it is about the brain. Why should music teachers read it, then? First, the book deals with **brain plasticity**, which is the latest breakthrough concept in education. On glancing through the work, one sees a series of lesson plans with lab experiments, instructional tips, and easy to understand drawings. (If you haven’t been in a science class recently, prepare to be enlightened!)

Second, the personal success stories of people who have overcome seemingly hopeless obstacles will inspire you to adapt as many techniques as possible in your studio. Three short, important lessons for music teachers are: “Changing the Maps of The Mind”, p. 94; “Listen to The Beat”, p. 116; and “Fear Can Block Learning”, p. 124. This easily readable book will start you thinking about the latest pedagogy ideas, as well as the tried and true ones. **You may even invent a few ways to help students grow their brains!**

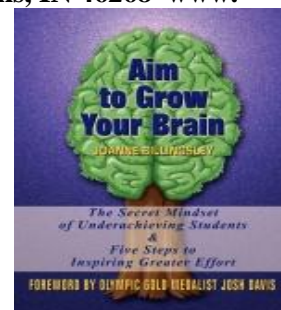
*Aim to Grow Your Brain*, copyright 2009 by Joanne Billingsley, M. Ed. (ISBN 978-160844-114-3) Dog Ear Publishing, 4010 W. 86<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste H, Indianapolis, IN 46268 [www.dogearpublishing.net](http://www.dogearpublishing.net) (also on Amazon.com)

Contact the author: <http://www.jmbillingsley.com>

Please correct the following in your yearbooks!

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<b>Local Performance Contest</b>	<b>A.J. Collins-Thompson NCTM</b>	<b>210.844.5155</b>
<b>Publication Contest</b>	<b>Sherilyn Coldwell</b>	<b>210.828.9147</b>
<b>World of Music</b>	<b>Ginny Godsey</b>	<b>210.523.5803</b>





Because every Texas student  
deserves a quality fine arts education

### **What is GoArts?**

The GoArts campaign is sponsored by the Texas Music Educators Association in conjunction with the Texas Coalition for Quality Arts Education, a coalition of more than 50 organizations whose mission is to promote fine arts in our Texas schools. We are advocates for education policies, primarily at the state level, that ensure all Texas students have opportunities to study music, art, dance, and theater. We provide the public as well as policy makers with information about the many ways that arts education benefits our students and our state.

### **How You Can Help**

Help educate our state's decision makers about the importance of protecting fine arts education by registering your support at [www.GoArts.org](http://www.GoArts.org).

Because every Texas student  
deserves a quality fine arts education

**Support fine arts education today.**

Learn more and register your support. **[www.GoArts.org](http://www.GoArts.org)**