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Omar Granados, NCTM

Courtney Crappell, NCTM

Nancy Plourde, NCTM

Deborah Rhine, NCTM

Toni Salmons, NCTM

Heather Stagg

Ginny Godsey

# The Ritornello

April 2011

## **Notes from the President**

## **Omar Granados**



Dear Colleagues,

So far this has been a great year for SAMTA. All of the events that we had planned have been running very smoothly thanks to the hard work and expertise of our members.

We have also been able to stay within our budget for the most part which has been one of our goals for this year.

Now we get ready for our next General Meeting, "Setting up Preschool Group Piano Lessons" presented by Dr. Kathy Rabago who is coming from Austin to talk to us about this interesting topic. Let's get together and share and learn from each other as we always do at these meetings.

A couple of weeks ago, we had one of our biggest events, the Achievement Auditions. Congratulations to all the students who participated. We had around 500 kids playing and it clearly could not have been done without the help of all the teachers who volunteer their time as monitors, runners, front desk, ribbons, etc. Thanks also to all of the judges for making sure that the kids got the type of feedback that will motivate them to continue learning music. And a very special thanks to Heather Stagg, chairperson of the event, for running it in such a smooth, professional and enthusiastic way.

I can only say that I am very proud to be a member of SAMTA.

Sincerely,

Omar Granados

## Achievement Auditions— April 2011

The 2011 Achievement Auditions were held at UTSA on April 1&2, 2011 with over 480 students enrolled to participate and over 15 judges. Each student was able to perform two pieces and receive constructive comments from the judges. A big congratulations to all the teachers who participated! Thank you for sharing your musical expertise with your students—you are making a lifetime impact. The level of student performance was exceptional and I know it is due to your hard work! At the end of the two days, the judges had chosen 103 students to perform at the Judge's Choice Recitals and 51 students as alternates.

The Judge's Choice Recitals will be held at UTSA in the Recital Hall on Saturday, April 16, 2011 from 11:15am until 6:00pm. Any SAMTA teacher or student is welcome to attend.

~ **Heather Stagg**, Achievement Audition Chairperson

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## The Piano Bench



On March 15, 2011, Marie Loomis who is known to many of us as the author of the Piano Bench, passed away from a brain tumor that had been detected in January 2011. Her love and enthusiasm for music history will be greatly missed in the Ritornello! She always came with new and interesting topics and information and was always eager to share her love of music. We offer our condolences to her family and will greatly miss her excellent contributions!

Her obituary can be viewed at <http://obit.porterloring.com/obitdisplay.html?id=908899&listing=Current>.

## Upcoming Dates

**April 15** ~ General Meeting 9:30am (RBC)

**April 16** ~ Achievement Auditions Judges' Choice Recitals (UTSA)

**May 13** ~ General Meeting 9:30am

**June 16-19** ~ TMTA State Convention (Arlington Convention Center)

SAMTA would like to thank the Musical Arts Center of San Antonio for generously allowing the printing of the programs for the SAMTA General Meetings and Board Meetings at no cost!

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## 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

**San Antonio Music  
Teachers Association**

4620 Eldon Run  
San Antonio, TX 78247

Visit us on the web:  
[www.samusicteachers.org](http://www.samusicteachers.org)

Please submit your  
*Ritornello* articles to:  
hstagg@gmail.com

**The Ritornello**

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