

Virginia Music Teachers Association Blue Ridge Chapter Annual Report 2009-2010

Blue Ridge Chapter is comprised of a relatively small group of teachers from a wide geographic area, stretching from Bluefield to Abingdon. Although small in membership, Blue Ridge Chapter sponsored 5 events during the 2009-2010 teaching year.

On September 19, Ms. Kate Altizer presented a workshop at Emory and Henry College entitled "At First Sight: How to Encourage, Improve and Demystify Sight Reading at the Piano". This workshop explored approaches to sight reading for beginning to advanced students. Ms. Altizer is an Adjunct Professor of Piano and Music at Emory and Henry College, where she has been teaching for Dr. Lisa Withers who was on sabbatical leave for the year.

On November 15, our annual Kelly Strickland Hymn Festival was held at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Wytheville. Approximately 20 students performed sacred selections. The purpose of this festival is to encourage students to participate in the music programs of their places of worship.

On March 20, a Critique Festival was scheduled at Emory & Henry College; however, circumstances necessitated a change of date and venue. The event was restructured as a Master Class held at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Wytheville, with Dr. Lisa Withers providing instruction for the students. Students performed 2 selections from memory: one from the traditional repertoire, one from the 20th Century repertoire. Students ranged in experience from intermediate level to college level.

On April 11, our annual Ribbon Festival was held at St. Paul United Methodist Church, Wytheville. Fourteen students, representing 4 teachers, performed solo pieces in the style of their choice by memory. Each received an award ribbon.

On May 16, an Honors Recital was held in Harman Chapel at Bluefield College. Each BRMTA member was encouraged to select 2-3 students who had excelled in piano study throughout the 2009-2010 year to perform in this recital. Students received certificates recognizing their selection and performance in this event.

Our chapter president, Lisa Moxley, completed requirements for NCTM standing in late summer, 2009.

Our year-end business meeting will be held at 10:00am on June 10, at the Shoney's Restaurant in Wytheville. Prospective members have been invited to join us for this time of evaluation and planning.