



Virginia Music Teachers Association Blue Ridge Chapter Report 2011-2012

Blue Ridge Chapter is comprised of a small group of teachers from a wide geographic area stretching from Bluefield to Abingdon. Although small in membership, Blue Ridge Chapter sponsored three events during the 2011-2012 teaching year.

On Saturday, September 17, Sarah Reaser O'Brien presented a workshop at Bluefield College, entitled "Using the Internet to Enhance Your Studio". Five teachers and four students attended the workshop, which included information on how to use www.musicteachershelper.com to create a personalized studio website and organize the business side of music teaching, information on creating a studio page on Facebook, and instructions for creating a YouTube channel and uploading student performance videos so that parents and students can view them privately.

Sarah Reaser O'Brien's Biographical Information:

Sarah Reaser O'Brien holds a B.A. in Piano Performance from Hollins University, as well as the Certificate in Piano Teaching and Certificate in Arts Management, also from Hollins University. Her Academic Honors & Scholarships include the First Faculty Award, the Mary Garrett Lunsford Music Award, the Evelyn B. Bradshaw Award for Excellence, the Academic citation for biographical work on pianist Josef Hofmann (1876-1957), and the Peacock Music Scholarship. She is a member of the Roanoke Valley Music Teachers Association where she has served as President-elect (2004-2006), President (2006-2008), Immediate Past President (2008-2010), and Webmaster (2008- present). She is also a member of the Virginia Music Teachers Association where she serves as Secretary (2007-present). She is a member of the Music Teachers National Association and met the qualifications to become a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM) in 2006. Sarah maintains a large private piano studio in Salem, Virginia.

On Saturday, November 12, our annual Kelly Strickland Hymn Festival was held at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Wytheville. The purpose of this festival is to encourage students to participate in the music programs of their places of worship. Fifteen students representing four studios participated, and they performed hymns and hymn arrangements of their choice. This year's Hymn Festival was hosted by Catherine Valley.



On Tuesday, January 24, at 7:30 p.m., Dr. Lisa Withers presented a solo recital of pieces that evoke childhood memories. The recital, "Scenes from Childhood," was held in Memorial Chapel at Emory and Henry College.

Our annual Master Class, originally scheduled for Saturday March 24, had to be rescheduled due to conflicts.

On Saturday, April 28, our annual Ribbon Festival was held at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Wytheville. Twenty-three students performed a variety of solo pieces in the style of their choice by memory. Each student received an award ribbon for participation in this event. This year's Ribbon Festival was hosted by Catherine Valley. Participating Blue Ridge members were Ellen Corbett (Marion), Bryant and Lisa Moxley (Bluefield), Melody Payne (Marion), and Catherine Valley (Wytheville).

Our year-end business meeting date and time are TBA, but will be held in June. Agenda items include evaluating the 2011-2012 teaching year, planning the events of the 2012-2013 teaching year, and updating our new website, located at www.blueridge.musicteachershelper.com.

2011-2012 Officers:

Dr. Melody Payne, NCTM, President
Catherine Valley, Vice President
Dr. Lisa Withers, Secretary/Treasurer

We currently have 6 active members and 2 retired members.

Respectfully submitted by Melody Payne.