



August 30, 2011

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I trust this finds you all rested and having had a wonderful summer! I am sure you are all busy working on scheduling and getting ready to start the new semester. The SLAMTA board met over the summer and we have planned an exciting year of programming ahead. Sincere thanks go to **Jennifer Spohr, V.P. for programming**, for all her efforts in organizing a wonderful and exciting year. As always we rely on your attendance at our SLAMTA functions for them to be a success. A brochure with the dates and programs will be available at the opening meeting. They will also be posted on-line on the SLATMA website. Please note that you need to add Christy Hacay (our corresponding secretary) to your address list in order to avoid the newsletters going to your spam.

I look forward to seeing you at our joint opening meeting on **Wednesday, September 7th at 10:00 a.m.** at Steinway Gallery. Scott McBride Smith will be our guest and he will be talking on the following topics:

Scott McBride Smith

Musical Punctuation and the Art of Interpretation: We all know what *down and up* means, but let's play as if there were only *up, up, up!*

James Levine, televised rehearsal of *La Traviata* on PBS

Dynamics, tone quality, pedal...these are essential parts of a convincing interpretation. But are you spending enough time teaching your students about the subtleties of note grouping? do they breathe in the right places? are beats arranged convincingly? what does a slur really mean, anyway?

Preparing for Competitions: What are Judges Really Looking For?

Judges...results...verdicts...the very words create a feeling of dread in some students. It doesn't have to be that way! With proper preparation, ample rehearsal and a positive attitude, competition participation can be a rewarding part of every student's learning.

Both topics are very relevant for us and I am sure we will gain much insight as a result.

I would also like to thank Dr. Cathy Benton, MMTA President-elect, for organizing the MMTA conference in St. Louis this past June. We certainly appreciate her hard work and enjoyed the lectures, presentations and performances very much.

We have two vacant positions on the SLAMTA board – we are looking for members to fill the following positions:

1. Hospitality Chair
2. Advertising

Neither position requires a lot of your time and would provide a wonderful opportunity to become involved and meet other SLAMTA members. **Please contact Lauren Di Bisceglie at 314.791-0592** to volunteer your services . We will be making calls if no-one comes forward☺

Please be sure to check the SLAMTA website for information, announcements and updates. Please go to <http://slamta.org/>

Looking forward to welcoming you all at the opening meeting!

Musically yours,
Lauren Di Bisceglie
SLAMTA President

