

From the Editorial Committee

New Horizons

With a new school year approaching, the *MTNA e-Journal* begins with some changes in the coming year. Our outgoing Editorial Committee members, Andrew Hisey (Committee Chair 2013–2017), Linda Christensen, Vanessa Cornett, Andrea McAllister and Stephen Pierce deserve recognition and thanks for



Linda Essick Cockey, NCTM

their hard work and input over the last several years. A special thank you to Andrew Hisey for all his years of dedication. Each of these members contributed to the journal in unique ways, and their diligence helped to pull this journal forward. In Andy's last editorial, he spoke of the beginnings of the *e-Journal* as fulfilling "a need for musicians and teachers who pursue research" during a time when there are many advanced degrees in piano pedagogy and in other pedagogical/musical areas. With a new season on the horizon the *e-Journal* continues to look for authors who are interested in writing about their research and sharing it in a scholarly way. We encourage new authors along with faculty mentors to write what they are passionate about.

The two articles in this issue are both about piano playing, and they each utilize an interdisciplinary team of researchers (pedagogues, pianists and/or medical professionals). Interestingly, each of their investigations employs a camera to view and analyze pianists.

The first article "Assessing Injury Risk In Pianists: Using Objective Measures To Promote Self-Awareness" is co-authored by one of our newest editorial committee members, Paola Savvidou, along with Brad Willis; Mengyuan Li; and Marjorie Skubic.

Their premise is to help teachers find a new way to develop kinesthetic awareness of hand positions in their students by viewing their hands via a Microsoft Kinect depth camera as well as exploring each pianists' own perception of their techniques. While explaining the results of this study, the authors incorporate helpful and healthful tips on hand position basics that readers will find useful in their own studios and practices.

In the second article, "The Pedagogical Value of Enjoyment In The Classical Piano Studio—A Research Report On A Transdisciplinary Study," the authors William Westney, Cynthia M. Grund, James Yang, Aimee Cloutier, Jesse Latimer, Michael O'Boyle, Dan Fang and Jiancheng Hou use fMRI brain scanning to explore two different types of pianists—one control group playing for "enjoyment" and another group playing for "correct" notes. The authors advocate a teaching approach that incorporates "natural and beautiful movements" rather than micromanaging a teaching studio with an over-kill of exact directions. They promote effortless and healthy self-coordination.

These two articles were chosen as *MTNA e-Journal* articles of the year for 2015 and 2016 respectfully. Their findings are interesting, and they are fascinating reads with concrete and healthy teaching ideas. Both articles

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Nebraska: Valerie Cisler, NCTM
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focus on intermediate repertoire that is accessible to readers. As I have re-read these articles, I cannot stop thinking of what Otto Ortman in the 1920s would have done with this equipment and these teams when he was researching for his book *The Physiological Mechanics of Piano Technique*.

Finally, I wish to welcome our new editorial committee members Michelle Conda, Susanna Garcia, John Ellis, Jody Graves and Paola Savvidou, as well as our continuing and valued member, Pamela Pike. I look forward to working with each of them as we branch out to new horizons and new authors.

—Linda Essick Cockey, NCTM,
Editorial Committee Chair

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