

Music Education Network for - The Visually Impaired - *An International Coalition of Parents, Educators, and Students*

- MENVI Headquarters -

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M E N V I Journal

- Journal article links now on our website; Music Camps; ensemble music for fun -

JOURNAL ARTICLES LISTING PROJECT

MENVI newsletters and journals began long ago in 1997. All are available on our site, however it is not unusual for someone to be looking for a particular subject for a research project, or simply to be searching for a subject of special interest. The daunting task of compiling all titles for contributed articles and various other subject headings has been on our minds for many years; it has now become a reality! Thanks to our Webmaster and his team of online helpers, members and the public at large will now be able to access links to a list of subjects, article titles, and most primary information contained in our periodicals dating back to 1997 beginning with Issue No. 1. Go to: www.menvi.org/article_listings.html or simply click on “article subject listings” anywhere that it appears on the site itself.

JOURNALS TO GO THREE TIMES A YEAR

Our MENVI Advisory Committee was recently asked to vote on two very important issues: (1) Should the new article & subject titles listing on our website contain *all* titles and subjects, or should it contain only formal titles by contributing authors and the editor? (2) Would three periodical publications per year as opposed to four be approved in order to reduce costs and work load?

With respect to article listings, the vote was somewhat divided, so we have decided to compromise, in that subtitles and unnecessary subject lines will be removed, leaving only that

which will maintain the history and subject information.

With respect to three issues as opposed to the current four, all were in favor of reducing our journals to three times per year. Be sure that you review your preferences as to print, braille, email, or subscription in order to assure proper delivery.

Remember that MENVI advisors are all blind musicians, teachers, students, and specialists. Our thanks go to our Advisory Committee in representing your voice, as the members remain the real directors of the network.

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ARTICLES FROM OUR MEMBERS

Following is a fine article that resulted from an energetic exchange recently conducted on our MENVI discussion list. Be sure to subscribe to the list, if you are not already doing so

Music Camps and Summer Programs

Compiled by David Goldstein,
National Resource Center for Blind Musicians,
Bridgeport CT www.blindmusicstudent.org

Music camp—the words bring a thrill. Children and parents yearn for a place where music can be made, not just between school and other activities, but nearly all the time; a place where there are sure to be others with compatible interests. The number of music camps for blind people is small, but the good news is that there are more than there used to be. Each has a different emphasis, catering for people at different ages and levels, and with different goals. MENVI takes seriously the responsibility of informing members about camps. The

list below is incomplete, but we hope it's enough to get you started or provide the impetus for getting more going.

Braille Beats, Lions Bear Lake, Lapeer, Michigan - Dates for 2012, June 16-24: For ages 9 to young adult, plus post-secondary students at the college or career level: The program offers a structured week in the fine arts, covering not only music, but creative movement for spatial awareness and flexibility, sculpture, and opportunities encouraging independence. Music classes include theory, physics of sound, notation, including braille music, technology, building good practice skills, ensembles and individual instruction. Opportunities abound for displaying talents at concerts and art events. www.braillebeats.com

Camps at Schools for the Blind: Schools for the blind often run music programs, sometimes combined with activities to develop career awareness and independence skills. The model for this year is surely the North Dakota Vision Services/School for the Blind's program to be held over four days in July. The program will be run by Natasha Thomas, the school's Music Therapist and Braille Music Specialist, with special assistance from Bill McCann of *Dancing Dots*, and tailored towards students 4th Grade and up who are actively participating in their school's Band or Choir programs. General instruction on the Braille Music Code will be offered, with particular attention paid to the differences between print and Braille music, adaptations and technology available for interpreting music in either medium, and providing opportunities for students to practice advocating for their needs through scheduled interactions with other area performers and educators throughout the camp. Contact Natasha Thomas at natthom@nd.gov.

Summer Braille Music Institute, Overbrook School for the Blind, July 15-21: Sponsored by the National resource center, this claims to be an academic program and not a camp, nevertheless it has cookouts, swimming, and new friends talking into the night. This is for college-bound students—high school juniors and seniors, or students already in college needing to develop the skills and strategies for reading and writing music with special regard to preparing for music theory courses. Group and individual instruction covers braille music for sight reading, taking down melodic dictation, and reading pieces for one's instrument; writing out notation in print music using Lime Aloud from *Dancing Dots*; and theory,

whether the basics, or specifics covered in syllabus of the upcoming college course. Opportunities abound for meeting fellow blind musicians and mentors and exploring resources and technology. MENVI members take note—we may have intern positions open for sighted teachers, who are looking to help out, observe, and take knowledge home to their own students. Contact David Goldstein at info@blindmusicstudent.org or read the brochure at www.blindmusicstudent.org/summer_institute_current_brochure.htm

Berklee College of Music, special laboratory course on assistive music technology for blind students: This course explores digital audio workstations using Sonar, notation using Sibelius, and Braille music using GOODFEEL. It is held in conjunction with the school's world famous Berklee Five-Week Summer Performance Program, the largest, most comprehensive summer music program available anywhere. The "five-week" attracts more than a thousand musicians from around the world. With its diversity of study options, world-class Berklee faculty, visiting artists, and state-of-the-art facilities, is the premiere contemporary music summer program for young musicians. Blind students coming for the laboratory course have exposure to all of this, plus the excitement of being in the midst of music life in the vibrant heart of Boston. Contact Bob Mulvey at bmulvey@Berklee.edu

How to Locate Other Music Camps: Contact your state commission, school for the blind, Lighthouse, AER and Lions chapters; search on Google and ask on the listservs. Check the web site of the Northeast Regional Center for Vision Education, www.nercve.umb.edu, which has announced programs in the past.

For those who can't get to camp but want to use the summer for serious music study, bear in mind that several organizations and individuals offer distance-learning opportunities both for students studying independently and teachers. Some new and exciting offerings are around the corner. I will be glad to help you explore the options if you e-mail me at info@blindmusicstudent.org

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TEACHING EARLY PIANO FORMATS TO A BLIND STUDENT ... Continued

Article adapted from CTEBVI Journal (formerly CTEVH), Spring 2010 – with permission

CTEBVI stands for *California Transcribers and Educators of the Blind and Visually Impaired*. It is open for membership to all who are interested in the educational welfare of blind individuals. www.ctebvi.org

ENSEMBLE MUSIC WITH GROUP TEACHING

In last issue I presented a trio work by Stephanie Pieck. In most music braille teaching situations, you will find students who may play different instruments, but are using the piano as a reading and learning tool. They may or may not ever study the piano as a solo instrument, but will always depend upon it as a “workbench” on which to learn or facilitate music for their chosen instrument or voice.

There is no better preparation for a blind student in eventual school orchestra and band participation than group work using the keyboard for music reading *rehearsals*.

Following is a trio piece written for a little blind girl who had the wonderful opportunity of making a trip to the country of Wales with her family. When she returned, all of her classmates at SCCM asked her: “*Janie, did you see any whales there?*” The following week the class was presented with this little composition.

JANIE’S WHALES

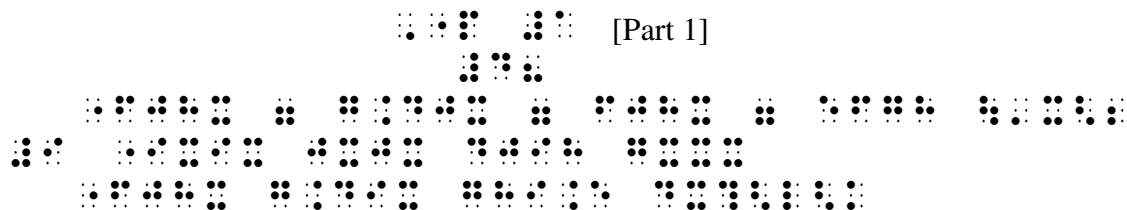
Very slowly

Music by Richard Taesch

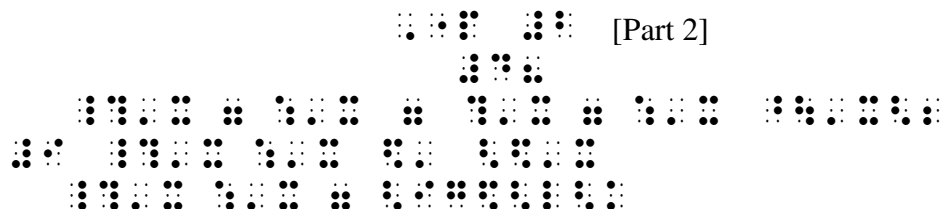
The musical score for 'Janie's Whales' is presented in four systems, each with three staves (treble, bass, and a lower bass staff). The music is in 4/8 time and marked 'Very slowly'. The first system (measures 1-4) features a simple melody in the treble clef and a bass line in the lower bass clef. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the melody and bass line. The third system (measures 9-12) introduces a new melodic phrase. The fourth system (measures 13-16) concludes the piece with a final melodic phrase and a sustained bass note. The score is written in a clear, legible format suitable for teaching.

For Part 1, by simply moving the five-finger position one key up or down to place the thumb on the starting note of each measure (1-8), your student can easily read and play the part simultaneously.

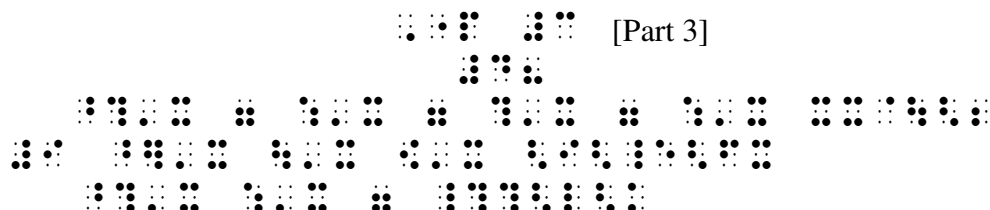
[Part 1]



[Part 2]



[Part 3]



To be continued ...

Is your membership roster information up to date?

Be sure to fill out an updated application online, or ask Jared to fax one to you

ANNOUNCEMENTS / REMINDERS

Membership Rosters

Be sure to verify your member contact information, as new rosters are now available. When you see names in the roster listings with no addresses or emails, it usually means that someone forgot to update. Changes can ONLY be implemented when an update application is filled out: go to www.menvi.org. Need to contact the Webmaster for online service or a hard copy? Call toll-free at: **866-824-7876**

ONLINE WEBMASTER INFORMATION

Jared Rimer
MENVI Webmaster
866-824-7876 toll-free or 818-921-4976
Jacob Sexton Assistant Webmaster
877-806-3254 toll-free
E-mail the web team at: contact@menvi.org

Membership Rosters are now available for fall 2011 - 2012

Come join the action with a subscription to the MENVI discussion list! All registered members are eligible to subscribe.

MENVI Specialists Committee

Band Music/Director - Rick Coates,

Band & Music Technology - The Governor
Morehead School - **rick.coates@esdb.nc.gov**

Braille Piano Music Library Resources - Stephanie Pieck, Concert Pianist; Braille Music Instructor for New York Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped **themusicsuite@verizon.net**

Braille Music Textbooks and Formats - Ed Godfrey, Braille Program Assistant, Washington Talking Book and Braille Library, Seattle - **ed@wtbbl.org**

College/University Disabled Student Services -

1. Jeff Senge, Cal State University, Fullerton
jsenge@exchange.fullerton.edu
2. Mary Ann Cummins-Prager, Cal State University,
Northridge - CSUN
mary.ann.cummins-prager@csun.edu

Electronic Music and VI Computer Music Arts - David Pinto, VI Computer Composition - **info@ouramb.org**

Large Print - Joan Hudson-Miller, Consultant - *Library Reproduction Service (LRS)* - **lrsjhm@aol.com**

Music Transcriber Training and Certification - Karen Gearreald, Braille Music Advisor/Instructor for The Library of Congress, Washington DC - **karen118@cox.net**

National Braille Association - Lawrence Smith, former Chairman - NBA Music Committee - **musicbrl@earthlink.net**

Postsecondary Braille Music Literacy & Advocacy -

Valerie Gaer-Sandler M.M., Postsecondary Education
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Professional Transcriber Software and Technology -

Robert Stepp, President of Computer Application
Specialties Company (*ED-IT PC; Braille 2000*)

Student Certification (Practical/Theory Examinations) -

Grant Horrocks, L.A. Chair - Los Angeles
Examination Center (formerly RCM); SCCM Piano
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VI Computer Assisted Technology

1. Sam Flores, President of Opus Technologies
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2. William McCann, President of Dancing Dots
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MENVI ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Bill McCann

Jared Rimer (MENVI Webmaster)

Stephanie Pieck

Jacob Sexton (Assistant Webmaster)

Robert Smith

Maureen Carole Young

Dedicated to Bettye Krolick – a friend and mentor to so many:

“To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.”

– Ralph Waldo Emerson*

*Discovered by my wife, Sharon (Sandy) Taesch, circa 1975 [R.T.]