

Why Certify???

My son, Cameron, is 20 years old and is a sophomore in college. His PASSION is golf, and his dream is to become a professional golfer. Now, you have to understand that NO ONE in my family, nor my husband's family, is a golfer. We are musicians and teachers—we teach piano. But golf?? NO!! Cameron, however, took to golf by the age of three: he was using plastic clubs and hitting plastic balls all over our yard, and of course, into the neighbor's yard as well (my years of fence-climbing are over, thankfully!). By the time Cameron was seven, we realized that this was getting pretty serious and we decided to look for his first teacher, or more appropriately: golf coach.

Finding a highly qualified golf coach is similar to finding a qualified piano teacher: we wanted a coach that had gone through the PGA certification, one who had their credentials certified through the PGA and who was an excellent teacher. We eventually found the right coach for him, one that met all of our expectations. As Cameron has continued with his career in golf, we have changed coaches, but each time, we have always reached out to find a coach that is certified through the PGA.

Since I am not a golfer, I found it quite interesting to study the PGA web page regarding their certification process. Interestingly, being certified by and through the PGA holds major credibility—just as certification through MTNA. The PGA has specific areas of specialization, such as teaching and coaching, player development, golf operations, and general management. In addition, within the PGA, the “Certified Professional Program” boasts a detailed outline of projects that must be completed to garner certification, and each is a step-by-step process that is evaluated and eventually endorsed for the certification. The PGA wants their members to be certified and offers every opportunity for individuals to achieve this status.

MTNA offers the opportunity for any music teacher to become certified through a step-by-step process. Like the PGA, MTNA's program is organized and easy to follow, and MTNA **wants** their members to achieve certification status: being a certified teacher shows the community at large how important it is to be professional, and to be endorsed by a national organization as a quality teacher. Like the PGA, the MTNA certification program features projects that are explained and set forth in a methodical manner and is easy to understand. Certification candidates follow this step-by-step process which leads to the submission of their portfolio for consideration.

Just as we searched for a certified and qualified PGA coach for Cameron, today's parents are also shopping for a certified and qualified music teacher. Why would they expect anything less? In today's society, the demand for quality and qualified teachers is at a premium. I encourage any and all teachers to take the leap of faith and get certified through MTNA! There is nothing to lose, but a whole lot to gain!

Go fore it!