

Affiliate of the North Carolina Music Teachers Association

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RALEIGH PIANO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

From the President

November Is Here!

Oh my! How did it get to be November? The flurry of the many fall activities has ushered in November without a lot of preparation from me! It's time to regroup and get the next two months whipped into action! I hope this finds you having rich memories from your October festivities.

I can tell you that the 2016 NCMTA FALL CONFERENCE was fabulous! It had all the touchstones of amazing student performances, insightfully informative sessions, delicious meals with colleagues, and grateful times for networking. Our concert artist, Ann Schein, delivered an amazing recital program on Friday night and then spent the next two days sharing her abundant experience and knowledge with all of us. We were over the moon with her easy manner, her profound talent, and her challenges she brought to the students in the masterclasses.

We were well represented at the conference with more than 25 of our members attending various portions of the weekend's musical smorgasbord. Wake Forest University and their faculty could not have welcomed us more! Peter Kairoff was our onsite host and prepared the way for Victoria Fischer-Faw, our president-elect and coordinator of the conference, to provide easy access to rooms, gathering spaces and performance halls. Kerry Carlin was an outstanding and gracious president in all of his responsibilities to us. WFU hopes that it won't be another 25 years before we have a conference on their campus again. I hope not either!

I want to make you aware of two programs that are being embraced and promoted by our state. As you know, our NCMTA Piano Contest is now called a Piano Performance Festival, which more clearly defines the event for everyone. Well, we have two more to add to our festival activities. We are going to also have a PIANO DUET PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL and a VOICE PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL. You can read about these two events in detail on the state website, www.ncmta.org, under Events and Registration. This can also be another opportunity to use the piano duet material your students are playing in our upcoming RPTA Ensemble Festival in February (there is no repertoire list for the state!). I believe you have to play on one piano, so duets, not duos are required. To all of our voice teachers, please look on the site to find the repertoire list that is recommended for your student entrants. And, by the way, you can enter your students in the piano and one of the other performance festivals.

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Monthly Meeting

Nov. 16, 2016

- 9:45, General Membership Business Meeting
- 10:45, Program: "The Technique of Technique" by Dr. Karen Allred

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Looking ahead...

November 6
Student Musicale

February 4-5
Ensemble Festival

February 11
Scholarship Auditions

February 25
NCMTA District Contest

March 10-11
Young Artist Auditions

March 18-22
MTNA National Conference
Baltimore, MD

April 23
Student Musicale

From the President, continued

Folks, if you have not planned to participate in our RPTA ensemble festival, I would reconsider! We can collaborate between studios and can mix and match pieces that best suit our students. We have found through the years that students get such a charge out of playing together and having the multiple-performer experience in a way that they have never had before. Kerry Henry and Tonya Kirk did a fabulous session on duets and had a great handout with duet repertoire, new and familiar. I'm sure they would pass that on to those who would welcome some fresh ideas for repertoire.

Happy teaching, practicing and performing. Let's make it a great month of motivational insights to learning with and caring for others. My wish for you.....*to find great joy through inspired teaching.*

My best to you,
Jeanine Skinner
President, Raleigh Piano Teachers Association

Ensemble Festival

IMPORTANT NOTE: New Location for Ensemble Festival, Feb. 4-5, 2017. Due to Meredith College's scheduled event on Sat. Feb. 4th, we were unable to have rehearsals on that day. The Ensemble Festival will be at:

Raleigh Vineyard Church, 6894 Litchford Rd., Raleigh (27615)
Directions are available at www.raleighvineyard.org

We are confident that this location will give our students a very enjoyable musical experience. More detail at the Nov. meeting.

The deadline for entering the Ensemble Festival is 12:00 pm on November 16th at our meeting or in the mail to Maxine Salvatore at 8200 Apple Orchard Way, Raleigh, NC 27615 (still on November 16th).

When we know how many entries we have, we'll be able to tell you what time your students will be performing. Please be very accurate when filling out your forms. We'd especially like to know the length and difficulty of your pieces. If you'd like to email the names of your pieces, send them to mdsalvatore@att.net.

I hope your ensembles are coming together nicely. If you still need students, check with other teachers and try to fill your groups.

Maxine Salvatore and Bonnie Walker, Ensemble Festival Chairs

NC MTNA Performance Competition Winner

Congratulations to Annie Wang, student of Florence Ko, for being named the alternate in the NC MTNA Senior Performance competition.

May our words be

dolce,

our hearts be

giocoso,

our spirits,

con fuoco,

and all our teaching,

con amore.

Young Artist Auditions

Dear Colleagues,

Here's the latest news on YAA. We have Bonnie Walker taking charge of the Composition component of YAA. Yeah! Chrissy Ricker is securing our judges for us, and is doing an amazing job!

I am in need of someone to be in charge of the grading room, specifically to help me prepare all things related to or necessary for the grading room. I have no idea how it is run or what exactly is needed for it. (I ran NCMTA Raleigh district for a few years, but it wasn't as involved as this event!) So, if you have spent a few years in the YAA grading room and know what's needed to set it up and get it ready, I need your expertise. Some of you have already volunteered to work in the grading room which I greatly appreciate.

I would like to open packets during the Christmas break. If you are interested in helping, drop me an email at debraheathpiano@yahoo.com. I think I have 2-3 spaces available for that job. I would like people who are experienced. I helped open packets once several years ago, so I need people who can teach me how to do it rather than me teaching them!

I am getting little emails and phone calls from people about jobs they would like to do. Please email me, rather than call, if there is something particular you want to do. I am making a spreadsheet with the jobs on it, and I will put your name in the appropriate slot for the job you want. I will bring the spreadsheet with me to the November meeting. I will also see about posting available jobs on the Yahoo group.

The YAA Guidelines are accurate except for the dates listed, and I think everybody knows that I have taken over as director of YAA. I should have the Guidelines updated this upcoming week. Last item (for now), please make sure you use the correct financial form when you prepare your paperwork. There are three financial forms: RPTA member, NCMTA member, and non-member. For YAA purposes, you are considered an RPTA member if you renewed your membership by July 1st this year.

Please let me know if you have questions or comments. Email is the best way to contact me: debraheathpiano@yahoo.com

Musically, Debbie Heath, NCTM, YAA Chair

Scholarship Auditions

Teachers planning to enter students in the Scholarship Auditions:

- Read guidelines in RPTA Yearbook on pages 20 to 24.
- Fill in all paperwork. (See Check List for Application on form.)
- Hand in the Entry and Financial Forms at January 18, 2017 RPTA meeting.
- All entries must be in by noon on January 18, 2017.

Kathleen Vockeroth, Scholarship Auditions Chair

Independent Music Teachers Forum

Please contact me if you have a teaching tip, game, book review, software review, etc. that you would like to share!

Also remember to send me the name of your favorite pedagogical websites and/or You Tube channels. I will put those links in the next newsletter!

We can learn so much from each other when we share our experiences!

Dottie Buster, Independent Music Teachers Forum Chair

November Program

The program at the November meeting, "The Technique of Technique," will be presented by Dr. Karen Allred. Here is a note from Karen:

"I look forward to seeing you all on November 16! As the title of my talk suggests, I will not be teaching technique, rather, I will be sharing techniques of helping students improve a wide variety of concepts such as practicing, listening, and being aware of what's happening when they are working on technical and musical skills. I plan to share some of my teaching strategies and foster a discussion about what has worked for you all in your studios, and share what works for me with my students. It will not be a "how to play scales and arpeggios" discussion, rather, it will encompass interesting observations I notice when I am working with my students, particularly regarding how they are practicing. I will share what I observe when I hear students playing their scales and arpeggios, etc., but it won't be a how-to, per se, unless we want to open up that discussion together. I am happy to lead any discussion that we want to bring up about teaching our students and how they are practicing."

About Dr. Allred:

Dr. Karen Allred, pianist, NCTM, has appeared in solo and collaborative performances all over the US. She gave an all-Chopin solo program on a Pleyel-Wolff (1859) grand piano at the Ivan Tourgeniev Museum in Bougival, France, outside of Paris in 2008. Allred was a semi-finalist and an alternate in the National Beethoven Piano Sonata Competition in 1991 and 1993, and was awarded an Emerging Artist Grant in the area of piano performance from the City of Raleigh Arts Commission.

She is an active festival and master class clinician, adjudicator, and solo and collaborative recitalist, and maintains a private teaching studio in Chapel Hill, NC. Recent solo and collaborative performances include Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Raleigh Symphony Orchestra in October, 2013, Franck Sonata in A Major for Cello and Piano in April, 2014, solo performance, Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities concert series, Southern Pines, NC, April 3, 2016, and Brahms Piano Quintet on June 10, 2016 (private event). She resides on a small farm with her husband, three horses, three cats, and two dogs.