

RALEIGH PIANO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Monthly Meeting

Oct. 19, 2016

- 9:45, General Membership Business Meeting
- 10:45, Program: "How to Succeed in Music without Really Sleeping," presented by Jonathan Levin

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From the President

Autumn Inspirations

The weather is just perfect right now. Don't you find yourself lingering just a bit longer outside with neighbors, taking comfortable walks, stopping by a pop-up stand filled with pumpkins and apples of several varieties? I winsomely imagine a drive on a gorgeous curvy road with its limitless hues of red, gold and green dappled upon the landscape of silhouetted hills of the mountains in western North Carolina. As I sit on the deck in the backyard, I find myself completely amused while watching my new young puppy and my elderly, arthritic dog work out their cues for play time. I can feel the breeze, smell the fresh air, hear the rustle of the leaves and children playing, and see an occasional butterfly flit across my path. I feel blessed. I feel peace. And, I feel satisfaction. I'm ready to teach.

I find that October brings into focus the plans that have been put into place during September. We are hitting our stride with students' literature, their technical development is being sequenced and has purpose, and the fundamentals of keyboard theory, whether on a beginner or advanced level, are in full swing. This is the time that our students are learning the relationship of tone and touch, counting aloud and using a metronome, clapping out rhythms and singing the melody, analyzing chords and understanding form. How many times do we hear ourselves saying, "Don't forget to do hand separate practice and choose a modest tempo. Listen, try to avoid rushing. Voice the top notes, hear the melodic line. Let's see what this phrase would sound like if we shape it this way?" Or with another student it is "quarter-quarter-half-note, quar-ter-dot-eighth-half-note, whole-note-4-counts."

Whether we teach beginners, transfers, outstanding students, or hobbyists, they all deserve our very best. We have a better chance at being at our very best when we have opportunities to be inspired, to get sufficient rest, to allow time for some exercise or activities, and to plan our day in advance in anticipation of its challenges. It is unrealistic to think we can have that kind of day everyday but, perhaps, just maybe, we can average more "inspired" days than "perspired" days if we take time to inhale, laugh with our loved ones, and enjoy what October can bring to you and your students.

One of our most accessible opportunities to be inspired is just 3 weeks away. I want to beseech you to take advantage of our NCMTA State Conference in Winston-Salem, October 21-23. There will be something for everyone (and it is only 2 hours away). These conferences are like mini retreats for the piano teacher that is unique to our profession and to our total commitment to *excellence in all things*. Find new ways of teaching intermediate literature, review new music, network with your colleagues and savor the incredible sounds of music that fill all the halls with young and seasoned artists.

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Looking ahead...

October 21-23
NCMTA State Conference
Wake Forest University

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

“Why do you teach piano?”

Visit the Raleigh Piano Teachers Association Facebook group to share **your** answers to this question!

Let's share what inspires each of us as we head into a busy fall semester of teaching.

From the President, continued

Come let your minds be “fed” and your souls be “inspired.” Your students will reap the benefits and you will find your teaching has greater fervor and purpose. So, my wish for you this month is....

....to find great joy through your uniquely gifted talents, that you may then bring to each one of your students.

With great admiration,
Jeanine Skinner, DMA
President, Raleigh Piano Teachers Association

Certification

Here's a quick quiz to help you decide whether or not you might be a candidate for MTNA professional certification.

1. I am a piano teacher because:
 - A. I like the stickers.
 - B. I have a piano; it was my old auntie's and thank goodness she tuned it before she gave it to me.
 - C. My cat gets lonely if I leave the house.
 - D. I get a thrill every time a child learns something new.
2. I run my studio:
 - A. pretty poorly but thank goodness no one knows.
 - B. I don't know; I don't pay much attention to it.
 - C. What do you mean, "studio?"
 - D. Very professionally, and I'm proud of it.
3. When I have a student who isn't doing well, I:
 - A. shrug my shoulders and let it go--as long as I get my check.
 - B. Yell a lot.
 - C. What am I supposed to do? None of my students are doing well.
 - D. I work out a plan with the student and the parent, and I try many different approaches to improve the situation.

Now give yourself a score: 4 points for every "D" answer, -1 point for the other answers. If your score is above zero, you qualify for certification! See the MTNA Certification page <http://www.mtnacertification.org/certification-overview/> for more information.

If your score is -3, please get a new job!

For help, more information, or answers to your questions, see Debra Heath at meetings or by email: debraheathpiano@yahoo.com or Julie Gorka by email: practicealot@gmail.com.

Julie Gorka, NCTM, Certification Chair

NCMTA Composition Contest Winner

Congratulations to Alex McKeveny, student of Bonnie Walker, for being named Senior Division First Place Winner in the 2016 NCMTA Young Composers Contest!

Alex will perform his piano solo, "Capriccio in A Major", at the NCMTA State Conference on Sat., Oct. 22, 3:10 pm on the Young Composers Recital.

Ensemble Festival

The RPTA Ensemble Festival will be held February 4-5, 2017 in Jones Auditorium at Meredith College.

Here are some reminders from Bonnie and Maxine:

1. *In planning your ensemble selections* for the festival, try to fill as many performers' spots as possible and possibly co-ordinate with other teachers to do so. Maus Piano Company is donating the use of four grands.
2. *Time your selections* and enter the accurate time of each selection on your registration.
3. *Rehearsal in Jones Auditorium* will be Sat., Feb. 4, 2017, 11am -2pm.
4. *Store Rehearsals*: Be sure to read the guidelines carefully and rehearse stage directions at your rehearsals. Sign-up sheets for store rehearsals will be available at the October, November, and December meetings for Maus Piano, Ruggero Piano, and Hopper Piano. Dates will be the following *Saturdays* from 10am - 1pm: Dec. 17, 2016, January 7, 14, 21, 28, 2017.
5. *Any concerns or questions*, email Maxine Salvatore or Bonnie Walker.
6. *Entry fee* per Student is \$15. *Registration deadline* is Wed., Nov. 16th, at the RPTA meeting.

Bonnie Walker and Maxine Salvatore, Ensemble Festival Chairs

October Program, featuring Jonathan Levin

Hailed as "a pianist with a brain...a strategist who has the distant grasp" (Alan Walker), Jonathan Levin is quickly establishing a reputation as an enthusiastic and compelling advocate for classical music, creating integrated programs that garner closer connections with audiences through illuminating discussion and example.

Born in North Carolina, Jonathan made his debut with the Raleigh Symphony Orchestra when he was fifteen. Since then, he has become a sought after recitalist and soloist, performing throughout the country in concert halls, museums, universities, schools, libraries and private salons.

Jonathan is Artistic Director and Founder of [Clayton Piano Festival](#) in Clayton, NC which seeks to create accessible, educational, world-class concerts and music presentations that uniquely enrich the cultural life of the area. The festival, which presented its 5th anniversary season of concerts, public classes, school outreach and other community events in the fall of 2016, aims to bridge the gap between performer and audience, bringing classical piano music to people of all ages and levels of exposure to the arts.

As a lecturer/performer, Jonathan's presentations and remarks on music have been described as "cogent and insightful" and "right on the money" (Classical Voice of North Carolina). His recent presentations have included programs devoted to single composers, including Liszt, Chopin, and Schumann and have illustrated the defining features of the composers, their influences, and personalities.

October Program, continued

“How to be Successful in Music without Really Sleeping,” featuring Jonathan Levin

Jonathan shares excerpts of his new program, American Portraits, which captures glimpses of America through an eclectic mix of music from classics of the last century to modern day masterpieces. Through introducing this program, which chronicles some of his foremost influences over the past few years, he discusses some of the musical and career insights that have guided his unique musical journey. Included are works by living composers George Walker, Mark Stambaugh, virtuosic solo arrangements by Jonathan Levin based on tunes from the Great American Songbook by Rogers and Hart, Jerome Kern and Cole Porter and more.

Independent Music Teachers Forum

We will start back with teaching tips at our October meeting. 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, IMTF Chair

Third Annual Paderewski Festival of Raleigh

The Third Annual Paderewski Festival of Raleigh will take place in November 2016. The Festival honors Ignacy Jan Paderewski, Polish pianist, who played in Raleigh four times and had personal friends here. The Third Festival features four performances by noted European and American pianists. All have been winners in notable competitions. They represent a wide range in geography and stage of career.

November 5: Saint Mary's School, Smedes Parlor, 3:00pm

Artem Yasynskyy, Ukraine -- <http://www.artemyasynskyy.com/#!home-eng/c1n0x>

November 6: N.C. Museum of History, Daniels Auditorium, 3:00pm

Jean Dubé, France -- <http://www.jeandubepiano.org/Welcome.html>

November 12: N.C. Museum of Art, Auditorium, 3:00pm

Alexia Mouza, Greece/Venezuela -- <https://www.google.com> ("Alexia Mouza"--several pages)

November 13: N.C. Museum of Art, Auditorium, 2:00pm

Janusz Olejniczak, with violinist Paulina Sokolowska, Poland-- <https://jolejniczak.wordpress.com/>

In addition to the four concerts, a special showing of Roman Polanski's 2002 film **The Pianist** has been scheduled at the historic *The Cary* theater on East Chatham Street, Cary, at 1:30pm on November 11, 2016. Janusz Olejniczak provided the piano soundtrack and the keyboard sequences for this triple Academy Award winning film.

For more information visit: www.paderewski-festival.org and <https://www.facebook.com/paderewskifestivalraleigh/>