

RALEIGH PIANO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Monthly Meeting:

April 19, 2017

- 9:45, General Membership Business Meeting
- 10:45, Program: "152 Teaching Strategies for Efficient and Effective Teaching," presented by Dr. Julie Knerr

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From the President

April Showers of Blessings

It is so good to be a musician at this time of year! We have the budding of the trees and flowers that provide color, fragrance and shape to our landscape. And at the same time, a student who you have been "feeding" with such "enriching fertilizer" begins their own "budding" with color, with expression, and with maturity. I love hearing the results of our arduous, though sometimes tedious, work that finally makes it to the point of pleasure, the point of pure joy, and the moment when you see that student beam with inner pride at what they have accomplished.

I feel like it has been FOREVER since we last met together. So much has happened since mid-February! Our District and State NCMTA Performance Festivals have, or will have happened before our next meeting; as well as, our own fabulous Young Artist Auditions. They were beautifully coordinated by Debra Heath with outstanding performances by your students both during the auditions and at our honors recitals. Many students have sent thank you notes to us with the most precious comments about what placing in the auditions meant to them. I will be sure to have them out on the square piano for you to read at our next meeting.

It was with great pride that I represented you at the MTNA Conference this March in Baltimore. Being one of the grassroots leaders attending this conference puts even more purpose to experiencing the conference's success on a national level. The unique sharing of ideas that ensues, the serendipitous networking with fellow musicians from all 50 states, and the learning in outstanding visionary sessions feeds your mind and soul in such a way that leaves you thirsting for more. Ladies and gentlemen, we all play an interconnected role in the lives of each of our students. We are part of the lineage of music teachers and performers that goes back to before the pianoforte was invented! We are a collection and conduit to these students through all that we have learned, all that we have experienced and all that we have innately understood. When we as teachers have renewable opportunities to freshen up our ideas and to receive, instead of give all the time, it is incumbent upon us to attend workshops, meetings and conferences so that we can continue to foster and promote the musical pipeline of our heritage, appreciation and artistry afforded to us.

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Looking ahead...

April 8
NCMTA State Performance
Festival

April 19
Monthly Meeting

April 23
Student Musicales

May 17
Monthly Meeting and Tea

From the President, continued

I am looking forward to seeing you and being with you at our next meeting, April 19th. You won't want to miss this outstanding teacher, publisher, and clinician who is traveling a significant distance to be with us. Please give Julie Knerr a wonderful Raleigh "Safari" welcome.

Wishing you great joy through inspired teaching.....

I remain musically yours,
Jeanine Skinner
President, RPTA

Independent Music Teachers Forum

Happy Spring Recital Season! Do you have a teaching tip that might help our students as they prepare for end of year recitals? As I have mentioned previously, I think that recording a student's recital piece is so helpful. It is one of the best ways to raise their awareness and get them to really listen to the sound that they are producing. Most of my students can record themselves with their phones or their parents' phones – it is so easy!

If you have a tip concerning recital preparedness or ANY aspect of teaching, please share it!

Renee McKee will be sharing a teaching tip at our next meeting. I look forward to hearing her ideas!

If you have a teaching tip that you would like to share at a meeting or in the newsletter, please email me at dottie.buster@gmail.com

Thanks!

Dottie Buster, Independent Music Teachers Forum Chair

May our words be

dolce,

our hearts be

giocoso,

our spirits,

con fuoco,

and all our teaching,

con amore.



Concert at Saint Mary's

Saint Mary's Smedes Parlor Series is presenting a "Special Series Event" on Sunday, April 9 at 4 pm in Smedes-Emory Parlor on front campus of the school. The address is 900 Hillsborough Street, in downtown Raleigh.

The program will feature Piano Trios by Brahms and Smetana. Performers include the renowned Edward Arron, cello; Robert McDonald, piano, distinguished pianist and teacher at Juilliard School of Music and the Curtis Institute; and well-known violinist Ara Gregorian of East Carolina School of Music and Director of the Festival.

Tickets may be purchased at the door or online at www.ecu.edu/fourseasons

Terry Thompson



April Program, presented by Dr. Julie Knerr

April's program will be presented by Dr. Julie Knerr, co-creator of the Piano Safari method.

A note from Dr. Knerr:

"As teachers, we are always striving to hone our craft in order to provide engaging and interesting lessons and to help our students grow in their music skills. Our students are not the only ones who should practice! We can become better teachers by practicing new teaching strategies and adding them to our teacher toolbox. This workshop will feature a portion of the 152 Teaching Strategies for Efficient and Effective Teaching. "

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April Program, continued

Dr. Julie Knerr teaches piano at her home studio in Windsor, Connecticut. She is coauthor, with Katherine Fisher, of the Piano Safari Method.

Julie taught applied piano, piano pedagogy, and group piano as a faculty member at the University of Missouri, Oklahoma City University, Ohio University, and the Hartt Community Music School.

Julie holds a PhD in Music Education with an Emphasis in Piano Pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma, where her dissertation on elementary level piano technique was nominated for the Best PhD Dissertation Award in 2006. Additional degrees include MM degrees in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where Dr. Knerr studied piano and harpsichord; and a BM in Piano Performance from the University of Puget Sound. Her mentors in Piano Pedagogy include Jane Magrath, Barbara Fast, Christos Tsitsaros, and Reid Alexander.

Julie is a frequent adjudicator at festivals and competitions throughout the United States. Her current research interests include elementary level piano technique, lesser known pre-college piano repertoire, and group piano pedagogy.

Congratulations to MTNA National Competition Winner



Congratulations to Timothy Jones, who won first place in the National Competition at the MTNA Conference in Baltimore.

Timothy Jones is pictured here with his current teacher, Marion Hahn, and former teacher, RPTA member Brenda Bruce.