

RALEIGH PIANO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Monthly Meeting

April 18, 2018

- 9:45, General Membership Business Meeting
- 10:45, Program: "Jeno Takacs: Pianist, Composer, Mentor," presented by Tom Mann

Inside this issue:

From the President, cont.	2
Independent Music Teachers Forum	3
Upcoming Concerts	3
April Program	4
May Teacher Musicales	4

From the President

Blooming Where Planted

As I begin this article, I reflect on the joys of spring renewal and promise. The unseasonably cool temperatures this year seem to be in stark contrast to the beautiful landscape of color that dapples our view as we look out our windows, drive down our streets and take brisk walks in our neighborhoods. Budding trees, blooming flowers, chirping birds and nature's ground cover are coming alive to welcome us to enjoy its bounty. I believe we are privileged to live in a section of the country where we experience all of the seasons. It certainly guides our senses, our activities and our motivations, doesn't it? I was born and reared in SC but I do love my adopted state of North Carolina!

Kudos to all students, teachers and parents who made the Young Artist Auditions a resounding success! The organizational aspects of the event on March 9-10 were impressive as we circulated approximately 2000+ people (students, teachers, parents, siblings) through the halls of Meredith College within an 8-9 hour time span. Your greetings, monitoring, registering, feeding, tabulating and reporting were managed with remarkable tenacity and grace. Many, many thanks go to Debra Heath! Her planning and execution of this event allowed us to enjoy the successes of our students as they performed and received comments and certificates. Those who won awards and performed on the honors recitals represented the brilliant teaching you are all doing day by day, hour by hour, and one on one. Keep up the good work!

And if February and March were not enough, we are all reaching our stride by this point in the spring. We have planned, are planning and will plan many productive ways to feature the best in our students. Your training, your experience and your wisdom are assets that you should be sure to put on full display during this time. Don't be too modest. Strut your stuff and show your "music family" what you're made of! If you like tradition, make the most of a formal recital with flowers, elegant programs, a concert dress code and a fun reception. Or, if you like to think "outside the box" perhaps, make performance time casual, themed, and/or interactive. What if you asked the guests and students to write something complimentary about each student's performance? What if the students commented on why they enjoyed learning one of the pieces they are playing? You could pass comments on to the students the week after the recital to give them a positive sense of accomplishment.

Continued on page 2...

Looking ahead...

April 18
Monthly Meeting and
Program, Carswell

April 29, 3 pm
Student Musicale, Carswell

May 16
Monthly Meeting and
Teacher Musicale, Carswell

From the President, continued

Conversational afterglow can reinforce the success and growth that elevates the value of the student's performance experience. You can put a positive spin on even the most "uncomfortable" moments of someone's performance. We all grow from the ups and downs of success. There are a myriad of ideas you could incorporate. Don't always do the same "ole" thing every time....mix it up! Take care to be mindful of your timetable, however. My rule of thumb is to keep the recitals within a 75 – 90 minute block. Scheduling 2 or more recitals may be an answer to a 3-hour marathon of Beethoven, Chopin, and Faber! Avoid restlessness as much as you can. Let's aim to develop the love of making and listening to music.

My experience as your representative at the recent annual MTNA Conference in Orlando was insightful and enlightening. I had the privilege to be part of two meetings that related directly to local association presidents and state presidents in our Southern Division. The discussions in the local presidents' meeting allowed us to share our needs, our likes and dislikes and our challenges. Several expressed concern that the new MTNA website was not as intuitive to navigate as they had hoped it would be. It was suggested that a webinar on how to access links more easily on the website would be helpful. Presidents attending spoke up regarding some of the dated ways that information is disseminated to us, particularly to the membership chairs. There were presidents who were frustrated about the lack of willingness on the part of their membership to take leadership roles for activities such as festivals, recitals, and program planning. I found that we are one of the lucky groups in that RPTA (of those that were attending) not only has eager volunteerism and leadership, but it is among the top local organizations nationwide with a very vital and substantial membership. Many local organizations are struggling and members are having to drive countless miles to network and collaborate with each other. I am proud to know that we are meeting the needs of our teaching community here in the Raleigh area. (As an aside, let me share with you that Diane Blanchard will be the new MTNA liaison to local associations throughout the US starting next year. We are very blessed to have one of our own in leadership on the national level!)

I look forward to sharing more of my experiences with you at our April meeting and will pass along teaching tips and ideas that you may enjoy incorporating into your studio. So, let's get on with the music making. Give your students all the resources they need to stand head and shoulders above and beside those who excel and achieve...teach them to listen for the *music* of their hearts and minds. Enjoy your *budding* musicians as they *bloom where they are planted*. I wish for you abundant resources and inspirational teaching,

My abiding admiration,
Jeanine Skinner, DMA
President, Raleigh Piano Teachers Association

May our words be

dolce,

our hearts be

giocoso,

our spirits,

con fuoco,

and all our teaching,

con amore.

Independent Music Teachers Forum

This month, I have a "Question of the Month" submitted by Pamela Tsai:

"With traditional calendar, year round track outs, and varying private schools all on different schedules, how do you handle breaks and still get one for yourself? What do you do with students who want to take breaks when you really aren't on one?"

Please email me your thoughts/solutions to this dilemma. My email address is:

dottie.buster@gmail.com

I will share your answers at the April meeting and in the next newsletter.

Thank you in advance for sharing your wisdom and experience!!

Dottie Buster, IMTF Chair

Upcoming Concerts

Sunday, April 22nd at 3 pm: Piano Duet Music

Please join us for the final concert of the 2017-2018 Classical Concert Series at the Halle Cultural Arts Center in Apex! Our program, "Once Upon a Time: Duets That Capture the Imagination" will feature piano duet music by Grieg, Saint-Saens, Faure, and Ravel.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for students. For more information, visit <http://thehalle.org/1036/2017-2018-Classical-Concert-Series>

Chrissy Ricker and Morgan Butzow

Sunday, May 6th at 3 pm: Ravel's Piano Concerto in G

Dear friends and colleagues,

You are invited to a performance of Maurice Ravel's colorful, delightful, and fascinating Piano Concerto in G.

On Sunday, May 6 at 3:00, the Raleigh Symphony Orchestra and I will be performing it in Jones Auditorium on the Meredith College campus. It would be my honor to share this great music with you! I'd love to see you there.

Margaret Evans

Find RPTA on the Web:

www.raleighpianoteachers.org

www.ncmta.org

www.mtna.org

Yahoo Groups: Raleigh Piano Teachers

Facebook: Raleigh Piano Teachers

April Program

Our program for this month will take place on April 18th in Carswell Auditorium, Meredith College.

“Jeno Takacs: Pianist, Composer, Mentor,” presented by Tom Mann

Through stories, humor, videos, and performances, Tom Mann will introduce us to his teacher and mentor, Jeno Takacs. Takacs was a friend of Bela Bartok and a composer of works for children through advanced pianists. Tom will focus on music that is available and accessible for students by this lesser-known composer and share fascinating tales from his years working with Takacs.

About the presenter...

Teacher, pianist, and composer Tom Mann holds a MM in Piano Performance and Bachelor's degrees in Piano Performance and Music Education from the College-Conservatory of Music of the University of Cincinnati where he studied with Jeno Takacs. Other teachers have been members of the LaSalle Quartet, Daniel Ericourt, and Hans Heidemann. He studied electronic music production at the Berklee School of Music and attended workshops and seminars dealing with learning disability and hyperactive-attention deficit disorders. His travels have taken him to music festivals throughout Europe, and he is currently on the board of the Belgium Chamber Orchestra.

Tom maintains a private teaching studio in Raleigh where he teaches piano, music theory, composition, and the use of mid-electronic media in video-music production and composition. He has taught at the college, secondary, and elementary music levels. Tom was awarded the North Carolina Governor's Award for his work with learning disabled children and has been recognized for his volunteer work in the Wake County public schools.

In addition to teaching, Tom has lectured on the creative individual and his art form at Duke University, Emory University, and Wake Forest University. He has presented to the American Psychoanalytic Society annual convention, the Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Association, the Mint Museum in Charlotte, and the Asheville Museum of Art. His music and presentations have also been broadcast on National Public Radio.

Sheila Dacus, NCTM
RPTA VP-Programs

May Teacher Musicale

In December we enjoyed a wonderful and varied musicale presented by RPTA members. It's time to prepare for our May teacher musicale featuring YOU! Jump right in with a favorite piece to share!

We will follow the musicale with luncheon and fellowship time. Email me with your selections, or sign up at the April meeting.

Sheila Dacus, NCTM, VP-Programs
dacuspiano@gmail.com