

Affiliate of the North Carolina Music Teachers Association

December 2016

Number 132

RALEIGH PIANO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Monthly Meeting

Dec. 14, 2016

- 9:45, General Membership Business Meeting
- 10:45, Program: Teacher Musicales

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From the President

The Advent of the Season

What is it about December that says hold on to your hat, this could be a bumpy ride? It was just last week that we sat in celebration of our family and friends as we gathered around our Thanksgiving table. It was peaceful, exciting, restful, and filled with joy. With savory and sweet dishes, we found the anticipated nourishment that satisfied our bodies, our minds, and our souls. I suspect there were those of us that labored in the kitchen for numerous hours preparing just the right balance of traditional dishes, perhaps tried out a new recipe, and dusted off our fine china. Nothing but the best would do!

Now that December is upon us, we continue the journey to peace and light, purpose and celebration. In the menagerie of recital and contest preparations, programs presented for our houses of worship and entertainment provided for small and large audiences, the musician's life becomes vital to so many. Our generous hearts spill out and our ability to organize and multi-task take on a whole new meaning as our talents manifest in performance, training and thoughtful giving. It is a good life; one that we chose (or it chose us) and one that we get the privilege of sharing with all those that come into our sphere.

Parallels to Thanksgiving and Christmas can be found in each of your studios every day. As you create a varied musical diet customized for each student, you are leading them to nourishment for their body, mind and souls! Through traditional and newly found pieces, your "recipe" for them establishes a great foundation (the body), challenges and intrigues them (their mind), and their successful understanding and pleasure derived from performing at their best brings such pride and builds wonderful self-esteem (their souls). Each level along the way, our students are getting closer to a deeper understanding of what making music means to them. For many, they will soon share their talents with large and small audiences, continue preparations for performances and possibly earn a living (or a little spending money). Thus, continuing the tradition that has become a privilege for us to be a part of; a journey to peace and light.

So, in your advent that December brings, I wish you, hope, joy, peace and love. Lead your students to anticipate the joy that performing means. Guide them to the love and peace that can be found in doing your best, in achieving their goals and reaching for more than they ever thought they could achieve. Enjoy the journey!

Wishing you great joy through inspired teaching.

My very best to you,

Jeanine Skinner

President, Raleigh Piano Teachers Association

Looking ahead...

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

Young Artist Auditions

Dear Teachers,

As you prepare your YAA packets, please refer to the YAA 2017 Step-by-Step Instructions, and the YAA 2017 Checklist to help you make sure you have everything in your packet. Please print legibly. Please make sure copies have everything that was in the margins of the original. Please be generous with volunteering your time to make this event successful. I do need volunteers for the recitals. I think that's it!

Also—a correction to the YAA Repertoire List: “Lyric Preludes in the Romantic Style” by Gillock on the Intermediate II list should stipulate that the student should play any two as a set which hasn't been on the list. This error will be fixed ASAP. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Musically,
Debra Heath, YAA Chair

Certification

Sharpen the (Musical) Saw

Steven Covey, who wrote “The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People”, used the symbolism of a person trying to cut down a stand of trees, to illustrate the need to always be improving ourselves.

Should you just get to it right now, using this rusty old saw here? Or sharpen the saw first, and then be able to quickly and neatly remove all the trees?

While I don't like to think of students as trees to be felled, the man has a good point. Anything we do right now to improve ourselves will affect the rest of our lives. And our students will directly benefit.

During the busy holiday season, consider becoming certified through the MTNA. Many of us give our students small gifts at the holiday season, but the gift of your new improved teaching status is a gift that ripples out into the distant future. You will benefit through becoming a better teacher, and the NCTM designation tells parents you would be a good choice for them, resulting in more and better students. But it's your students who benefit the most.

As a first step, look at the certification website and just think about what project appeals to you most as a starting point. Take a few notes. Create a spot where you can keep all your certification items, and a folder on your computer. Then, when the holidays are over and the serene month of January begins, you can revisit the projects and get to work!

There is no need to register in order to begin. As Nike says, “Just do it!”

Questions? I can be reached by email at practicealot@gmail.com, or, talk to Debbie Heath at a meeting.

Julie Gorka, Certification Chair

May our words be

dolce,

our hearts be

giocoso,

our spirits,

con fuoco,

and all our teaching,

con amore.

Ensemble Festival

Dear Ensemble Festival Teachers,

The Ensemble Festival will be **Sunday, February 5, at 2:30 pm** at the **Raleigh Vineyard Church** (6894 Litchford Road; <http://raleighvineyard.org>). Students should be in place by **2:10**.

Dress rehearsals will be Saturday, Feb. 4 at the church. Students will need to stay for their entire rehearsal time.

The store rehearsal sign-up sheets for Maus, Ruggero, and Hopper will be available at the December 14th meeting.

10:30-12:00 Dress Rehearsal

Getting Started - Salvatore, Moorman, Butzow, Preston, Lohr
Romp a la Mozart - Walker, Martin
Over the Rainbow - Sparks, Ward
Balloon Pop Polka - Burnette
Greensleeves - Buster
Go for It! - Martin, Walker, Warring
1001 Nights - Sparks
More - Mungalov
Classic Rock - Salvadore
Sonatina in C - Carlson, Carlson

1:00-2:30 Dress Rehearsal

Jubilation Overture - Zeugschmidt
Music of the Night - Blanchard
Timber Wolves' Patrol - Moorman, Dacus
In the Hall of the Mountain King - Rumball
In Summer - Blanchard
Side by Side - Buster
The Phantom - Gandolf
Heart and Soul - Blanchard
Melody of Rains - Mungalov
Tap Extravaganza - Humphrey, Haigler, Thomas, McKee
Bumble Boogie - Mungalov

If you have any questions, email Bonnie (bonniwalker0214@gmail.com) or Maxine (mdsalvatore@att.net).

We are looking forward to a wonderful concert!
Bonnie Walker & Maxine Salvatore, Ensemble Festival Chairs

Scholarship Auditions

Remember – Entry forms and checks are due at the January 18, 2017 RPTA meeting! They may be handed in at the meeting up until 12 noon that day. Another option is to mail entries to Kathleen Vockeroth earlier so that it will be in on time.

Kathleen Vockeroth, Scholarship Chair

Independent Music Teachers Forum

Do you have a teaching tip that you would like to share at our December meeting? It might be a Christmas activity or game... Or it could be a website that you have found helpful...Or a book that you might recommend!

Don't be shy! It is the season of giving/sharing so please email me with your ideas!

Dottie Buster, Independent Music Teachers Forum Chair
dottie.buster@gmail.com

Batten Disease Playathon: Playing for Taylor

One of the best piano experiences my students have each year is playing in the *Piano Playathon for Batten Disease*. This event has become the highlight of our year for many students.

"Taylor's story is so moving, and I am honored to help raise awareness for Batten Disease by sharing my music with her." Angela, 12th grade

The Playathon honors Taylor King of Charlotte, NC, and helps to raise awareness of Batten Disease and the Taylor's Tale foundation. Batten Disease is an inherited, fatal neurodegenerative disease that affects children. Taylor's Tale is a nonprofit foundation that raises funds for research and promotes awareness of Batten Disease. Taylor's mother, Sharon, was a piano major at Meredith College and taught piano in Charlotte.

"I wanted to play in the Playathon because it is a chance to do something fun for a good cause." Kathleen, 5th grade

The Piano Playathon for Batten Disease is a fun, low stress event for students that allows them to feel the joy of music and the importance of sharing their gifts, without the pressure of a traditional performance. Held in February, it has grown from one teacher in her own studio, to involving teachers and students throughout Wake County in four locations around Raleigh. Each year the number of students participating has grown. The Playathon is easy to organize, fun for your students, and a great way to show support for families in need, including one of our own... a fellow piano teacher.

"It felt like an honor!" Olivia, 7th grade

"It felt good. It was fulfilling and meant a lot." Mathias, 11th grade

I would like to invite you to join in this year's Playathon on Sunday February 26th, 2017. It is easy, fulfilling and fun! If you are interested in learning more about being a part of the Playathon, Polly Greene and I would love to talk with you individually or as a group, and to share our handouts and planning materials.

This is one of the easiest and most rewarding events my students have ever been a part of, and a wonderful answer to the question "*Why do people play piano? What's it for?*"

Pamela Tsai
919-848-1674
tsaipiano@bellsouth.net

Polly Greene
919-870-8571
Pollygreene@nc.rr.com