

RALEIGH PIANO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Monthly Meeting

Feb. 15, 2017

- 9:45, General Membership Business Meeting
- 10:45, Program: "Beyond the Maple Leaf: Ragtime Repertoire for Your Students," presented by Dr. Paul Stewart

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From the President

Festivals, Contests and Conferences, OH MY!

What fun it is to be your president! I seize each opportunity to brag about the strength in numbers, the outstanding teaching and the most caring organization I have been a part of in a long time. Our season of presenting our students in recitals, contests, and festivals is eminent. I look forward to hearing outstanding music as a result of remarkable and dedicated teaching. I feel as though I am in the presence of something greater than myself each time I attend an RPTA meeting, a student musicale, the ensemble festival, scholarship recitals and the whole YAA experience from inception to honors recital. Thank you for living and reflecting a life of integrity and creativity. You are all my muse.

Here is part of our most recent newsletter to the Board of Directors from our NCMTA president, Kerry Carlin. He is such a fine leader and I want to share his words with you.

We are entering the season of NCMTA Performance Festivals. The Piano Performance Festival, now including both solo and duet divisions, is in the very capable hands of Frank Pittman (ncmtapianofestival@gmail.com), whose dedication to NCMTA is greatly appreciated as he continues to serve the association after having been at the helm.

I applaud the Second Annual Voice Performance Festival under the direction of Margaret Fontiveros (mfontiv@fontiveros.com), and am happy to see the gradual growth of this important event. As Margaret slips into the role of Chair of the Voice Performance Festival, I appreciate Annette Stowe's willingness to serve NCMTA as Voice Teachers Chair.

A great addition to our offerings is the Piano Duet Performance Festival, making its debut this spring thanks to the leadership of Paul Stewart. We are all aware of and thankful for Paul's service at all levels of NCMTA and MTNA and are honored that he continues to share with us his insight, foresight and guidance.

As we continue to develop online resources for the various festivals, I must ask that members not contact the NCMTA Webmaster directly with festival registration issues. The Webmaster's job is to maintain the functionality of the website and is not to be encumbered with the details of registration.

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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

From the President, continued

Please contact the appropriate festival director for help and to ask questions about festival registration. The festival directors will then work with the Webmaster if there are website issues.

The MTNA national conference will take place in Baltimore, MD, March 18-22, 2017. If you are planning to attend the conference, please let me know so I can be on the lookout for you. Especially let me know if you have registered for the Gala so that I may save a place for you at the NCMTA table. I, of course, will be attending and representing NCMTA in the various presidents' meetings and functions.

I look forward to seeing everyone at one or all of the events that will take place within the next 4 – 6 weeks. Stay tuned for an opportunity to bid on a Steinway Artist Bench donated by Hopper Piano and Organ.

Wishing you joy through inspired teaching.....

Yours,
Jeanine Skinner
President, RPTA

Independent Music Teachers Forum

A big thank you to Dana Mallory for sending me a teaching tip this month. Her teaching tip comes from the Teach Piano Today website. It is called Beat the Bean. Students set a 2-week goal, such as memorizing a piece, and then plant a seed. Their challenge is to achieve the goal before the seed sprouts its very first open leaf and therefore they “beat the bean”. Sounds like a fun activity! Of course there are lots of ways that you can adapt it to suit your students' needs. For the more information, see the full instructions at the following link:

<http://www.teachpianotoday.com/2015/03/18/can-your-piano-students-beat-the-bean-cultivating-goal-setting-in-your-studio/>

Do you have a teaching tip that you would like to share? Remember it can concern any aspect of teaching....learning activities, business tips, dealing with parents, etc.

Please contact me at dottie.buster@gmail.com. You can share your idea at meeting (or I will for you!) or I will be happy to put it in the newsletter.

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.

In Memoriam

RPTA lost two long-time members in December: Dolores Frazier and Margaret Clyburn.

Dolores Matthews Frazier, 85, passed away peacefully the afternoon of December 20, 2016 surrounded by family. Dolores was born in Raleigh, N.C. on December 19, 1931. She was the daughter of the late Thedo Preston Matthews and Ethel Leola Matthews.

Dolores married husband Bill Frazier in 1954 and remained active in music as assistant band director and private clarinet and piano instructor at Henderson High School. Dolores and Bill moved to Raleigh with their two children in 1965. They immediately found their church home at First Baptist Church where she became the Children's Choir Director for 5 years and then Director of Music for 5 years.

Upon retiring from her church position she became an Independent Private Piano Instructor which she continued until the age of 80. She influenced many students with her infectious love of the art to continue with their music studies at other institutions. Other professional accomplishments were: President of The Raleigh Piano Teachers Association, adjudicator for many auditions throughout the state and served on the RPTA board for many years having chaired special committees.

Margaret H. Clyburn was born to Adrian and Betty Hurst and grew up on Masonboro Sound near Wilmington, NC, where her mother's family has lived for seven generations. Her childhood was anchored by Masonboro Baptist Church, which her family helped establish in the 1860's. She graduated from Meredith College in 1961 and taught music education in both private and public schools in Raleigh and maintained a private piano studio with her husband, James Clyburn. She combined her love of music and of church as choir director for St. Giles Presbyterian Church and Longview United Methodist Church, both in Raleigh.

While at Meredith, Margaret met the love of her life, James L. Clyburn, Professor of Piano Studies. Jim and Margaret enjoyed fifty-one (51) wonderful years of marriage. They shared a love of classical music, international travel, teaching and family life. After retirement, Jim and Margaret shared their gifts of music as members of the choir at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Raleigh.

RPTA extends our deepest sympathies to the families of both Dolores and Margaret. We appreciate their many years of tireless service to our organization. They will be missed.

Ragtime Concert in Cary

Dr. Paul Stewart, our February program presenter, will also be performing on February 10 at 7:30 pm at the Cary Arts Center. This concert of American ragtime music is presented by the Cary Apex Piano Teachers Association. It is free to the public, sponsored in part from a grant from Lazy Daze Arts and Crafts.

This is a family friendly program, attractive for the whole family. Please encourage your students and families to come and you as role models for your students!

The program for this concert is attached.

Brenda Bruce

February Program, presented by Dr. Paul Stewart

“Beyond the Maple Leaf: Ragtime Repertoire for Your Students”

The two-fold purpose of the lecture/performance session is, (1) to encourage and expand the teaching of classic American Ragtime repertoire and, (2) to provide and illustrate pedagogical approaches to Ragtime performance practice issues such as pedaling, articulation, tempi and creating variants for the repeats of the 16-bar strains. In the earlier spirit of the Baroque Dance Suite, piano rolls from the ragtime period confirm that repeats should be varied within the context of the notated score. Encouraging students to explore the variant possibilities is an excellent introduction to composing and improvisation.

Using Power Point images of Musical score examples, historical sheet music covers and text, the session will explore Classic Ragtime's historical and sociological context: its forms and rhythms: the influence of marching band music, dances of the time, and the banjo, as well as Ragtime's influence on music composition that followed in the 20th century. Piano performance examples will be selected from the following works.

- Scott Joplin's *Maple Leaf Rag* (1899), *Entertainer* (1902), *Weeping Willow* (1903), *Pineapple Rag* (1908), *Solace, A Mexican Serenade* (1909), and *Scott Joplin's New Rag* (1912),
- Charles Johnson's *Dill Pickles Rag* (1906)
- Joseph Lamb's *Ragtime Nightingale* (1915)
- Gershwin and Donaldson's *Rialto Ripples, "A Piano Rag"* (1916)
- Claude Debussy's *Golliwog's Cakewalk* (1908)
- Nathaniel Dett's *Juba Dance* (1913)
- Felix Arndt's *Nola* (1915)
- Zez Confrey's *Dizzy Fingers* (1923) AND *Kitten on the Keys* (1921)
- George Gershwin's *Fascinating Rhythm* (1924), *The Man I love* (1924), and *I Got Rhythm*
- Judith Zaimont's *Judy's Rag* (1971)

The basic reason to continue the study and performance of ragtime, some one hundred years after its genesis and eminence is to recognize the inspiration, complexity, appeal, and vitality of the music. The story of Ragtime is a significant chapter in the history of 20th century American music and deserves inclusion in our piano teaching repertoire.

An important source for the session will be the 2016 second-edition of Edward Berlin's the "*King of Ragtime, Scott Joplin and His Era.*"

Paul Stewart is Professor Emeritus of Music at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where he taught piano (1970-2016). He earned the BM in piano performance and the BM in Music Education from Indiana University. His graduate degrees are the Master of Music in piano performance from the University of Illinois and the Doctor of Music piano performance degree from Florida State University. Paul served as MTNA National President from 2005-2007.