

RALEIGH PIANO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Monthly Meeting

Feb. 21, 2018

- 9:45, General Membership Business Meeting
- 10:45, Program: "Gems of the Intermediate Concerto Repertoire," presented by Dr. Karen Beres

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| February Musicales | 2 |
| February Program | 3 |
| 2018 MTNA National Conference | 3 |
| NCMTA Board Meeting Points of Interest | 4 |

From the President

What Will Our Legacy Be?

The dictionary defines legacy as a gift or bequest that is left behind, handed down, or conveyed from one person to another. It is something that can be transmitted, inherited or received from a predecessor. As I have purged files and sorted through stacks of folders, periodicals, books and so much paraphernalia this month, I have been struck by the various things I treasured and claimed as worthy of retaining. Each box and file drew me into a reflective state where I felt the joy or the stress, a funny memory, or a heartfelt contemplation over where I was at that time in my journey to NOW! Pictures, programs, concerts, resumes, workshop notes, lists, schedules, as well as a broad spectrum of bills, invoices and receipts amused me. And OH, the M.U.S.I.C.! If you are like me, you have treated every piece of music and every music magazine as if it was manna from heaven. However, my careful archiving in stuffed file drawers and bookcases was leading me to needing more storage. A voice crept into my conscious mind, echoing a phrase from a respected African American pastor in our community. He peppers his sermons under his breath with a quick, "Help Me Jesus!," that has just the right punch of amusement and truth. It put a smile on my face.

I picked myself up from the floor in utter annoyance that I had become something of a hoarder! But, a thread of understanding that I was preserving my heritage, my legacy, if you will, was also giving me purpose and direction. This led me to pondering how our legacy evolves, what we will leave behind and what we have inherited from others. We don't necessarily set out to create a legacy. It forms as we live, learn, teach and do acts of kindness for others. We all stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. I love this image. This is found in our families, our communities, our state, and our nation. We have faith-based legacies, precious family treasures that have been passed down through generations, and even DNA testing!

I propose that we as musicians have an incredible legacy to which we have been endowed. It will be part of *our* legacy to pass this on to the next generation. From primitive to modern evolution, we have the best that industry, technology and education can offer to date.

Continued on page 2...

Looking ahead...

February 10
Scholarship Auditions

February 11
Student Musicale, Carswell

February 17
Scholarship Winners Recital,
Ruggero Piano, 7:30 pm

February 24
NCMTA District Festival

March 9-10
Young Artist Auditions

March 16
YAA Concerto Winners
Recital, Ruggero Piano, 7 pm

March 18
YAA Winners Recitals, Jones
Auditorium, Meredith College,
2 pm and 3:45 pm

March 17-21
MTNA National Conference
Orlando, FL

March 24
NCMTA State Piano
Performance Festival,
Meredith College

April 29
Student Musicale, Carswell

From the President, continued

We have been influenced by all of the teachers with whom we have had the privilege to study. Their heritage has become our heritage. Our continued study, experience, and understanding gives greater distinction to what we are passing on to our students.

Ask yourself how your appreciation and understanding of empirical musical values are being passed on to the next generation. Will what we teach them today make a difference in their lives long after we are gone? We not only pass on our musical understanding but also our personality, the way we treat others, the way we find peace in a troubled world, and how we appreciate today and prepare for tomorrow. Perhaps it will include how we smiled when someone needed our approval, when we comforted them when we spoke with understanding, or when we challenged them beyond what they thought they could accomplish. I'm hoping my legacy includes all of the above sprinkled with humor and playful understanding of the joy of living, while seeing that discipline and hard work are fundamental ingredients on the road to success. I hope that the music I make goes further than someone's ears and embeds its place in receptive hearts. And, I hope that my appreciation for the gifts of others is a legacy worthy of passing on for many generations to come.

What are the legacies that you want to leave behind? From my vantage point, I see a legacy of commitment to excellence, faithfulness to our local, state and national organizations, and a desire to enrich your teaching by always learning something new. Your legacy is part of me and I thank you for your impact on this wonderful organization we call Raleigh Piano Teachers Association.

Wishing you a wealthy week that is rich with legacy teaching!

Humbly yours,
Jeanine Skinner, President, RPTA

February Musicale

We missed our January meeting due to snow and you were not reminded of our upcoming Musicale scheduled for Sunday, February 11, 3:00 pm in Carswell Concert Hall at Meredith. As of January 28, we have only a few entries. The deadline has been extended through midnight Tuesday, February 6. Hopefully, many of you will come to the "rescue."

Remember that students can warm up on the piano beginning at 2:30 pm. Please call Alma Sparks at 919.231.7355 if you have questions about entering or any other concerns. Or, send email to almasparks@att.net. Thank you for what you can do to make our Musicale possible.

Alma Sparks and Fay Ward

May our words be

dolce,

our hearts be

giocoso,

our spirits,

con fuoco,

and all our teaching,

con amore.

February Program

“Gems of the Intermediate Concerto Repertoire,” presented by Dr. Karen Beres

Composers ranging from the Baroque to the Contemporary have directed their attention to creating captivating piano concertos for the beginning and intermediate student. These engaging and musically satisfying compositions, aimed at providing peak musical experiences while introducing students to the benefits and enjoyment of collaboration, are the focus of this presentation. After exhaustive research of almost 300 concertos, Karen Beres will share the findings of the CanAm Piano Duo through performance and discussion of some lesser-known gems, with focus given to pedagogical aims and potential collaborative challenges of each work. This workshop is presented following the recent release of the duo’s book, *The Pianist’s Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance Concertos*, published by Alfred Music Publishing.

Karen Beres (NCTM) is Vice Provost and Dean of Academic Affairs for the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, where she has been Professor of Group Piano/Piano Pedagogy since 2002. Active as a performer, adjudicator, and author, Karen has presented recitals, programs, and workshops as a member of the CanAm Piano Duo throughout the US and internationally. In the summer of 2017, Karen released the Alfred publication *The Pianist’s Guide to Standard Performance and Teaching Concertos: An Invaluable Resource of Keyboard Concertos from Baroque Through Contemporary Periods for Teachers, Students, and Performers*, written with her duo partner Christopher Hahn.

2018 MTNA National Conference

The 2018 MTNA National Conference will be held at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, March 17–21, 2018.

Just minutes away from Walt Disney World® and the Magic Kingdom Park®, the most magical place on Earth, this conference is sure to be an enchanting experience for music teachers, both personally and professionally.

The MTNA National Conference has established itself as the premier source for professional development of music teachers of all areas. This year’s conference is no exception—featuring more than 100 sessions, showcases, teaching demonstrations and master classes on topics ranging from teaching methods, literature and performance to entrepreneurship, studio management and business practices.

An extensive Exhibit Hall of print music, instruments, software and pedagogical materials; the MTNA Student Competitions; and Pedagogy Saturday complete the event. The internationally renowned pianist, Jeremy Denk, and the groundbreaking trio, Time for Three, will highlight the evening recitals. The conference keynote address will be given by noted neurologist and flutist, Dr. Eckart Altenmüller, chair and director of the Institute of Music Physiology and Musicians’ Medicine in Hannover, Germany.

Master classes will be led by well-known pedagogues Pavlina Dokovska of the Mannes School and Fei Xu, an independent teacher who specializes in teaching intermediate level students. For additional information about MTNA or the 2018 MTNA National Conference, contact MTNA national headquarters at (888) 512-5278, mtnanet@mtna.org or visit the website at www.mtna.org.

NCMTA Board Meeting Points of Interest

I thought I would share a few of the highlights from our recent board meeting that was held at Elon University on Saturday, January 20, 2018.

1. Our new president, Victoria Fischer Faw, is excited about the year and has been carefully reviewing the various aspects of our state organization. She has been quite supportive as I have taken on this new challenge as President-Elect. Between Kerry Carlin, Victoria and I, we have secured locations for the next four annual state conferences. Hooray!
2. NCMTA was well represented at Southern Division. We had 2 Winners, 3 Alternates and several Honorable Mentions. Winners are Luke Henderson, Violin (Jr Strings) and Michael Peery, Trumpet (Sr Brass).
3. Tonya Kirk, our NCMTA Piano Section Chair and I have been working together to secure our concert artist and pedagogy headliner. You should look up **Jeffrey Biegle** on the internet. I think you will want to hear him during our Fall Conference which is being held at UNC School of the Arts, October 11-13. I could jump out of my skin with joy to announce that **Marvin Blickenstaff** has agreed to lead our conference in a number of pedagogical seminars and possible masterclass!!
4. Our current NCMTA membership is 521/78 certified; an increase of 31 members since 2017.
5. RPTA is well represented on our board. Tonya Kirk, Piano Section Chair; Ravonda Mormann, secretary; Dottie Buster, IMTF Chair; Kent Lyman, MTNA Competition Chair; Margaret Fontiveros, Voice Performance Festival Chair; Carol Ann Barry; Historian.

Jeanine Skinner, NCMTA President-Elect



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