

January 2018
Number 142

Affiliate of the North Carolina Music Teachers Association

RALEIGH PIANO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Monthly Meeting

Jan. 17, 2018

- 9:45, General Membership Business Meeting
- 10:45, Program: "Pedal with Your Ears!" presented by Dr. Kent Lyman

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From the President

What Does It Mean to Thrive?

As the coolness of our abrupt wintery air outside challenges our sense of warmth and rest, I write to you with the hopeful thought that you have been enjoying family and friends whose smiles radiated all the heat that you needed to ignite your spirit! Our opportunity to recharge our batteries, to reflect on the past year, and to spend time with those we love is so welcomed. Perhaps you had the opportunity to strike out on a vacation adventure or attend an amazing concert, had extra time to read a book, learn a new piece of music, or complete a satisfying project. Whatever the experience, I hope that it has contributed to your well-being and that your sense of *self* has been renewed.

I have found myself drawn to a book entitled "Thrive" by Arianna Huffington. Our Wake Forest Chamber of Commerce has a Leadership Lit Discussion Group that meets every two months to discuss an "on topic" publication. Stepping into a curiously new area for me, I thought I would stretch my wings and join them. I have enjoyed pondering with the author what true success means to me. The author points out that corporate and governmental America defines success as how much money and power one accrues over the course of a lifetime. Due to a life threatening experience brought on by stress, Arianna began to re-evaluate her priorities and re-define what was important to her. Probing questions led her to searching for balance and purpose for her life. She says, writing "Thrive" was her way of structuring our broken definition of success.

If money and power are the first two metrics that most people use to measure their success, she proposes a Third Metric is needed which has 4 salient concepts: well-being, wisdom, wonder, and giving. In my heart of hearts, I find that we as musicians are doing a pretty darn good job of staying in tune with our third metric of success. Most of us know what it means to search for our inner strength, to understand what makes us happy and what drives us to succeed. I doubt any of us would identify money and power as success markers and though we may experience stress, challenges with time management and the balance of priorities from time to time, we continue to stay the course of mindful well-being.

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Looking ahead...

February 10
Scholarship Auditions

February 11
Student Musicale, Carswell

February 24
NCMTA District Contest

March 9-10
Young Artist Auditions

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

Our wisdom that comes from hard work, discipline, experience and concern for beauty in our lives is channeled to each of our students, day by day and week by week. Seeking out things that are curious, thought-provoking and bring happiness are ingredients of daily lessons in our studios. And let's not miss the fact that giving is a tenet of our calling as teachers. We not only give to our students, but we exponentially continue giving virtually through families, communities, causes, and so much more.

My goal (hopes and prayers) will be to find ways to instill the tenets of my calling for my students....to remain mindful of what is important, to seek wisdom, to always marvel curiously at the profound, and to always strive to give of my best self. In our own organization, I find that we model these goals and influence each other pretty well. (You continue to be role models for me.) I guess a wish from me would be for you to continue to find ways to demonstrate the *thriving* teacher you exemplify to us in the coming year. Your students, colleagues, family and friends will certainly be your beneficiaries.

Wishing you a year of fulfilling challenges and celebrations....

Jeanine Skinner, President, RPTA

Independent Music Teachers Forum

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

Here's one New Year's teaching tip that I have shared in the past but it is still a good one to start the new year!! In January, I encourage students to make a New Year's resolution concerning piano. It is really great when students come up with their own resolutions but sometimes I make suggestions. It could be something as simple as resolving to do their theory in pencil! (one of my pet peeves) or just resolving to do their theory!!! Or resolving to play one piece for a parent every week or every month. You can make it as easy or challenging as you & the student would like.

Then write the resolution on the inside cover of their notebook and revisit it every week or at the beginning of every month.

I hope that some of you try this idea out! Remember to email me with your own tips, ideas, book reviews, and website recommendations!

Thanks so much!
Dottie Buster, IMTF Chair, dottie.buster@gmail.com

May our words be

dolce,

our hearts be

giocoso,

our spirits,

con fuoco,

and all our teaching,

con amore.

New Videos by Dr. Kent Lyman

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the release of two new videos produced as part of my sabbatical work in Fall of 2017. They are available on YouTube:

Pieces of Arirang, A Piano Suite in Five Movements, by Bang Ja Hurh

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLN2d6vDKIBKeuGm9yy5H_YgToK9-ljToS

Piano Sonata in B flat Major, K. 281, by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

<https://youtu.be/B7rblgBhiRo>

Please view, and share freely!

Kent Lyman

January Program

PEDAL WITH YOUR EARS!, presented by Dr. Kent Lyman

The pedal has been called the “soul of the piano.” Come and learn more about the history and evolution of pedal construction, the vexing inconsistencies of different pedal notation systems, and sharing of ideas on the teaching of pedaling to students.

Dr. Kent Lyman is the Coordinator of Piano and Professor of Music at Meredith College. He loves being part of the vibrant community of piano teachers represented by RPTA. He received his training at the University of Utah (BM) and Indiana University (MM and DM). He is a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music with MTNA, and a Steinway Artist. He recently returned from a month long teaching and performing tour of South Korea, as part of a sabbatical leave from Meredith College.

Concert at Saint Mary's School



Save the Date!!!

Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 8:00 p.m.

Smedes Parlor Concert Series

proudly presents

Ivan Moshchuk, piano

“Russian Masterworks for Piano”

Music by Rachmaninoff, Scriabin, Medtner

Free admission/donations appreciated

Information: call [919 – 424 – 4045](tel:9194244045)

Directions: sms.edu