

RALEIGH PIANO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

From the President

Marching Forward!

What a great time of year it is! Just as the trees and flowers bud with hints of color and promise, so begins the budding of our students' artistry, skillful problem-solving and appreciation of how they have been trained. Music festivals, contests, auditions, and recitals pepper the months ahead. Our high achievers make teaching quite satisfying and rewarding, don't they? However, there are some that have not survived the harsh "winter" of too much going on in their lives, disorganization of their time, or simple lack of inspiration and fervor toward their goals. It happens and, as teachers, we must find a way of also being satisfied with our teaching of these students. I find it tough sometimes to not feel guilty that all of the students don't rise to their potential. It is tough as the ambitious teacher to console that emotional devotion to excellence for all of them.

I am training myself to practice what I preach. They have all come to us for musical coaching and whether everything we teach them is absorbed right away or several years from now, we must still serve the bigger mission and "march forward" with our mantra to share the joy of music making with all those that sit at our piano benches. We "season" our young musicians with truthful honesty of how planning, discipline and stick-to-it-ness brings achievement. We do our part in planning their repertoire, their deadlines, their performances and their celebrations. We praise both the small and tall accomplishments. And, we take mental notes of what worked this year (or in this piece) that made a connection. And then, just maybe, they will capture that spark of energy that pulls them to the piano, pulls them toward practicing with thoughtful planning, and pulls them to be brave enough to go beyond what they have achieved before.

This year, I have had so many high achievers in multiple areas of academia, music, and sports. I've discovered that it has been hard for them to understand that they cannot put off "productive" practice until the last week or so. Delayed memory of music produces delayed understanding and communication of their pieces. Because they can do this in some of their academic preparations, they become comfortable in trusting their gifts of learning quickly to apply in music. As piano teachers, we sorely know the fallacies of this flawed assumption.

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Monthly Meeting:

No Monthly Meeting
in March!

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Looking ahead...

March 10-11
Young Artist Auditions,
Meredith College

March 18-22
MTNA National Conference
Baltimore, MD

April 8
NCMTA State Performance
Festival

April 19
Monthly Meeting

April 23
Student Musicale

May 17
Monthly Meeting and Tea

From the President, continued

As the competitions and recitals have begun, I continue to hold high standards of expectation and productivity for all my students. I am accepting that this new brave world of theirs is filled with many opportunities. But, I will continue to carry the torch for skillful joy in music-making for both today and for the future. I look forward to seeing many of you at Meredith March 10-11 for our annual Young Artist Auditions. What a celebration of teaching and shared learning experiences it always is!

Wishing you joy in teaching all levels of students.....

Devoted to you,
Jeanine Skinner
President, RPTA

Independent Music Teachers Forum

Thanks again to Dana Mallory for this month's teaching tip. During the past year, she has started having her students write their assignments in their notebooks rather than doing it herself. Here is what she shared with me about her experience over the past year:

"I was astounded as to what I found! Here I am as a teacher for over 20 years and have been writing notes for students.

When I started to ask them to write...First, they were so excited!!!

Second, they actually wrote what they thought they needed to do...in their own words...Yes, sometimes I had to help them, but they knew what they needed to do. It has been an amazing process and also exciting to see they LEARN more about how to express what they need to do.

Third, maybe this is something we need to think about as teachers...we talk about stuff...because we know this stuff...maybe, if students write for themselves they will understand it better and progress more...Like I said above...I still give guidance as to what to write, but they also put into words that they understand...."

Thanks again, Dana, for that great tip!

If you have a teaching tip that you would like to share at a meeting or in the newsletter, please email me at dottie.buster@gmail.com

Dottie Buster, IMTF Chair

May our words be

dolce,

our hearts be

giocoso,

our spirits,

con fuoco,

and all our teaching,

con amore.

April Musicale

March is the time to be planning to prepare one or two of your students to perform in our Musicale in April. It is scheduled for **Sunday the 23rd at 3:00 pm** in **Carswell Concert Hall at Meredith**. The deadline for entering is **April 15**. Solos are from memory; ensemble numbers can be played using the score or by memory, whichever you prefer.

My co-chair, Fay Ward, and I encourage you to have your students participate. Read the Musicale Guidelines on page 17 of our Yearbook. Use the paper entry form to mail or enter online.

We look forward to hearing from you. We are hoping to have a wonderful "end of the school year" recital! Call us if you have questions: [919.231.7355](tel:919.231.7355)

Alma Sparks and Fay Ward, Musicale Chairs

NCMTA Performance Festival

We had a great NCMTA day at Meredith College on February 25. 184 students plus 13 duet teams participated in the NCMTA Piano Performance Festival. A little over half of the teachers who registered students were RPTA teachers.

In addition to this being the first year that duet teams participated, it was also the first year for a new grading system. "Highest Honors" receive a gold seal on their certificate and will proceed to the state level (except for Jr A's). Those who receive a "Merit" grade have a silver seal on their certificate. Other than those two grades, the student simply receives a certificate of participation along with the judge's comments.

Marie Willett Humphrey, NCMTA Performance Festival District Chair

Silent Auction to Benefit RPTA Scholarship Fund

RPTA was the recipient of a piano artist bench that was offered to us to auction off by Paul Hopper of Hopper Piano Company to raise money for our Scholarship Fund. The winner was announced at the Scholarship Winners Recital.

Congratulations to Donna Naeser who made the winning bid!



2017 RPTA Scholarship Winners



Congratulations to the 2017 RPTA Scholarship Winners!

Level 1 Winners

Stephanie Wang (Florence Ko)

Eric Wang (Olga Urick)

Honorable Mention: Josephine Wen (Kent Lyman) and David Niu (Florence Ko)

Level 2 Winners

Lucas Chen (Florence Ko)

Annie Wang (Florence Ko)

Honorable Mention: Willy Lan (Olga Urick)

On February 19th we heard a wonderful recital from the above pianists. Some extra recital programs will be available at our next meeting.

Kathleen Vockeroth, Scholarship Auditions Chair

2017 Ensemble Festival

Thank you to all of the teachers and students who made our Ensemble Festival on February 5, 2017 a success! 22 teachers and over 100 students participated this year.



2017 Young Artist Auditions Composition Winners

Congratulations to the following Composition Division Winners and their teachers:

Elementary Level

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| First Place: | Ankita Karuturi | “Cool Winds” | (Machiko Saegusa-Cole) |
| Second Place: | Daniel Horil | “Happy!” | (Renee’ McKee) |
| Third Place: | Brandon Bao | “Pizza and Candy” | (Renee’ McKee) |

Intermediate Level

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| First Place: | Gabriella Giuliano | “I Told You So” | (Bob Knott) |
| Second Place: | Maya Nelson | “Accidental Melody” | (Machiko Saegusa-Cole) |
| Third Place: | Zora Weir-Gertzog | “Somber March” | (Chrissy Ricker) |

Senior Level

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| First Place: | Jacob Naegele | “The Reflecting Pool” | (Tom Lohr) |
| Second Place: | Ayesha Chari | “The Campaign” | (Richard McKee) |
| Third Place: | Sierra Clark | “Facets of Regret” | (Renee’ McKee) |

Young Artist Level

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| First Place: | Alexander McKeveny | “Capriccio in A Major” | (Bonnie Walker) |
|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|

Many thanks to our composition judge, **Lynne C. Cox**, Alfred Music composer, who resides in New Bern, NC. Some of Lynne’s compositions are her *Sea Creatures Series*, *Dinosaur Collection*, and *Noah’s Ark Series*.

Comments from Lynne: “It was a privilege and an honor to review these wonderful pieces. I am so impressed! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to see and hear what these amazing young people are doing.”

Note: First Place winners will perform on one of the Honors Recitals on Sunday, March 19, 2017, in Carswell Hall, Meredith College. All winners will receive their awards at the recital selected for their level.

Keep up with all the latest RPTA news and events!

On Facebook: www.facebook.com, Keyword: Raleigh Piano Teachers Association
On the web: www.raleighpianoteachers.org