

March 2018
Number 144

Affiliate of the North Carolina Music Teachers Association

RALEIGH PIANO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Monthly Meeting

**No Monthly Meeting
in March!**

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From the President

The Journey Towards Excellence

Greetings to all. I'm delighted to be in the throes of performance season. What about you? I find it thrilling to see our young ones getting excited about playing for "a judge" and it is both exhilarating and stressful as we prepare our advanced students to perform masterworks. We have invested many hours of teaching and many words of guidance and advice, and so many right and wrong notes have been delivered on our ebony and ivories.

In gathering my thoughts, I was reading a chapter in a book I have referenced in the past, *Everyday Wisdom for Inspired Teaching* by Tim Lautzenheiser. His thoughts on striving for excellence in our students leads the reader to consider how we influence our students to be more accomplishment driven. Our own attributes, energy and levels of expectation are what make our studios uniquely ours. We have a collection of students who come to us with a variety of gifts and challenges. Among those, we find eagerness, self-doubt, and pride, as well as the naturally musical, the organized and the disorganized learner. As we develop an atmosphere of understanding and acceptance, our students begin to gather confidence through the way they focus their energy. For example, when our students are finally playing both hands at the same time in a steady tempo, or when they are playing a piece from memory for the first time, we are engaging them to use focused energy to accomplish this goal. This focus begins the process of self-discipline. By guiding our students to expect a successful outcome, they are also developing a sense of pride in their accomplishments. Through continual growth in this manner, higher levels of self-discipline become embedded and a more productive work ethic is established.

The journey toward excellence is a slow and steady climb. It is not for the faint of heart nor for those who need immediate rewards. Teachers know that for every two steps forward there will perhaps be one step backward. However, through tenacity, understanding, and perseverance, we can find great pride in leading those under our tutelage toward excellence.

Wishing you a season of excellent music making,

With admiration,
Jeanine Skinner, DMA
President, RPTA

Looking ahead...

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

RPTA Scholarship Auditions

On Saturday, February 10, RPTA again held Scholarship Auditions at Meredith College. Our judges were Ms. Katherine Thomas from Elon University and Dr. Dmitri Shteinberg from UNC-School of the Arts (Level I); and Dr. Elizabeth Loparits from UNC-Wilmington and Dr. Allison Gagnon from UNC-School of the Arts (Level II). These judges were impressed with all of the students as they conducted the interviews and heard the students perform. Their choices were difficult as students were separated in their scores by very slim margins.

RPTA is pleased to announce the following winners of our 2018 Scholarship Auditions, along with their teachers:

Stephanie Wang - Marion Cable Memorial Scholarship (Florence Ko)
Kevin Xu - Dottie Phillips Buster Scholarship (Florence Ko)
David Niu - Sandra Hopper Manly Scholarship (Florence Ko)
Xiye Chen - Sandra Hopper Manly Scholarship (Florence Ko)
Willy Lan - Honorable Mention (Olga Urick)
Jonathan Song - Honorable Mention (Florence Ko)

A winners recital was held on Saturday, February 17 at Ruggero Piano and included performances of music by Albeniz, Bach, Ravel, Griffes, Kapustin, Haydn, Liszt, Liebermann, Scarlatti, and Vine.

Congratulations to all who participated!

Brian Warring, 2018 Scholarship Auditions Chair

2018 RPTA Artist Workshop

The RPTA 2018 Artist Workshop and Concert is coming our way on Friday evening and Saturday, September 28-29, 2018 at Meredith College. This event is a "Don't Miss!!" for us and for any other non-RPTA teachers in our area who want to be inspired and encouraged!

Irish pianist Dr. Peter Mack will be our virtuoso and speaker. He has a stellar reputation for being winsome, personable and communicative from the stage and lectern.

Get this on your calendar and start the buzz with your teacher friends! Here is what the *Los Angeles Times* says about Dr. Mack:

"Mack is one of those lucky ones, born with a completely balanced set of talents. He has perfect piano hands, his technique is all but infallible, he has boundless temperament, style and taste, and above all, he communicates directly.... In all capacities he is indefatigable...."

Renee McKee, Workshop Chair

May our words be

dolce,

our hearts be

giocoso,

our spirits,

con fuoco,

and all our teaching,

con amore.

News from Kent Lyman

Dr. Kent Lyman, Professor of Music and Coordinator of Piano Studies at Meredith College, was on sabbatical during Fall Semester 2017. He spent all of October in South Korea, on a visiting professorship at Sookmyung Women's University in Seoul. He gave 30 hours' worth of lectures and master classes to a class of 35 women pursuing a master's degree in piano pedagogy at Sookmyung. He gave a solo recital at Sookmyung, a solo recital and master class at Ewha Women's University (one of the largest women's universities in the world), a solo recital at a church in Ilsan (a suburb of Seoul), and a chamber music performance with colleagues from Taejeon at the Praum Instrument Museum in Kyonggido Province.

Upon his return from Korea, he gave a solo recital performance in Carswell Concert Hall on November 17, 2017, and a week later produced a series of videos with the assistance of professional videographer Mr. Mark Manning and piano technician Mr. Darin Beery. The videos capture his performances of Mozart's Piano Sonata in B-flat major, K. 281, and a piece entitled Pieces of Arirang, by Bang Ja Hurh, a prominent Korean woman composer. The playing of music by Korean composers that is inspired by Korean folk music is one of Kent's long-standing research and performance interests. The videos are available for viewing on YouTube:

Mozart: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7rblgBhiRo>

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

As a result of his sabbatical activities, Kent has been invited back to Korea to deliver a keynote lecture at the 10th national conference of the Korean Association of Piano Pedagogy. The conference occurs on May 19, 2018 at Sangmyung University in Seoul.

May Teacher Musicale

In December we enjoyed a wonderful and varied musicale presented by RPTA members. It's not too soon to begin planning and practicing for our May teacher musicale! Jump right in with a favorite piece to share! We will follow the musicale with luncheon and fellowship time. Email me with your selections, or sign up at the April meeting.

Sheila Dacus, NCTM, VP-Programs
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Find RPTA on the Web:

www.raleighpianoteachers.org

www.ncmta.org

www.mtna.org

Yahoo Groups: Raleigh Piano Teachers

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2018 YAA Composition Winners

RPTA is pleased to announce the winners of the 2018 Young Artist Auditions composition contest. Special thanks goes to Diane Higgins, our composition judge for this year.

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

STUDENT	COMPOSITION	PLACE	TEACHER
Neil Awasthi	"Pool Party"	First	Teddy Robie
Eowyn Blum	"Waltz of the Raindrops"	Second	Tina Lyons-Bowman

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

STUDENT	COMPOSITION	PLACE	TEACHER
Ankita Karuturi	"Eastern Bells"	First	Machiko Saegusa-Cole
Adrian Tong	"Sapient"	Second	Zinaida Astrakhan
Beany Collins	"Pirate's Voyage"	Honorable Mention	Dee Ann Patton
Edward Zhang	"Random Rhapsody"	Honorable Mention	Renee McKee

SENIOR LEVEL

STUDENT	COMPOSITION	PLACE	TEACHER
Lauren Evancho	"Mysteries of the Heart"	First	Renee McKee
Zora Weir-Gertzog	"The Raven"	Second	Chrissy Ricker
Sierra Clark	"The Bewitching Queen of Aeaea"	Third	Renee McKee

YOUNG ARTIST LEVEL

STUDENT	COMPOSITION	PLACE	TEACHER
Zane Souvanlasy	"Nothing's Perfect"	First	Bradley Kraemer

The first place winners from each category are invited to perform at the Young Artist Winners Recitals, to be held on Sunday, March 18 at Jones Auditorium, Meredith College.

Congratulations to all of this year's winners!

Bonnie Walker, YAA Composition Chair