

Affiliate of the North Carolina Music Teachers Association

May 2017

Number 137

RALEIGH PIANO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Monthly Meeting

May 17, 2017

- 9:45, General Membership Business Meeting
- 10:45, Program "Wit and Wisdom from a Lifetime of Teaching"

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From the President

May Retrospective

This month has found most of us in high gear as we ride the roller coaster of recitals and performances. I know everyone is working hard to plan your events, to bring out the best in each student's performance and to "put on" a fabulous recital. In our studios, we completed six recitals in one weekend... (I don't recommend this to anyone!) It is such a pleasure to stand in witness to each student's courage, poise and artistry. I know you will have the same experience. Doesn't that make the hard decisions, the late nights and the wrong notes seem superfluous and forgivable? Well, maybe not the wrong notes!

I was reflecting on the year of RPTA happenings and how proud I was to be a member of such an organization as ours and thought that I would create an overview of the last 9 months. Our attendance to meetings is an average of 36 people per meeting. This is with September being the highest at 47 and December being the lowest at 17. This means only 25% of our membership attends meetings. What could we do to attract better attendance? Wouldn't it be great if we averaged 45-60 each month?

The opportunities that we have provided our students through Musicales, the January Masterclass, Scholarship Auditions, Young Artist Auditions, and Ensemble Festival have involved roughly 913 students (YAA-755 performed). We dispersed \$15,064 from January to April. Most of that represents scholarships and YAA award money. We are a solvent and thriving organization (144 members) within the state and are larger than some state organizations, from what I have been told.

Our eight program meetings have offered a wide variety of repertoire, pedagogy, wisdom and challenge. Reflect on how interesting the Gillock and Ragtime programs were. Applied piano techniques and strategies offered by Karen Allred and Julie Knerr were great resources. Observation of the January Masterclass was insightful and challenged us. Some of our own members shared their talents in December and will share their sage wisdom and experiences in our upcoming meeting. We are honored by the recognition that Richard and Deborah Ruggero offer one of our teachers each year.

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Keep up with your RPTA colleagues this summer on the web!

www.raleighpianoteachers.org

www.ncmta.org

www.mtna.org

Yahoo Groups:
Raleigh Piano Teachers

Facebook:
Raleigh Piano Teachers



May our words be

dolce,

our hearts be

giocoso,

our spirits,

con fuoco,

and all our teaching,

con amore.

From the President, continued

Yes, we are a blessed and vital part of the musical community of Raleigh and the surrounding communities. Share your pride and let your music families know that your professional involvement enriches your teaching, your resource pool and provides standards of excellence we all strive for.

Enjoy your upcoming summer....renew, refresh, and rejoin us as we make the universal language of music stronger every year. Share the wealth!

Wishing you much joy through inspired teaching...

I remain your humble colleague,

Jeanine Skinner
President, RPTA

May Program

“Wit and Wisdom from a Lifetime of Teaching”

We piano teachers know that the process of learning piano is a marathon, not a sprint. We faithfully guide students, if we are so blessed, from early elementary school until they graduate from high school. Often we are the only non-family adults privileged to regularly spend time with children year after year. Year after year after year – all those years add up! What tales and triumphs and yes, even tears, we have shared with so many students!

We have several members among us who have indeed chosen the marathon route of piano teaching. They have cheerfully greeted and patiently guided countless piano students for fifty years or longer! These are RPTA’s own *Golden Girls*.

Please join us at the May meeting to honor our Golden Girls, to celebrate them, laugh with them and glean from them the wisdom *they’ve* learned from all these years in the piano studio. Come be inspired!

Sheila Dacus, NCTM
RPTA VP-Programs

Visit with Marilyn Brown



RPTA President Jeanine Skinner recently paid a visit to longtime RPTA member Marilyn Brown, who now resides at Brookdale Senior Living Community in Wake Forest.

Jeanine reports that Marilyn is walking well and is in good spirits!

Independent Music Teachers Forum

Thanks so much to Renee McKee for sharing her teaching tip at the April meeting! This month I have a question for you!

I have several seniors giving solo recitals this spring and 2 of them are male. What is the equivalent of giving flowers to a performer after a recital? I know that these male students would be gracious if I gave them a bouquet of flowers but there must be something else that would be an appropriate, comparable gift.

So send me your ideas and I will report them back to everyone at the May meeting and in our next newsletter. Thank you in advance for your creative ideas!

Dottie Buster, IMTF Chair
dottie.buster@gmail.com

RPTA Full Board Meeting

Our RPTA Full Board meeting is being scheduled and confirmed this week. I am tentatively announcing the date to be **Friday, June 23, from 10 am – noon at Ruggero Piano Company**. Please check your calendars and give me feedback from those on the board if you have a conflict. There will be a confirmation email on our Yahoo email within the next few days.

Board members, please remember that this is a planning meeting to establish our schedule for the coming year. It is very important that you attend this meeting. If you have particular positions where your event needs a date, please send me suggested/preferred dates and times.

Thank you,
Jeanine Skinner, RPTA President