

RALEIGH PIANO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Monthly Meeting

May 16, 2018

- 9:45, General Membership Business Meeting
- 10:15, May Teacher Musicales and Luncheon

Inside this issue:

From the President, cont. 2

Independent Music Teachers Forum 2

May Teacher Musicales 3

Teaching Tip: A Rhythm App 3

Sept. 28-29 Artist Workshop Featuring Peter Mack 3

From the President

May I Thank You?

The time has come to write my final president's article and I struggle to gather my thoughts. A sense of admiration, appreciation, and joy continue to overflow as I identify myself as your president in public and in private settings. This organization represents some of the best teaching and some of the most dedicated individuals I have ever known in our profession. You are worthy of applause, accolades and respect. When I first moved to the Raleigh area in 2003, I couldn't wait to come to your first meeting. I had judged for the Guild one year in Raleigh and I had met Marilyn Brown a number of years before that. I instinctually knew that when I heard the students at the Guild Auditions and heard Marilyn's effervescing pride in her voice when she spoke of the quality of teaching in Raleigh, I had to be a part of this organization. I had been president of two other local chapters prior to moving here but I tried to keep that to myself as long as possible!

When I see your faithful presence at meetings, your "can do" attitude as a committee chair, your eagerness to learn from others, and the support you give to your colleagues, I find a depth of character, a tradition, and a source of professional strength that undergirds my own sense of well-being and pride. You model the qualities of leadership through mentoring, being resourceful, being genuine, and being in the moment. Always know that your profession is better because of the assets you bring to your students one on one, your community at large and your organization as a whole. It will be an honor to serve you as "Past President."

Each of your faces come to mind as I think of you and your influence on my teaching. I would like to mention a few folks that seem to stand out in my mind who have been particularly influential. I want to thank Diane Blanchard, Marie Willett Humphrey, Bonnie Walker, Helen Dietz, Marilyn Brown, Brenda Bruce, Alma Sparks, Anne Scoggin, Margaret Anne Smith, Ruth Hafley, and posthumously, Dana Mallory, for their abiding guidance and encouragement as I established my studio and learned how to be a contributing member of RPTA. As we continue to grow, let's all remember that our encouraging ways and our resourceful advice matters to our new and renewing members. We are a fabulous network of musicians where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Continued on page 2...

Looking ahead...

May 16
Monthly Meeting and
Teacher Musicale, Carswell

***Have a wonderful summer
break!***

Find RPTA on the Web:

www.raleighpianoteachers.org

www.ncmta.org

www.mtna.org

**Yahoo Groups: Raleigh Piano
Teachers**

**Facebook: Raleigh Piano
Teachers**

From the President, continued

Take note: you may not even realize that RPTA is larger than some of the state organizations in the US. Many members do not have access to monthly meetings and professional development programs like we have. Each one of our meetings is worthy of your time. Be active, be attentive, and say “yes, I can help” when called upon to do your part. As piano teachers, we are changing lives, one by one, day by day and hour by hour. Isn’t it wonderful that you don’t have to have all the answers? Raleigh Piano Teachers Association has been there for me and I know that it has been there for you. Continue to seek advice, to observe each other’s tenacity and to notice the model our members exhibit. Then, jump in with both feet! We want to learn from everyone!

So, in the *month of Maying*, may I say thank you? I can’t wait to see what lies ahead.

*“Now is the month of Maying, when merry lads are playing! Fa la la la la!
Each with his bonny lass, a-dancing on the grass, fa la la la la!
The Spring, clad all in gladness, doth laugh at Winter’s sadness! Fa la la la la!
And to the bagpipes’ sound, the nymphs tread out the ground! Fa la la la la!...”*
--Sir Thomas Morley

With devoted admiration,
Jeanine Skinner, President, RPTA

Independent Music Teachers Forum

As summer approaches, I know that many of you will be attending workshops, seminars, etc. Please consider sharing your experiences and teaching tips at next year’s meetings.

Also I am repeating the question of the month from April for your consideration. You can always email me or just feel free to speak up at the meetings with your words of wisdom on this topic!!

“Question of the Month” submitted by Pamela Tsai:

“With traditional calendar, year round track outs, and varying private schools all on different schedules, how do you handle breaks and still get one for yourself? What do you do with students who want to take breaks when you really aren’t on one?”

My email address is:

dottie.buster@gmail.com

Thank you in advance for sharing your wisdom and experience!!

Dottie Buster, IMTF Chair

May our words be

dolce,

our hearts be

giocoso,

our spirits,

con fuoco,

and all our teaching,

con amore.

May Teacher Musicale

Our May Teacher Musicale will showcase some of our own performers and composers. Come for the brief business meeting at 9:45 followed by the Musicale. Then enjoy brunch and fellowship with your fellow teachers before we part ways for the summer break.

See you soon!

Sheila Dacus, NCTM, VP-Programs

Teaching Tip: A Rhythm App

A fun app to use on your iPad in lessons: Rhythm Cat! You can find it in the app store. The first "stage" of 15 levels is free. If you want to get more challenging, you can pay \$3.99 for the "Rhythm Cat Pro."

Marie Humphrey

September 28 & 29 Artist Workshop: It's a WINNER!

There is quite a buzz going on about Dr. Peter Mack in the world of music-making and teaching! Our own RPTA is privileged to host his workshop for as many teachers in the area who can fit into Carswell at Meredith College on the weekend of September 28 & 29.

He will be doing a concert for us as well as inspiring us as teachers. Spread the word to any and all of your colleagues within and without RPTA. You and your teacher friends will not want to miss this amazing opportunity to hear Dr. Mack's lilting Irish voice bring practical and humorous, friendly and professional, and absolutely refreshing ideas about teaching and performing! Here is some additional information about our upcoming Workshop Artist:

Irish pianist Peter Mack is in great demand as a performer, clinician, convention artist, adjudicator, and teacher. Celebrated for his moving playing, and his easy rapport with audiences, he has performed throughout the United States and Europe, as well as in Australia, India, and the former Soviet Union. He is the winner of the New Orleans, Young Keyboard Artists, and Pacific International Piano Competitions. His prize in the Sherman-Clay competition included a Steinway grand piano. Naturally, he is a Steinway artist!

Peter Mack is well known for his extensive repertoire, having performed twenty-six concertos with orchestras. A choral scholar at Trinity College Dublin, and a fellow of Trinity College London, he has a doctorate in piano performance from the University of Washington. Dr. Mack is the only clinician who has been asked to deliver both the Advanced Piano Masterclass at the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) annual convention in California, and the Advanced Masterclass for MTNA Winners at the biennial National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy (NCKP) in the same year. His students are frequent winners of local, national, and international competitions. He is the proud teacher of twenty MTNA national finalists, and three MTNA national first place winners.

A former board member of MTNA, Peter Mack was the chair of the MTNA National Conference Planning Committee for the 2014 Chicago conference. In 2015, he was selected as an MTNA Foundation Fellow, a program that "honors deserving individuals who have made significant contributions to the music world and the music teaching profession."