

Affiliate of the North Carolina Music Teachers Association

November 2017

Number 140

RALEIGH PIANO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Monthly Meeting

Nov. 15, 2017 at
Ruggero Piano

- 9:45, General Membership Business Meeting
- 10:45, Program "How Loose is too Loose? What Piano Teachers Need to Know About Joint Hypermobility Syndrome," presented by Barbara Lister-Sink, Ed.D.

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From the President

The Afterglow of Gratefulness

I am in a reflective mode today as I bring relevance to you from my recent experiences, albeit from my perspective. The joy of preparing a big musical project can take on many dimensions as we boldly move forward through the stages of preparation and execution. The life that it has in the "afterglow" perhaps is why I use this as a topic today. Our music studio presented an outstanding and diverse program this past weekend. Twelve out of 16 teachers at MAS donned performer's hats and presented solo, duo, trio and ensemble pieces that fully entertained the audience. Perhaps we weren't perfect, but we did make music and people were touched by it!

So, why the afterglow? Sometimes, when we are in the midst of making something happen, it is rather difficult to see whether the components will be the success that you imagine in your mind. You wonder if all of the details have been translated into an artistic expression and if the quality of those efforts was worthy of all the energy you put into it. What is it that continues to resonate in our hearts and minds after the performance is done or the project is completed?

As performing musicians and teachers, we are constantly working on the "nuts and bolts" of a project. Our desire to be inclusive, to be original and to be accepted are equal parts of the whole package. Do any of these questions resonate? Did I remind Sally to clear the pedal more clearly in the recital hall? Did I send out reminders to arrive early so the students can be in the room and settled down before performing? I need someone to take pictures and someone to adjust or move the benches. What about flowers, programs and awards? If we are the performer, there is the pressure of finding enough time to practice, to communicate the music and not worry about every single note, and to stay calm while 5 more questions are brought to your attention only moments before you go on stage. Most of us put together lovely recitals for our students and are successful when performance demands present themselves. I'd say that we are great "production managers" and though we pour out all that we have in us to make concerts and programs happen, we often defer our proud moments to the parents and students. We are in service of their gifts, to their practice efforts and for their reception of our "bag of tricks." When we find ourselves as the performer and teacher being congratulated, thanked and appreciated, are we as gracious to ourselves as we are to our students and their parents?

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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

April 29
Student Musicale, Carswell

From the President, continued

In this season of gratefulness for all the people, music and opportunities that encircle our lives, let us also “humbly” enjoy reflecting on the gifts we offer others. Perhaps it is an understanding smile, a supportive pep talk, a kind hug, a sympathetic ear, or an insightful reply to a probing question that captures the essence of a day of lessons and not just the music. Whatever we are doing, be reminded that we are so lucky to be music makers and the promoters of a living art that makes people better than they were before music came into their lives. Let’s accept compliments, applause and thank you notes with sweet joy for having the opportunity to put something out in the universe that is bigger than we are. Let’s enjoy the “afterglow.”

Jeanine Skinner, DMA
President, Raleigh Piano Teachers Association

Independent Music Teachers Forum

Desperately seeking teaching tips, book review, new music websites, YouTube videos, etc! If you have any type of teaching tip or studio management tip that you are willing to share at our monthly meeting, please contact me at dottie.buster@gmail.com.

I know there are teachers out there with great ideas! Share the wisdom!

Dottie Buster, IMTF Chair

Holiday Musicale

The holidays are fast approaching, and that means it’s time to plan for the RPTA Holiday Teacher Musicale! This is always a highlight of the year for our group.

Don’t miss this opportunity to share a favorite solo or ensemble piece with your colleagues! Sign up at the November meeting or email me your selection for the December 13 program.

Sheila Dacus, NCTM, VP – Programs
dacuspiano@gmail.com

Congratulations to State Competition Winner

Congratulations to David Niu, student of Florence Ko, winner of the North Carolina MTNA Junior Performance Competition in piano.

May our words be

dolce,

our hearts be

giocoso,

our spirits,

con fuoco,

and all our teaching,

con amore.

Eleventh Annual Piano Playathon for Rare Childhood Diseases

All interested teachers are invited to join the Playathon, scheduled for Sunday, February 25th at Ruggero, Hopper and Maus Piano Companies. This fun and easy event can serve as a performance practice for YAA and can show your students how much good they can do for others with their piano talents.

Students of all ages and levels are welcome. Contact Polly Greene (pollygreene@nc.rr.com) or Pamela Tsai (tsaipiano@bellsouth.net) for more information.

Concert Pianist David Kalhous in Recital and Master Class

The acclaimed Czech pianist, David Kalhous, will present a Recital and Master Class at Meredith College, Carswell Recital Hall, with free admission.

The Master Class will be held on Tuesday, November 28, 5:00-7:30 p.m. The Recital will take place on Wednesday, November 29 at 7:30 p.m. (Works by Janacek, including his Sonata; Beethoven "Waldstein" Sonata, and the Liszt Sonata in B minor.)

<http://www.davidkalhous.com/english>

Please encourage your students to attend both of these excellent events!

Senior Recital

You are invited to attend a senior piano recital by Alexander McKeveny, student of Bonnie Walker. The recital will be held on Saturday, November 25th, 2017 at 7 pm at Maus Piano and Organ Company, located in the Oak Park Shopping Center at 6015 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27612.

Please RSVP by November 18th to (919) 676-1019 or mmckeveny@bellsouth.net.

CAPTA Artist Recital

The Cary Apex Piano Teachers Association is presenting its Annual Artist Recital on Friday, November 17 at the Cary Arts Center.

This year, the performance will be a "Duo Piano Recital" featuring Kerry Henry and Tonya Kirk. The concert will begin at 7:30PM.

The event is free and open to the public. This will be a wonderful piano experience for teachers and students!



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November Program (held at Ruggero Piano Company)

How Loose is Too Loose?

What Piano Teachers Need to Know About Joint Hypermobility Syndrome

Presented by Barbara Lister-Sink, Ed.D.

Joint hypermobility syndrome (JHS) or hyperlaxity—often called “double-jointedness,” is a genetic condition that can have a profoundly negative effect on the pianist’s ability to develop technically and musically, and can potentially create a cascading effect of various playing-related disorders. In performing arts medicine research, studies have shown that a high number of musicians have varying degrees of joint hypermobility syndrome. Recognizing and addressing this condition can be perplexing for the piano teacher in training technique and musicality, and even for the healthcare professional in determining a successful treatment. While many playing-related disorders involve excessive muscle tension and overly stabilized joints, joint hypermobility syndrome presents a more confounding pedagogical problem, one without a “cure.”

The purpose of this presentation is fourfold: 1) to help teachers recognize joint hypermobility, 2) to understand its risks and implications in students’ technical training, 3) to outline treatment options, including physical therapy, prolotherapy, alternative keyboard sizes, and mechanical devices, and 4) to offer helpful pedagogical approaches to keyboard students with joint hypermobility.

This interactive workshop will help teachers understand the unique challenges piano students and teachers face, and the implications of this condition in practice and performance. It is hoped that this presentation might enhance awareness and knowledge of a physical condition that can have serious negative consequences for keyboard students if unrecognized or ignored.



BARBARA LISTER-SINK, internationally acclaimed pianist and teacher, is a graduate of Smith College and holds the coveted Prix d’Excellence from the Utrecht Conservatory, and an Ed.D. from Columbia University. A former member of the Artist Faculty of the Eastman School of Music, she has collaborated with some of the world’s most distinguished performers, composers, and chamber ensembles. She has also taught on the piano faculties of the Amsterdam Muziek Lyceum, Duke University, and the Brevard Music Center and is Director of the School of Music and the Music Graduate Program at Salem College, Winston-Salem, NC. Her piano teachers include Margaret Mueller, Clemens Sandresky, Edith Lateiner-Grosz, John Duke, Harold Rubens, and Guido Agosti.

As a teacher, Lister-Sink is acknowledged as a global leader in injury-preventive keyboard technique. Her video/DVD *Freeing the Caged Bird – Developing Well-Coordinated, Injury-Preventive Piano Technique* won the distinguished 2002 Music Teachers National Association-Frances Clark Keyboard Pedagogy Award and was praised as “a monumental work!” by Vladimir Ashkenazy. She has been a frequent writer for peer-reviewed music journals, and has been featured artist or clinician in over 20 Music Teachers National Association state conventions. Lister-Sink’s playing is an eloquent demonstration of the marriage of technical freedom and musical artistry.