

# RALEIGH PIANO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

## Monthly Meeting

Oct. 18, 2017 at  
Ruggero Piano

- 9:45, General Membership Business Meeting
- 10:45, Program "Self-Care and Pain Relief Techniques for the Pianist," presented by Barbara A. Aaron, LMBT

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## From the President

### There Is Music in Our Souls

The fresh autumn air is certainly inspiring. It makes me long for a top-down convertible, a colorful scarf around my "long hair," and a handsome man (preferably Tony Curtis) driving me through one of the most colorful scenic views on the Buena Vista Highway (aka Audrey Hepburn). Some of you are giggling right now. Once upon a time I was a young girl with long auburn hair. But, do you know what I was really doing as a young girl? Most of the time I was playing and teaching piano. Yes! I started teaching when I was 15 years old! I had 5 students (charged \$5.00 a lesson) and played for church every Sunday (\$20). What a great training ground this gave me. I fell in love with teaching right away and there was never an audience too small or too large for me to be willing to entertain or inspire. My renditions of "Alley Cat" and "Sabre Dance" were showstoppers in the day!!

Do you recall what made you want to teach piano or what inspired moment or person led you to want to learn how to play the piano? Ok, don't make fun of me - - - mine was Liberace and Jo Ann Castle. (I was with my grandparents a lot on weekends and I guess that was the line-up on tv.) I begged to learn how to play the piano and when that moment came that I got my VERY OWN PIANO, I ran across the room, I threw myself to the floor as I hugged the left leg of my new Everett and I cried. Yes, I did! I cried because it was MINE. No more going to the neighbors for 30 minutes every day. Then, it happened! I heard my first concert pianist: Harvey Lavan "Van" Cliburn!! It was all over but the practicing. I could hardly wait to get back home and practice the "Minute Waltz"!! From then on, I was hooked.

Fast forward to today. I still long to "turn my students on" to what music can be in their lives. I want them to find that fire and that love that has driven me, soothed me, and enriched my life. It is THEIR skill, THEIR friend, and THEIR inspired thoughts that no one can take away from them. It delights me each time I run into a former student and they tell me that they still sit down and play the piano. Or that they picked up another instrument or are singing in a choir. Music is the gift that keeps on giving, folks, and I'm here to remind you that it genuinely goes into the crevasses of your mind and heart when no amount of words of comfort can help or heal. And for those of us who are "called" as music teachers, it is an even more profound gift that we are summoned to share.

*Continued on page 2...*

Looking ahead...

October 5-7  
NCMTA State Conference  
Elizabeth City State University

October 29  
Student Musicale, Carswell

February 10  
Scholarship Auditions

February 11  
Student Musicale, Location TBA

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

Think about all the experiences that you have had that would not have happened without music. At first you may have played on some recitals, or for friends in school. You may have accompanied in a garage band, played at the Women's Club for tea, or enjoyed performing on a talent show. Did your talent take you to another town, another state, another country, another type of venue? Does your reputation as a great teacher leave you breathless at the end of your week because of all the ways you have touched another person's life? How does that make you feel? Is it motivating and does it make you want to play more, teach more? I suggest that though we may be weary from the demands of our long and late hours of teaching, there is an effervescent spirit of satisfaction in knowing we have met the call, we have given of ourselves, and that we have shown grace, perseverance and forbearance.

In our own membership, I can just imagine the myriad experiences that have led you to your prowess as a teacher. Our common language of music requires few words to reveal what is in our souls. Let's see how we can be the catalyst for inspiration, motivation and challenge in the lives of those who we are so honored to teach. Let's give them the world. I reflect on the teachers and mentors who shaped and molded me into the musician that I have become. What a great cloud of witnesses we have that shaped our path. Let's be the person that elevates a mood, a thought, a habit or a talent today. We may never know what seeds will flourish with continued nourishment and sunshine.

My admiration and respect are yours,

Jeanine Skinner, DMA  
President, Raleigh Piano Teachers Association

## Piano Sales at Hopper and Ruggero Piano

We are so excited to have the opportunity for our students to receive discounted pricing on the purchase of a new or used piano this month! Both Hopper Piano Company and Ruggero Piano Company will be hosting piano sales during the month of October!

For a limited time, from October 14th to 21st, any RPTA student or family will receive a special discount on a new or used piano from Hopper or Ruggero Piano. Just tell your students to let the store know that they study with a teacher from RPTA.

Please make an effort to share this important opportunity with your studio. A percentage of the sales will be donated to RPTA to benefit our music scholarship program. This is very welcomed and needed for the ongoing success of this part of our mission statement. Thank you for doing your part in making this a more musical community!

*May our words be*

***dolce,***

*our hearts be*

***giocoso,***

*our spirits,*

***con fuoco,***

*and all our teaching,*

***con amore.***

## October Program: HELD AT RUGGERO PIANO COMPANY

“Self-Care and Pain Relief Techniques for the Pianist”

How do we piano teachers care for ourselves while we teach? Our students can only benefit when we are at our best. Our October presenter will be Barbara A. Aaron, LMBT, a Licensed Massage and Bodywork Therapist. She will be sharing self-care tips and pain relief techniques for the pianist.

Barbara is associated with Miracle Massage Therapy in Raleigh. She is a self-motivated, determined individual who can relate to the stressors of everyday life, identify them, tune into that energy to eliminate it, and restore clients back to balance. Holistic healing has been a love of hers for 10 years and counting. Barbara thrives off of seeing result based care through the healing effects of various massage modalities.

Join us at Ruggero Piano for some TLC – you’ve earned it!

Sheila Dacus, VP of Programs



## Independent Music Teachers Forum

I hope you attended our September program! It was great! (Thank you, Sheila Dacus, for organizing it.) Many of our members shared teaching tips – but I’m sure that some teachers didn’t get a chance to share. Please contact me if you would like to share any type of teaching tip, website, book review, etc. at our monthly meetings.

I have already used 2 of the teaching tips from the September meeting: Last Mouse Lost and Note Rush.

Last Mouse Lost, demonstrated by Chrissy Ricker, is a game that helps students learn to play on the tips of their fingers by pressing mice bubbles! It is a lot of fun and just takes a few minutes of lesson time.

Note Rush, recommended by Dee Ann Patton, is a note-naming app. Students actually play the notes on the piano as they appear on the screen. The app uses holiday themes and is very colorful. Students are timed and therefore are motivated to get faster at note recognition! My students have loved it!

You can email me at [dottie.buster@gmail.com](mailto:dottie.buster@gmail.com).

I look forward to hearing from you!!

Dottie Buster, IMTF Chair

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Find RPTA on the Web:  
[www.raleighpianoteachers.org](http://www.raleighpianoteachers.org)

[www.ncmta.org](http://www.ncmta.org)

[www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org)

Yahoo Groups:  
Raleigh Piano Teachers

Facebook:  
Raleigh Piano Teachers

## October Musicale

**OCTOBER MUSICALE NEWS FOR EVERYONE!** Hopefully, you are planning to enter one or two students for our Musicale scheduled for Sunday, October 29, 3:00 PM in Carswell Concert Hall, Meredith College. **Deadline for entering is Saturday, October 21.**

You may enter by mailing a copy of the form in our Yearbook, online through our website, or to my personal email [almasparks@att.net](mailto:almasparks@att.net). If you email me directly, please include all the information listed on the form in the yearbook.

All solos are to be by memory and an original composition. All styles and eras of solos are most welcome with an additional suggestion that it would be interesting and timely to include some memorized Halloween pieces. Duets, duos or any ensemble number can be submitted and these can be original or arrangements, and also have a Halloween theme, and do not have to be memorized. Beginning students and upward, as well as all levels of performance are welcome.

Please have your student or students come early between 2:30 and 2:50 to have the opportunity to warm up on the piano. We hope new members will want to participate. If you have questions, call Alma Sparks at 919.231.7355. Thank you,

Alma Sparks, Musicale Chair and Fay Ward, Musicale Co-Chair



## Wibrowski Class on Chopin's Mazurkas

Dear Colleagues, Lovers of Piano:

During the two weeks of our Paderewski Festival, we are privileged to host our dear friend and colleague Adam Wibrowski. He is an amazing teacher and musician with so much to offer.

I would like to take advantage of his ability and knowledge while he is here. On Nov. 7, from 10 am until noon at my house he will make a class on teaching and performing Chopin's Mazurkas. I would invite possibly 5 performers, 15 auditors. Possibly you are teaching a Mazurka or want to. Prof. Wibrowski is so conversant you will gain. I encourage any of you to try, you will learn! He is Polish and has spent many years in Paris, so he has same nationalities as our beloved Chopin.

I will say first come, first served. I encourage all of you to take advantage of his musical wisdom. Fee for performers \$25, auditors \$15. I assure you, you will gain insight.

Hurry, sign up!

Brenda Bruce

[brendabruce@mindspring.com](mailto:brendabruce@mindspring.com)

## From Russia with Love

**From Russia with Love**  
**November 4, 2017 @ 7:30 pm**  
**Cary Arts Center**  
**101 Dry Ave, Cary, NC 27511**

**Nikita Galaktionov**, pianist, **David Dubal**, Emcee  
Tickets: \$20 general, \$15 Seniors (65 and above), \$15 All grade school and college students

Emmy Award winning radio producer, author and teacher, David Dubal hosts this fascinating look at works from Russian romanticism, performed by young international virtuoso pianist, Nikita Galaktionov. Dubal and Galaktionov take you on a musical tour of Russia, visiting old war horses as well as obscure classics, giving insightful readings and entertaining commentary to make the music come alive.

**Tickets at** - <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/4347887/town-of-cary-clayton-piano-festival-present-from-russia-with-love-cary-cary-arts-center>

## Smedes Parlor Concert Series

**Smedes Parlor Concert Series**  
**presents**

**“An Evening of Piano Trios”**  
**Tuesday, October 17, 2017**  
**8:00 p.m.**

**Fabián López**, violin  
**Nathan Leyland**, cello  
**Jeremy Thompson**, piano

**Program:**  
Beethoven Piano Trio, Op.70 *"Ghost"*  
Turina Circulo, Op.91  
Brahms Piano Trio in B major Op.8

**Free admission/donations appreciated**  
**Saint Mary's School**  
**900 Hillsborough St – Raleigh, NC**

[sms.edu/our-programs/arts/smedes-parlor-concert-series](https://sms.edu/our-programs/arts/smedes-parlor-concert-series)

**919 – 424 - 4045**