

September 2018  
Number 147

Affiliate of the North Carolina Music Teachers Association

# RALEIGH PIANO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

## Monthly Meeting

Sept. 19, 2018 at  
*Ruggero Piano*

- 9:45, General Membership Business Meeting
- 10:45, Program "RPTA: What's in it for me?"

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## From the President

### Musical Musings

It's a great time to be a piano teacher! Resources aplenty are at our fingertips – look online and you can find a teaching idea for pretty much anything these days. Another touch will send a download to your computer immediately or a package to your door in a day or two. What more could we ask?

It turns out what we most need can't be found in a computer search. Studies consistently show that a strong sense of community makes for greater happiness. As piano teachers we are certainly not isolated. Although most of us see many students each week, it is much more challenging to make meaningful connections with others in our profession. Crazy working hours, independent studios, and practice diligence all conspire to sequester us.

So how can we foster that deep need for community? We are extremely blessed to have a vibrant group of dedicated piano teachers here in Raleigh. Here are friends who understand our challenges – how to reach a struggling student, what piece of music can inspire a discouraged student – and who can share an idea that works in their own studio.

Here also we come together to learn from the best in our profession and return to our studios motivated and better equipped to meet our students where they are and to take to them beyond what they imagined.

Much planning has gone into creating stellar opportunities for you and your students this coming year. Marlowe Carruth, VP-Programs, has tapped gifted teachers near and far to create inspiring programs each month. Our Fall Workshop committee, headed by Renee McKee, is bringing the amazing Dr. Peter Mack to Raleigh for a free recital Friday, September 28, and all-day workshops Saturday, September 29. You DO NOT WANT TO MISS this one, friends! Clear your calendar for the opportunity to hear one of the most engaging, entertaining, inspiring, and helpful pedagogues in the country. His Irish accent is a delightful extra!

Our October bonus is the North Carolina Music Teachers Conference at the UNC School of the Arts. Our own Jeanine Skinner has assembled a wonderful weekend featuring Marvin Blickenstaff, teacher extraordinaire, and concert artist Jeffrey Biegel.

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Looking ahead...

September 8  
NCMTA Piano Workshop  
Ruggero Piano

September 28-29  
RPTA Artist Workshop  
Featuring Dr. Peter Mack  
Meredith College

October 11-14  
NCMTA State Conference  
UNC School of the Arts

October 28  
Student Musicale

February 3  
Ensemble Festival  
Christ Baptist Church

March 16-20  
MTNA Conference  
Spokane, WA

## From the President, continued

We're so glad you have chosen to join this community, the Raleigh Piano Teachers Association. To make the most of your membership, jump right in! As your schedule permits, come to our monthly meetings and workshops. Let your students experience a Musicale, the Ensemble Festival, Young Artists Auditions. Meet someone new, lend a hand when you can. You will strengthen your own teaching and build into your life that all important dimension, community. Welcome!

For the joy of music,

Sheila Dacus, NCTM  
RPTA President

## Young Artist Auditions

Dear RPTA Members,

It's been a lovely summer and now it's time to get back in the saddle! We updated the Elementary 2, the Intermediate 1 and 2, and the Concerto 1-3 levels of the YAA Repertoire List. The updated list has been on the RPTA website for a couple of weeks now. Please refer to this new list as you make your repertoire selections. Unless there is some major error, it cannot be changed. Please don't ask for a piece that's not on the list to be added. We will be updating the Senior 1 and 2, the Young Artist 1 and 2, and Concerto IV levels this coming year.

The YAA Guidelines have also been updated and will be posted soon. Please read the guidelines carefully!

We plan to go online for payment of YAA this year. More on that when Rebekah Taylor and I get that figured out. We will be working on getting a system in place to have registration completely online. (It would be lovely if that could be in place for this year, but we are in the beginning stages for that project. We aren't sure how involved or difficult the process will be.)

All updates and announcements will be sent out on the Yahoo group as well as made at the monthly meetings.

Please let me know if you have any comments or suggestions, or if you would like to serve or help out with any of the above named projects! The more, the merrier!

Musically, Debbie Heath, NCTM  
YAA Coordinator

*May our words be*

***dolce,***

*our hearts be*

***giocoso,***

*our spirits,*

***con fuoco,***

*and all our teaching,*

***con amore.***

## RPTA Artist Workshop

Our Workshop with Dr. Peter Mack is right around the corner! Go to our website: [raleighpianoteachers.org](http://raleighpianoteachers.org) to read about and get registered for the **September 28 & 29 Artist Workshop at Meredith College.**

Dr. Mack will present a concert Friday night, and on Saturday he will present artistic, practical and *memorable* teaching concepts and hand out repertoire ideas for our students. All piano teachers are invited, so feel free to invite a teacher friend who may not be a part of our wonderful RPTA organization (yet!). This Workshop is the highlight event of the RPTA Year, and I hope to see you there!!

Renee McKee, 2018 RPTA Artist Workshop Chair



## Independent Music Teachers Forum

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are energized with fresh ideas to start the new teaching year and to SHARE!! Beginning in October, I would like to start back with our teaching tips. Please consider sharing ideas that you learned in workshops, books you've read, music apps that you have discovered, business techniques that have helped you run your studio more smoothly, etc.

That brings me to my question of the month! Do you use any payment apps, such as Venmo or PayPal for your tuition payments? Or any other ones that I might not be aware of? And if so, please share your experiences. Do many of your parents pay this way? Have you had any issues?

Thanks for your feedback! And start thinking about ways to share your experience and wisdom with all of us!

Dottie Buster, IMTF Chair

## October Musicale

**MUSICALE:** Start preparing for participation in the October 28 Musicale! It will be at 3:00 pm, place to be announced. That date is just three days before Halloween, so that kind of piece would be great! Remember, solos by memory; duets or duos can be with music. The deadline for entry is October 20.

Send entries to Alma Sparks (addresses in Yearbook - online or snail mail). We look forward to many entries and a great Musicale to begin our teaching year.

Thank you!  
Alma Sparks and Faye Ward, Musicale Co-Chairs

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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](#)

## Ensemble Festival

Welcome back after a wonderful summer everybody! We are so excited to be heading into an Ensemble Festival year! We are rolling out online registration and payment for the very first time. You will also be able to fill them out by hand as we have done in the past. Please make sure to read the guidelines thoroughly and let us know if you have any issues with the registration process.

Thank you!

Angela Rumball and Dottie Buster, Ensemble Festival Co-Chairs  
[Angela.rumball@gmail.com](mailto:Angela.rumball@gmail.com); [Dottie.buster@gmail.com](mailto:Dottie.buster@gmail.com)

## Social Media

Hello Everyone! I will be managing the Facebook page and our social media presence this year. I hope you will all take a bit of time to go to the page, "like" it, and invite your friends and family to do so also. This will really help us to promote our events as the year goes on.

Thank you!

Angela Rumball, [Angela.rumball@gmail.com](mailto:Angela.rumball@gmail.com)

## Classical Concert Series at Halle Cultural Arts Center

Please join us as we kick off the 2018-19 season of the Classical Concert Series at Halle Cultural Arts Center in Apex!

The first concert of the season takes place Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm and will feature music for woodwinds performed by members of the Triangle Chamber Music Collective. The program will feature original compositions by two of our own RPTA members: Jacob Groff and Chrissy Ricker.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for students. More information is available about the entire concert series at <https://www.apexnc.org/1036/2018-2019-Classical-Concert-Series>

## 2018-19 Monthly Programs

From Marlowe Carruth:

Hello Fellow RPTA Members!

As your new VP of programs, I sent an email in June asking for YOUR ideas for programs this year. I did not take this lightly! You spoke...I listened. I have tried to focus the programs around your suggestions as much as possible.

One of the common themes I heard over and over was that we don't really have time to get to know one another and learn from each other. At our first meeting, we will have a special "get to know your members" activity during our coffee break. PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAMETAG!

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## 2018-19 Monthly Programs, continued

Many of us are still somewhat confused about all that being a member of RPTA offers. We have MANY special items to cover in September. This meeting will be all about taking a fresh look at what your membership can give you as a musician and teacher! **PLEASE NOTE: OUR FIRST TWO MEETINGS WILL BE AT RUGGERO PIANO!** Here is a look ahead:

- Wed, 9/19/18      ***What's In It For Me?***  
A fresh look at all that your RPTA membership provides for you!  
Multiple Presenters  
Ruggero Piano
- Wed, 10/17/18      ***The Art of Outlining--A Vital Practice Technique***  
Implementing Pianist Sophia Rosoff's approach  
Dr. Carol Ann Barry, NCTM  
Ruggero Piano
- Wed, 11/14/18      ***Master Class for the Intermediate Student***  
Thomas Swenson will bring his enthusiasm for teaching the intermediate student  
Dr. Thomas Swenson, NCTM, UNC School of the Arts
- Wed, 12/12/18      ***Holiday Musicale & Brunch***  
RPTA Members will enjoy a time of food, fellowship and fun holiday music!  
Hopper Piano Company
- Wed, 01/16/19      ***The Art of Repertoire Selection & Performance Preparation***  
Practical Steps for preparing students for performance  
Dr. Margaret Evans, Meredith College
- Wed, 02/20/19      ***Taming the Technology Jungle***  
Digital Management Strategies for the Independent Music Teacher  
Amy Chaplin, Piano Pantry
- Wed, 04/10/19      ***Recitals Revisited***  
Creative Recital Ideas for the modern attention span.  
RPTA Panel
- Wed, 05/15/19      ***Thinking as a Composer Thinks***  
Solving problem spots in pieces by unraveling the composer's thoughts.  
Tom L. Lohr, Meredith College