

May our words be *Dolce*,
Our hearts be *Giocoso*,
Our spirits, *Con Fuoco*,
And all our teaching, *Con Amore*

February 2012
Number 90

www.raleighpianoteachers.org

Yahoo group: raleighpianoteachers

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Raleigh Piano Teachers Association

Affiliate of North Carolina Music Teachers Association

Message from the President

Margaret Anne Smith

We all enjoyed Tom Lohr's very interesting talk last February and are happy to have a chance to hear him again when he speaks on the subject, "Numbers in Music", at THIS February's meeting. The date is February 15 - so mark that on your calendar and plan to be present.

We are now entering the busy season of the year with many auditions and recitals taking place between now and the beginning of the summer. If you have students participating in any of these event(s), be sure that you inform students and parents of the various rules governing them.

There is no RPTA meeting in March but in April, we look forward to hearing Anne Scoggin speaking to us on the subject, "Moving Beyond the Method Books: Accelerate your Students' Musical Progress."

I was "quick on the draw", as actors in westerns used to like to say, and I grabbed a new book from the RPTA library: "Music Lessons" by Anna Goldsworthy. It is not very long but totally engrossing - I read it almost in one sitting. I'm going to return it at the February meeting and highly recommend it. It is a memoir of Anna's life in Adelaide, Australia as she studied piano with a wonderful Russian teacher, who was able to communicate so well how her love of music enriched her life beyond measure. Anna was nine years old when she began studying with this teacher. Her writing will make you laugh, cry, and just be glad that you are privileged to have music in your life.

NEW MEMBER

Our newest member is Marilyn Struckmeyer. Please make her feel welcome to RPTA! Introduce yourself and help her get involved in our great organization!

Great Musical Opportunities provided by Meredith College

Meredith College Summer Music Camp

Teachers are invited to share the following information with your student families regarding Summer Music Camp offerings at Meredith College. If, during the summer, you are interviewing beginners for the fall, please feel free to send them to our Beginners' Piano Camp. If they can attend, it would give any beginners a good head start.

Camps included are: The Piano Camp (2-weeks), Beginners' Piano Camp, High School Theory Camp, Middle School Composition Camp, and the Intensive Piano Camp.

For complete information, registration forms, (including health forms) for the 2012 Summer Music Camps at Meredith College, please visit our website at: www.meredith.edu/music/piano-camps.htm

Upcoming Piano Recital

Cynthia Lawing, pianist will perform a Lecture-Recital on the Music of Armenian Composers. Friday, February 17, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. The concert will be held in Carswell Concert Hall, at Meredith College. This is a free event not to be missed!

Teaching Tips

Please contact Dottie Buster if you would like to share a teaching tip at our monthly RPTA meetings. A teaching tip can be anything that you have found to help your students or to help in managing your studio. You may believe that everyone already knows your tip but someone always benefits when we share our knowledge and experience - and it's fun to do!! So don't be shy - contact Dottie at dottie.buster@gmail.com or 847-0202.

Teacher Musicale

The December Teacher Musicale was a big success! Thank you to all who performed. Your participation made a great addition to our December meeting!

We will plan to do another short teacher musicale in May. So if you wanted to, but were not able to play in December, be thinking about what you would like to do in May.

Sign-up sheets for the May Musicale will be available at the February and April meetings, or you may email me at amy.r.gardner@gmail.com to let me know what you would like to play.

Congratulations to ALL the participants of the RPTA Scholarship Auditions!!

We had a very successful Saturday, and we're looking forward to a SUPER **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12 @ 3PM** in Carswell Concert Hall. You will not want to miss this opportunity to see and hear some of the finest young pianists in the area.

And the winners are

Level I - Sandra Hopper Manly Scholarships:

Tim Jones (Brenda Bruce)
Adrienne Huang (Kent Lyman)
William Wei, Honorable Mention (Kent Lyman)

Level II:

Marion Cable Scholarship: Andrew Norton (Margaret Evans)
Tom L. Lohr Scholarship: Melissa Sultan (Marie Willett)
Honorable Mention: Daniel Dumitrescu (Olga Urick)

Hope to see you all Sunday!!

Musical Treasures sponsored by CAPTA

Young Musicians Workshop will be held at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Cary on Saturday, February 25, 2012 from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Francis Page and Bonnie Walker will be a part of the instructor team.

Registration forms are available on the RPTA Yahoo Board.

The 2012 Piano Playathon for Batten Disease

We are busy organizing this year's Playathon and would like to invite all interested teachers to participate. The Playathon is a fun, low stress event that allows students the chance to perform without pressure, and to experience the joy of using their musical gifts and those hours of practicing to help another child. Students who have participated in past Playathons speak of it as the most motivating and exciting piano event of the year.

The Piano Playathon for Batten Disease is growing! We have four locations confirmed in Raleigh and one in Concord this year. If you want to be part of the Playathon, we still have room at Burrage on Saturday, February 18 and at Maus on Sunday, February 19. Students can play anything they want, whether polished performance pieces or favorites from the primer book. Any and all levels and ages are welcome. Your students will enjoy being part of this rewarding event and using their piano skills to help another child. Contact Pamela Tsai at tsaipiano@BellSouth.net for more information.

To learn more about Batten Disease and Taylor King, go to www.taylorstale.com

Clayton Piano Festival

Clayton Piano Festival announces its first season – a week-long celebration of the piano – February 10-17. Experience a personal journey through music from the great classics to works written yesterday!

For more information:
www.claytonpianofestival.org

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

February 12, 2012
RPTA Scholarship Auditions
Winners' Recital

February 18, 2012
NCMTA District Piano Festival

February 24-25, 2012
Federation Piano Festival

March 2-3, 2012
Young Artist Auditions

March 24, 2012
NCMTA State Piano Festival

April 22, 2102
Musicale

Teacher Referral

Teachers who need students and would like their name on the Teacher Referral Page of the RPTA website, please contact Ellen Scott at ellenscott@nc.rr.com or by phone, 831-9167.

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RPTA MEETINGS

February 15, 2012
RPTA Meeting
Tom Lohr

“Numbers in Music”

April 18, 2012
RPTA Meeting
Anne Scoggin

“Moving Beyond the Method
Books: Accelerate your
Students’ Musical Growth”

Quiz: Is Certification Right for You? By Julie Gorka

Any good piano teacher could certify, while inept teachers might have a lot of work to do! How do YOU rate? Take this quick and easy quiz and find out!

1. How do you motivate your students?
 - A. I give them praise for what they are good at, and teach them how to practice to fix their weak areas, while holding them to high standards.
 - B. I give them lots of stickers and hugs.*
 - C. I don't care if they are motivated; I just want the money.
2. Is your piano tuned and well-maintained?
 - A. Yes, the Steinway and the Kawai are kept in tune, all the time.
 - B. Of course! Keyboards never go out of tune.
 - C. Mine was already tuned when I bought it.
3. Do you give your students a wide variety of music?
 - A. Yes, there is so much good music of all types. I enjoy looking for interesting pieces for my students.
 - B. I don't read music very well so I like to stick to the ones I really know.
 - C. John Thompson is enough for all my students. Once they're done with those books, what more is there to learn?
4. How do you work with a student who doesn't understand half notes?
 - A. Clap, count, encourage, insist, nag.
 - B. A smack upside the head works pretty good for me.
 - C. Half notes? What do you mean?
5. What is your musical education?
 - A. Masters in Piano Performance, many other courses in methods, master classes, lectures, occasional tune-up lessons with a well-known teacher
 - B. I do practice all three of the scales that I know, and that Ode to Joy song. And the first page of Für Elise, which I have almost completed.
 - C. I took two years of piano from nasty Mrs. Hildegard down the street. I enjoy inflicting similar pain upon my students and love to make them feel stupid and inferior.

Results: Give yourself 10 points for all “A” answers, and none for each B or C. If you have 50 points, you should definitely become certified! See Kathleen Vockeroth or Julie Gorka for assistance!

*Not that these are bad things in themselves!

Minutes of the General Meeting of RPTA on January 18, 2012:

The meeting was called to order by the president at 9:51 a.m. She stated that she was adding a correction to the last month's minutes: Dee Dee Neville's last name would be added to those minutes. Then the minutes were approved, there being no more corrections or additions.

Treasurer's report: Checking account: \$4826.46; Money Market fund: \$13,554.89 and Certification Fund: \$1300. Checks to Young Artists Auditions have not been processed yet. The treasurer asked teachers to please have students cash their checks in a timely manner.

Membership: No report

Newsletter: No report

Certification: Julie Gorka asked members to jot down on slips of paper being passed out any ideas which they might have regarding their teaching philosophy to give us an idea of how we might proceed if we are thinking of certification. These papers will not be collected but are just to give you an idea about what your philosophy of teaching is.

Email read from Terry Thompson about Daniel Liauw winning Honorable Mention at the MTNA Southern Division Senior Piano competition last weekend. Daniel will play his MTNA program on Tuesday night, January 24 at 8 p.m. on the Smedes Parlor Series at St. Mary's School. Margaret Anne will put this information out on the Yahoo group.

Courtesy: Donna Naeser: Helen Dietz is feeling much better and grateful for all of the cards and letters. She hopes to come to the meeting today.. Cree Russell's mother not doing very well... Please contact Donna with any information about people in need.

Email/telephone: No report

IMTF: Dottie Buster: Please send in Teaching Tips. Metronomes are now being put onto smart phones. Also, Marie Willett showed an iPad with a metronome, which pictures the "old-time" metronome.

Library: Our librarians presented us with another of their original songs encouraging us to use the books, cd's and all of the other materials which they have. She especially

mentioned a new book recommended by Anne Scoggin: Piano Lessons by Anna Goldsworthy.

RPTA Scholarship: Today is the final day to enter students.

YAA: S.K.Y. Woo: Job descriptions are on top. BE ON TIME for your work. She explained how all of this works; most jobs are around 4 hours. She was able to honor most requests. Siblings playing at the same time cannot use the same book, of course, so they must find original copies. Jeanine: Concertos - 32 entries this time - teachers, please cut the concerto for the accompanist if the time is going to run too long. The judges will have to stop when the amount of time is up. Read all teacher instructions. Go through your schedule this week to check that the pieces are entered correctly; if the wrong piece is listed, the student can play for comments only. Student information: make sure that each student and parent receive this information; don't bring but one family member, if possible. There are 950 students entered with 11-12 for composition. On Friday night 5 rooms are being used; on Saturday 18 rooms plus composition room will be in use. 92 teachers have entered students, a few less than last year but still a large number.

Referral: No report

Musicale: Alma Sparks has received 2 entries by email and 3 by mail for the next musicale, which is on Sunday, January 29. She asks for more people to enter students.

Hospitality: no report

The president mentioned that the dates listed on the agenda are for activities other than those promoted by RPTA, just as a courtesy. These are NCMTA and Federation dates - the result being that we are now entering a very busy season.

New Music Issues and Raffle Drawing: Allen Herther. Allen mentioned an event at Carswell - a piano recital next Monday (this will be put out via the yahoo group). He mentioned that there was much new sacred material plus new classics books (3 books from Hal Leonard - but no CD's as yet) and several singles, mostly intermediate level pieces. He has copies of all of this music out on the piano.

The raffle winner was Linda Young and she received 2 of the books which Allen brought today.

Amy Gardner announced that Sheila Page is presenting our program today. Amy also mentioned that a sign-up sheet is available for sign-ups for the May musicale.

The meeting, one of our shortest, was adjourned - (27 minutes, 46 seconds) at 10:18 a.m.