

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

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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

I want to thank Amy Gardner for her hard work in setting up the power point presentation for our first meeting. It was helpful to all of us to better understand the many facets of our organization. We are a large and busy group of music educators, that's for sure!

Diane Blanchard and her assistants, Christine Albro and Marlene Kelsey, deserve our thanks for the wonderful workshop which featured the very inspiring Nelita True. How fortunate we are to have such a dynamo as Diane coming in as our own NCMTA President! I had never met Ms. True before and was very impressed at how approachable she was - and how she really knows how not only to lecture on topics which are helpful to us all but is able to work so well with students. We are so lucky to have had her visit RPTA.

Amy has planned some fine programs for us this year - so I look forward to seeing you on October 19th!

Nelita True Workshop

Thanks to the workshop committee for organizing this very successful workshop!!

Thank you to Hopper Piano and Ruggero Piano for providing the space and fine pianos. Thank you to Marlene Kelsey and Christine Albro for the wonderful food and drink. Thanks to Ruth Hafley for her guidance. Thanks to my mom and dad for helping to assemble the packets. Thanks to Marie Willett for the typing and formatting of the master class program and Melissa Jeffreys for printing them. My biggest thanks goes to Melissa Jeffreys for her help in all areas...from start to finish!! Many hands make light work...

2011 NCMTA FALL CONFERENCE

A sneak peek into a few of the programs at the conference:

Marina Lomazov: Haydn, Carter Pann, Liszt, Schubert,

Rachmaninoff, & Nicolai Kapustin
Lomazov Master Class: Mozart, Chopin, & Beethoven

Vandall Master Class: Winter Night, Ovation No 3, Exotica, Gypsy dance (duet)

Oakton Six Piano Ensemble:
Moskowski, Dvorak, Grieg, Mozart, Gershwin, Vandall, & Joplin

Conference events centered on improving the business side of your studio...Dylan Savage with practical entrepreneurial skills; A tempo keeping your studio data organized; NCmusiclessons.com helping you with marketing; Joni Hanna bringing you wonderful music cards for business gifts.

Look for the Breakfast Hospitality Station in a Fine Arts Center Gallery (hall) on Friday and Saturday mornings from 7:30 am – 9:30 am. Please thank the Winston-Salem Piano Teachers for this! Muffins and coffee...

Certification Meeting

If you are considering beginning the certification process, or would like some helpful time-saving tips, come to a meeting in the lobby of Carswell Hall at 9:00, October 19, before the regular monthly meeting. For more information, or just to let us know you'll be attending, contact Kathleen Vockeroth at kvock@bellsouth.net or 919-876-4329, or Julie Gorka, at practicealot@gmail.com or 919-838-6661.

RPTA Scholarship

RPTA Scholarship comes early in 2012, so now is the time to start planning with your students. February 4 is the date of auditions and the awards recital is scheduled for February 12. Please plan on giving us your estimate number of students to enter in each level at the October RPTA meeting so that we can start making plans for the best experience the students can have at such a high level of competition.

Shelia Paige Concert and Masterclass

CAPTA is sponsoring a Concert and Masterclass by Sheila Paige. The concert is Friday, November 4th, 7:30pm at the new Cary Arts Center.

Saturday, November 5, 9:30 - 12:30 is a Masterclass for students of members of CAPTA.

Both events are free and open to the public. Please come and also encourage students to attend.

Check Out (literally) Your Library

We are proud to announce that the library now has a copy of John Ruggero's book, *A Path to Piano Mastery* that is available to be checked out.

Also remember that ALL books and other materials that are overdue and have not been turned in by October's meeting will incur a fine of \$5 per item. Please check to see if you have anything that belongs to our library. We still have approximately 20 items that need to be returned.

Young Artist Auditions

YAA packets can be picked up from Burrage or downloaded from our website.

Meredith College Keyboard Day

Saturday, Nov. 12, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Wainwright Music Building. For more information please contact Kent Lyman at lymank@meredith.edu

Ruggero Piano Teacher Merit Award

The Ruggeros have long recognized the value of music in our society. In generous support of the music educators of Raleigh Piano Teachers Association, Richard and Deborah Ruggero have established the —*Ruggero Piano* Teacher Merit Award. The recipient is chosen annually from nominated applicants and receives an award of \$500. The *Ruggero Piano* Teacher Merit Award recognizes an individual teacher who has made a difference in students' lives, has contributed to the advancement of music in their community, and has made significant contributions to RPTA, NCMTA, and/or MTNA. An applicant may be nominated by any RPTA member. The application form along with any supporting documents must be submitted in duplicate to the current RPTA President postmarked by December 31. The following items are examples of the type of documents that should be submitted with the application.

1. Teaching/professional achievements, and number of years teaching experience
2. Evidence of teaching excellence
3. Accomplishments/contributions to RPTA, NCMTA, and/or MTNA
4. Community involvement
5. Former student or parent letter of support
6. Professional colleague letter of support
7. Letter of recommendation from the nominating RPTA member

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

September 10, 2011
NCMTA Piano Contest/Festival Workshop

September 23-24, 2011
Piano Pedagogy Workshop with Nelita True

October 27-30, 2011
NCMTA Annual Conference

November 6, 2011
Musicale

November 12, 2011 1:00-4:00 pm
Meredith College Keyboard Day

January 29, 2012
Musicale

February 4, 2012
RPTA Scholarship Auditions

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

RPTA Programs for 2011-2012

Thank you to all who completed the program survey online over the summer. I was able to use the results of the survey to help select programs based on all of your interests. We have a variety of exciting programs for the year!

Teresa Sumpter will be presenting in October. She will explore the work of Csikszentmihalyi and his book "Creativity" in her program "The Piano Studio as a Creative Community." If you want to know more about selecting literature for your intermediate level students, be sure to attend Jeanine Skinner's program in November, "Designing a Musical Diet for the Intermediate Student: A study of literature and technique that develop mature performers." In January Sheila Paige, founder of the Piano Wellness Seminar, will speak on "Octaves and Staccatos." Tom Lohr has written a wonderful set of 12 intermediate and early advanced level pieces that he will present to us at the February meeting in his program titled "Numbers in Music." In April Anne Scoggin will be telling us about how to transition students out of method books effectively with her program "Moving Beyond the Method Books: Accelerate your Students' Musical Growth." There is a lot going on this year. There are even some special things planned for the December and May meetings! (Details will be announced at the September meeting.) We will not have a program speaker for the September meeting. We will have an extended business meeting. This will be an important meeting to attend as there will be a lot of information presented. Having an extended business meeting will allow us the time we need to hear important announcements and details about the many things going on in RPTA. See you all there!

Independent Music Teachers Forum

Teaching Tips Needed!

Please consider sharing a teaching tip at our monthly meeting. Perhaps you learned a tip at a summer workshop or through your own teaching experience. Any idea or tip that you can share in 5 minutes or so would be great! Just contact me by email or phone: 847-0202 or dottie.buster@gmail.com



Question
Month for

of the
October

Thanks to everyone who responded to the September question of the month concerning whether or not you adapt your teaching policies for adult students. I received a total of 25 responses. Only 6 of those responding said that they did not change their policies when teaching adults. The other teachers had various ways of dealing with attendance - such as deciding at the beginning of the month how many lessons would be attended or having an adult choose a certain number of lessons out of a block of time. Some teachers charge adult students slightly more for this convenience.

In addition, all of the teachers who commented about the content of adult lessons said that they tailor the lessons/music studied to the desires of the adult.

Thank you to Loogwah Kradlak for our October Question of the Month.

She asks:

"How do you motivate your students to practice? Some new fresh thoughts would help each of us!"

I agree...so send me your best motivators!

Also remember that I'm always looking for someone to do the teaching tip at our monthly meetings. Don't be shy! Your tip could be exactly what someone needs to hear!

Volunteer JOB Descriptions for YAA

As you are getting started on YAA pieces with your students, please remember that YAA Needs Your Help.

As you know, all teachers who have students participating in YAA will be assigned jobs.

The jobs listed below are among those that are particularly important, and we need volunteers to fill them as soon as possible:

1. Continuity Facilitator

This is the last year for Jeanine and SKY. In order to ensure that the complexities of YAA are not overwhelming for whoever takes over next year, we need a person who is willing to be involved in YAA processes throughout the year, become informed about all the aspects of YAA during the 2011-2012 season, and then be available to work as part of the YAA team going forward. This person would not have to be the chairperson next year; he or she could be an extremely valuable resource to whoever does take on that job.

2. Monitor Coordinator

This person will be onsite at Meredith on Friday afternoon from 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM, on Saturday morning from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM, and on Saturday afternoon from 12:00 noon to 1:30 PM. The Coordinator will check in monitors as they arrive, give them name tags and folders, and review the monitor instructions with them.

3. Waiting Room Coordinator

This person will be onsite at Meredith all day on Saturday, from 8:00 AM until the last student goes to his or her audition (with lunch break). The Coordinator will make sure that the persons making announcements to the waiting students understand and follow the prescribed script, will fill in for announcers if they need a short break, and will work with escorts to help students get to their audition rooms peacefully and efficiently.

Sign-up to Volunteer for YAA to avoid being assigned!

To volunteer for the jobs described above or any other jobs for YAA, email skywoo@nc.rr.com. You may volunteer for any job except grading room (which is by invitation only). To find out more about what jobs are available, call or email S.K.Y. Woo (919-847-9994)

There will also be sign-up sheets for jobs available at the October and November meetings.

Volunteering for the job(s) you prefer is the best way to avoid being assigned one(s) you do not like.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

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RPTA MEETINGS

September 14, 2011
RPTA Meeting

October 19, 2011
RPTA Meeting
Teresa Sumpter

“The Piano Studio as a Creative Community”

November 16, 2011
RPTA Meeting
Jeanine Skinner

“Designing a Musical Diet for the Intermediate Student: A study of literature and technique that develop mature performers”

January 18, 2012
RPTA Meeting
Shelia Page

“Octaves and Staccatos”

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”

RPTA General Meeting Minutes, September 21, 2011:

The meeting was called to order by President Margaret Anne Smith at 09:48. Minutes of the May 2011 meeting stand approved without correction.

This month's meeting was an extended business meeting with a colorful power point presentation. Margaret Anne reminded each of us that we must renew our membership by July 1st, 2012 to be able to enter students in events by RPTA. She also reminded members to sign the attendance roster and wear a nametag. DeeAnn Patton makes the nametags.

Treasurer's Report: Melissa Jeffreys gave the following report of \$6700.14 in checking, \$13,550.51 in the money market account, and \$1300 in the certification fund. This year's upcoming budget was shown on the powerpoint slide. If you have any questions about the budget for your committee, please contact Melissa. There is a Check Request form on the home page of the RPTA website that should be printed, filled out, and submitted to Melissa for reimbursement of funds. She needs to know who you are, why you need money from RPTA, and what committee it is for. She will be having a baby in December, so please be patient if you submit a request between the middle of November to January.

New Music: Allen Herther announced that a door prize will be given out each month at the end of the meeting. Many of the publishers are making new engravings for their printing presses and reissuing music. He announced several composers whose music is newly formatted and published. Dover Publishing Company is republishing music by Amy Beach. Alfred has new series called "Creative Composition Toolbox" by Wynn Anne Rossi. Carolyn Miller has a new series "Take a Bow". Many others were announced. (The music was available to look at during the break.)

Membership: Dee Ann Patton announced that four new members have joined since our last meeting. She introduced Andrea Turner who is a 1995 Meredith College graduate. Andrea also is the assistant minister and lead pianist at Soapstone United Methodist Church, and the Chairman of the Raleigh Area Federation Festival. Allen Herther has joined as a regular member this year. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Carroll College in Waukesha, WI, and is the director of music at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Allen and Andrea received certificates and had their pictures taken. Cynthia Harris and Yee Wing Chan are new members and were unable to be present. The directory is online and isn't printed in the yearbook this year. There are printed copies for those who don't have internet access. Our nametags are on the piano on the lobby before each meeting. Please wear a nametag at the meetings. If you would like to be a mentor to a new member, please let Dee Ann know.

Programs: Amy Gardner selected our programs for this year according to a survey she took this past summer. She explained the results of the survey with a colorful graph. October: Teresa Sumpter will present "The Piano Studio as a Creative Community". In November: Dr. Jeanine Skinner will present "Designing a Musical Diet for the Intermediate Student: a study of literature and technique that develop mature performers". In January, Sheila Page will present "Octaves and Staccato". In February, Tom Lohr will present "Numbers in Music", which is a program about 12 pieces for students that he has composed. In April, Anne Scoggin will present "Transitioning from lesson books to standard literature". Also new to the RPTA meetings: Teacher Musicales. There will be one between the business meeting and the brunch for December and May. Sign-up sheets will be available at the October meeting. This is a volunteer only event and the musicale will last 15-45 minutes. Music doesn't have to be memorized, and there will be two pianos available. You may play an instrument other than piano if you would like.

Certification: Kathleen Vockeroth and Julie Gorka gave a wonderful presentation and overview of the MTNA certification process. They showed a black and white short clip of Harpo and Chico Marx playing a very funny duet. The reason for becoming certified is to upgrade our skills, as well as validate that we have a high level of skill, knowledge, and ability to teach a variety of students at different levels. All the information to become certified is on the MTNA.org website. There are 5 projects in the certification process which they explained briefly in their slide presentation. Kathleen and Julie are always available to help any member with the process. They will be available in the lobby at 9AM prior to the October meeting next month. It is a chance to ask questions and learn more about the process.

Courtesy: Donna Naeser let us know that five members lost parents this summer. We need good news after this tough summer. The thank-you notes from those members who received flowers from RPTA were out in the lobby for us to look at. In November, she would like names of people who would benefit from a Christmas card from RPTA.

IMTF: Dottie Buster received 21 responses to her question of the month which she posted on the Yahoo Group site. She asked the members if they adjust their policy for adults. There will be a question of the month in each newsletter, and she is accepting questions that she can post on the yahoo group and in the newsletter. She is also looking for teaching tips. Marie Willett had a teaching tip: makingmusicfun.net. She has students play games on this website. The two games she uses are "Eek! Shark", and "Oliver the Octopus Arcade". There are also theory pages and printable music for students. You need to scroll down the page to find these links.

History: Fay Ward gathers printed materials and pictures to make a permanent record of our meetings and proceedings. The record that she puts together goes to the state archives. Please pose for pictures when you see her with the camera and remind her to take pictures! Her motto for the year is "smile-1-2-3"!

Hospitality: Susan Burnette needs volunteers to decorate our tables for the November and a couple of the other meetings. The dates for the brunches are December 14th and May 16th. Call or email her if you are available to help.

Library: Sharon Haigler and Diana Thomas once again put on a really cute skit and song-and-dance routine! There were 30 overdue items checked out of the library last May. Sharon and Diana are labeling everything and organizing our library. Starting in October there will be a \$5 fine for overdue items.

Musicales: Alma Sparks announced that there will be three musicales this year; November 6th at Hopper Piano, January at Maus Piano, and April 22 at Ruggero Piano. They are always on Sunday at 3pm. Make several copies of the application form so you will have enough for each musicale. The guidelines and entry form are in the yearbook and also on the RPTA website. Anyone can enter any student at any level. Only solos have to be memorized. Please fill out the form completely. There are time limits for each level. Please consider who you would like to enter into these musicales. Students can arrive at 2:30 to warm-up. She is looking forward to our participation. Dates are on the website.

Past President: Margaret Anne spoke on behalf of Dianne Blanchard who was unable to attend today. Our pedagogy workshop with Nelita True is September 23rd and 24th. The NCMTA State Conference is October 28, 29, and 30th at Salem College in Winston Salem. The application and the program are in the September issue of The North Carolina Music Teacher booklet from NCMTA that will be coming in the mail soon. Robert Vandall will be a key speaker and presenter. The Oakton Six piano group will be playing. There will also be a Members Showcase where members can show off music they have composed/published/recorded, or books written, special teaching aides they use in lessons, etc. Application for reserved space is in the NC Music Teacher booklet and should be mailed to Dianne Blanchard.

RPTA Scholarship: Marie Willett announced that the RPTA Scholarship is on February 4th, 2012 at Meredith College. Deadline to apply is January 18th, and the winners' recital is February 12th at Meredith College.

Scholarship Funding: a basket to collect money for scholarship funds. Claudia Hinson was unable to attend. Amy Gardner read a message from her. She needs a helper to pass the basket at the monthly meetings and give whatever is collected to the treasurer. If interested, contact Claudia Hinson at 786-1820 or at chinson1@nc.rr.com.

Referrals: Ellen Scott announced that if you need students you should contact her. She has flyers that can be posted in public places, like libraries, daycares, music stores, any place where public announcements can be posted. You can contact Ellen at 919-831-9167 or ellenscott@nc.rr.com.

Events Coordinator: Kent Lyman was unable to attend because he is teaching a class during our meeting time. However, Margaret Anne shared with us how much hard work Kent has done to help our organization get our meetings scheduled with Meredith College. We had a meeting in July with the events people to discuss the process for scheduling at Meredith College. We now have a process in place that should work much better than in the past.

Community Outreach: Ann Patterson is collecting music and items for the Community School. She will bring collection baskets to each meeting. She is also collecting treats for the teachers who teach at this school. She is looking for venues for holiday performances for us and our students.

RPTA Website: Rebekah Taylor was unable to be present. Amy Gardner announced that the RPTA directory is on the website as a PDF download. It is entirely online. Send her any information that needs to be updated. She will send out announcements as changes/updates are made.

Newsletter: Dana Mallory presented our latest newsletter. It is available in four different formats on the internet/website: at the Yahoo Group and at raleighpianoteachers.org. We want to be a green organization. She is always available to help anyone who can't access the yahoo group board or print the newsletter. The last day of the month is always the deadline for submitting information for the upcoming month. You can contact Dana at 88keys@nc.rr.com. If you try to get onto the board, you will know that you are signed on when you can see "hello..." followed by your user name. If you don't see that, you aren't signed on. Dana will be glad to help you get signed onto the yahoo board. There is all kinds of information on the board besides the newsletter.

RPTA Workshop: Melissa Jeffreys had registration forms for anyone that hadn't registered but still wanted to go. She also announced a change in the program.

Life Membership Award: Dee Ann Patton presented the 2011-2012 Lifetime Membership Award to a very surprised Marilyn Brown. Anne Scoggin read a beautiful, personal tribute to Marilyn. After Marilyn received the plaque, she thanked us gracefully and laughed that she thought that we were "really sneaky" in the way we surprised her with the award!

Yearbook: Marie Willett announced that the new yearbook is dedicated to Tom Lohr, a most deserving recipient. The most prestigious scholarship will be named for him for this year. Tom joined RPTA in 1980 and has been serving behind the scenes ever since as well as composing music for our group. The full biography and Tom's picture are in the yearbook. The RPTA Constitution, calendar, and directory are on the RPTA website and haven't been printed this year.

Young Artist Auditions: Jeanine Skinner and Sky Woo are the chairmen for this year. Jeanine also announced the other members of the committee. This year's dates are Friday and Saturday March 2nd and 3rd, 2012. The Honor's Recitals are Sunday March 12th at Peace College in Kenan Hall. Deadline to submit applications is Wednesday December 14th in the Carswell Lobby, 9:45-12:00. Packets will be returned on January 18th at the RPTA general meeting. The YAA repertoire list was revised and updated this past summer. Members of that committee included: Sky Woo, Marlene Kelsy, Maxine Salvatore, Margot Hafner, Marcia Gandolf, Amy Gardner, Ann Scoggin, Ruth Hafley, and Dana Mallory. The revision was facilitated by data that Marie Willett has collected over the past several years on which music was most often performed by students entering YAA. Pieces not performed over the past 5 years were eliminated.

The YAA committee is changing leadership and is looking for new chairmen for the 2012-2013 year. They are looking for people who know how YAA works and would be willing to shadow the current leadership this year. YAA also needs teacher volunteers to fill the following new positions: 1. Continuity Facilitator (year-round), 2. Check-In Coordinator, 3. Monitor Coordinator, and 4. Waiting Room Coordinator. Please call/email Jeanine Skinner or Sky Woo if you are interested in playing a bigger part in YAA. Jeanine announced that every teacher that enters students is expected to volunteer. If you enter 1-10 students, you will have one job; enter 10-20 students, two jobs; enter greater than 20 students, three jobs. See Sky Woo to sign up for jobs now so that you can get what you want !When you fill out your packet sheets, please send the original and a copy that has all the information in the margins on it. PRINT ALL INFO!! The commitment sheet is to copy and give to parents. YAA needs parent volunteers for Saturday. Do not send cash, and do send one check. The repertoire list is in the yearbook and on our website. Pieces that are also on the NCMTA list are in gray. Teachers will be doing their own certificates.

Margaret Anne thanked Amy for all of the hard work she has done to put today's power point program together.

Raffle: The winner received the new Dover publication of Amy Beach music.

Meeting adjourned by Margaret Anne Smith.

Respectfully submitted by Debra Heath, Recording Secretary.
