

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

September 2011  
Number 85

[www.raleighpianoteachers.org](http://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*

Greetings to everyone at this beginning of our fall activities for RPTA! Once again, Amy Gardner has planned an exciting set of programs for the coming year, beginning with an expanded business meeting for our regular meeting on September 21.

Rebekah Taylor is continuing to do a super job of keeping all of our activities listed on the website. Something new....we no longer will be printing a membership directory in the yearbook; rather, the membership directory on the website will be the official listing and will always be as up-to-date as possible. Our grateful thanks go to Rebekah for her diligence in seeing that our website is one of the very best anywhere!

After a year as your president, may I say that I have come to appreciate ALL of the members of the Executive Board and ALL of the chairmen of the various committees? I don't know anybody anywhere who has a greater group of people to work with; they have been very forgiving when I made mistakes and supportive all of the time.

I hope many of us will be at the state convention in Winston-Salem in October. I am looking forward to seeing many of you on September 23 and 24 here in Raleigh for the workshop with Nelita True. We all owe Diane Blanchard our heartfelt

thanks for the many, many hours she has put in getting these two events all set up. Three cheers and a big hurrah to Diane!

### COMMIT TO MEMORY NOW!

**July 1, 2012.** When you renew your membership for the following year (2012-2013), you must do so by that date.

### NCMTA Piano Contest/Festival Workshops

Piano teachers, please plan to attend the September 10<sup>th</sup> NCMTA workshop at Ruggero Piano Company. NCMTA is please to feature two very fine clinicians, Cynthia Lawing and Andrew Willis, to present this year.

The local host is Sandy Duran ([sfduran@nc.rr.com](mailto:sfduran@nc.rr.com))

The registration fee is \$30 (and only \$5 for students!)

The Schedule:  
8:30 Registration  
9:00 Junior A literature  
10:20 Break  
10:30 Junior B literature  
12:00 Lunch  
1:00 Senior A literature  
2:50 Break  
3:00 Senior B literature

### Please contribute...

Marlene Kelsey in in the process of phoning members of RPTA to contribute to refreshments for the Nelita True workshop on Friday evening Sept 23 and Saturday Sept.24.



**2011 RPTA PEDAGOGY WORKSHOP**

**Dr. Nelita True, clinician  
September 23-24, 2011**

Friday, Sept 23 Hopper Piano 1800-A  
Tillery Pl. Raleigh, NC 27604

6:30-7:00 pm - REGISTRATION  
7:00-8:00 pm - Session 1  
**"Please Don't Play in Time"**  
8:15 pm – Reception for Nelita True

Saturday, Sept 24 Ruggero Piano 4720  
Hargrove Rd. Raleigh, NC 27616

9:00-10:30 am – Session 2  
**"Can't Our Students Do More on  
Their Own? – Achieving Musical  
Independence"**  
11:00 am-12:30 pm – **Master Class**  
**(See page 2 for information)**  
2:00-3:30 pm – Session 3  
**"Reliable Memory"**

**Registration: \$55/\$25 student**

**Contact: Diane Blanchard**  
[diane.h.blanchard@gmail.com](mailto:diane.h.blanchard@gmail.com)  
**(252)503-2410**

**Do you have a RPTA library item?**

Upon taking inventory of the RPTA Library, as of May 2011, our library is missing 30 ITEMS! This includes books, VHS tapes, CDs, etc. So it's VERY IMPORTANT that everyone search their bookshelves at home, their car, under their bed . . . you get the idea. In order to maintain the quality of our library, its outreach, and in fairness to RPTA, we have decided to reinstitute the \$5 late fine PER ITEM, which will go into effect at the October 2011 meeting. Please help us replenish OUR library! Thank you.

**Community Outreach**

Please remember to bring to the September meeting:

1. Music you no longer need or use
2. Teacher "treats" (stickers, colored pencils, mints, tissues etc.) for the students and teachers at the Community Music School.

**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

**RPTA Directory is going electronic!**

The RPTA directory will no longer be published in the yearbook. The directory will only be available online at the RPTA website. This means it is doubly important for RPTA members to check their directory listing and let Rebekah Taylor know of any changes or corrections that need to be made. If your directory listing needs updating at any time, please let Rebekah know at [pianoist2006@gmail.com](mailto:pianoist2006@gmail.com)

**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**

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### 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!

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### Why Apply for Certification?

Do you enjoy seeing your students learn and grow as musicians? Do you treat your work as a profession and a career? Do you want to be the best teacher you can be? You may benefit from becoming a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music.

The MTNA offers an excellent certification program. Any teacher would benefit from completing the activities, which are accessible but challenging. The assignments themselves may highlight something you really need to improve in your teaching.

The assignments address many facets of piano teaching. Do you know common teaching points? Do you have adequate lighting in your studio? How do your students present themselves at recitals? Could you help them become more polished performers? How efficiently do you use your lesson time? Do you provide motivational events or awards for your students? What's on your policy sheet? All these, and many more are elements of the projects required for certification.

Some of the projects were enjoyable to me, some were interesting, some difficult, but none were a waste of time. I particularly enjoyed videotaping lessons, and have continued to do so now that I'm certified. It is amazing and enlightening (and sometimes embarrassing!) for me to watch myself teach.

I also enjoyed getting my certificate in the mail, the right to use the NCTM letters after my name, and the emblem of certification. When you get certified, you are showing that you are serious about your teaching, and trying to be the best teacher you can for your students. Parents looking for a teacher may consider certification as a criteria.

If you are a little bit interested, take a look at the MTNA website at <http://www.mtnacertification.org/> to find out more. And ask Kathleen Vockeroth at [kvock@bellsouth.net](mailto:kvock@bellsouth.net) or 919-876-4329, or me, Julie Gorka, at [practicealot@gmail.com](mailto:practicealot@gmail.com) or 919-838-6661. We would be happy to answer your questions.

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### Are you missing something warm to wear?

There were 4 clothing items that were left at Meredith the day of YAA. Three jackets and a scarf. Let Jeanine know if one of them belongs to one of your parents or students. She will bring them to our first meeting.

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### 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](mailto:dottie.buster@gmail.com)



#### Question of the Month for September

Do you adapt your teaching policy for adult students? For instance, do you have the same attendance and/or payment policy for adult students and your grade school students? Please email me your responses and I will share them at our next meeting!

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### Young Artist Auditions Information

1. Revisions on the YAA Repertoire List are being finalized and will be available in the yearbook. Be sure to check the list before making your final selections.
2. YAA auditions will be the weekend of March 2 - 3, 2012.
3. YAA packets will be distributed at the first meeting in September. Extra packets will be available after that meeting at Burrage on September 22nd.

### "Peanut Butter and Jelly Jams" concerts at the Halle Cultural Arts Center

**APEX, NC** — For the third year in a row, Apex's Halle Cultural Arts Center will present one of the community's professional musicians in concert. The Jordan Academy for the Performing Arts, in cooperation with the Halle Center, will present the "**Peanut Butter and Jelly Jams**" concerts at the Halle Cultural Arts Center, 237 North Salem Street in Apex on Friday, September 23 and Saturday, September 24.

Jordan Academy for the Performing Arts Director Christopher Anderson Reed, a professional pianist and the creator of the Triangle area's "Beethoven and Blue Jeans" concert series, will be joined this year by Salisbury, NC touring vocalist and recording artist Ashley Jo Farmer. The two will present a variety of music, including selections from "Wise Up House Love", Farmer's first solo album, which is slated for release this fall - as well as a medley of well-known popular songs & classic rock cover tunes.

This event is sponsored by the Halle Cultural Arts Center and the Jordan Academy for the Performing Arts.

Ticket prices are \$10 for adults and \$7 for students with a student ID, and are available for purchase at the Halle Center or online at <http://www.etix.com>. For more information, please contact the Halle Center at (919) 249-1120.



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, May 18th, 2011:**

Meeting called to order by Margaret Anne Smith.

Minutes of the April 2011 meeting stand approved.

Treasurer's Report: Melissa Jeffrey's reported \$2,685.24 in the checking account, \$13,539.51 in the money market account, and \$1300 in the certification account. If you need reimbursement for money spent, please submit forms as soon as possible so the accounts can be prepared for the accountant and for tax purposes. The budget for next year has been set by the executive committee. Check your emails to see the budget for your committee.

Certification: Kathleen Vockeroth announced a new nationally certified member, Julie Gorka. She has been a Suzuki piano teacher for years. She is the first member of our organization to be certified under the new certification guidelines from MTNA. Julie spoke to the group on her experience of becoming certified. She found the process very helpful in reflecting on her teaching, especially the project where she videotaped her teaching sessions of a student. She felt that the process was well worth the time. She is willing to speak to any of us who are interested and have questions.

Courtesy: Donna Naeser will continue this position through the summer. She hopes to be able to do more than send cards, like providing meals or sending flowers. She read an email that Dottie Buster sent her after receiving a card from RPTA. Alma Sparks's mother passed away recently. Please keep in contact with Donna about any needs that you would like to the group to know about.

Scrapbook: Dee Ann Patton spoke to us about the scrapbook that Faye Ward and she have put together about this past year. It has the yearbook and pretty much everything in it. (It was on display during the luncheon.)

Hospitality: Susan Burnette announced that Keyboard Companion subscriptions need to be renewed in August. Checks for that should be given to Susan prior to August so she can send in the renewals. She is looking for someone to take over this job for next year.

Library: Sharon Haigler and Dianne Thomas sang us a song about an inventory set to the Star Wars tune. They would like for us to check everywhere to see if there are RPTA items that need to be turned in. They are also looking for donations, especially of DVDs, to the RPTA library.

Referral: Ellen Scott is refreshing the referral list on our website. If you no longer need students, please email her and she will take your name off the list.

Nelita True Workshop: Melissa Jeffrey's announced that the brochures/applications for the workshop in September are available on the RPTA website. She also had some at the meeting for those who wanted to turn them in then. She went through the schedule of the event for us. The rate is \$45 before June 30<sup>th</sup> and \$55 after that date. You can call Diane Blanchard with questions. The details of the master class with Nelita True are still being worked out.

Young Artists: Jeanine Skinner announced that the committee is wrapping up YAA. DVD's of the honors' recitals are still available. She would like to sell 5-7 more, \$15 for one or \$25 for two. For next year, the more students that you enter in YAA, the more time the committee will ask you to devote to the event. Volunteers are wanted to help update the YAA lists this summer. She has extras programs from the Honors' recitals.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: Margaret Anne announced that the Young Artist Audition dates for next year are on March 2nd and 3rd, 2012. We will not be able to use the studio theatre, which will cause some difficulty with crowd and traffic control. Sky Woo is working on that issue and commented "We will make it work". Confirmation of meeting dates and scholarship dates for next year were pending. Loogwah Kradlack made an announcement about the Carnegie Hall and Royal Conservatory Achievement Program.

Meeting Adjourned by Margaret Anne Smith.

Respectfully Submitted by Debra Heath,  
Recording Secretary.