

Raleigh Piano Teachers Association
Affiliate of North Carolina Music Teachers Association
www.raleighpianoteachers.org

December 2009-Newsletter No. 69

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



Wed. Dec. 9 9:45 am Monthly Meeting and Holiday Brunch, Carswell

*Deadline for Young Artist Auditions Registration

Thurs. Jan. 8 6 pm Final Deadline for Young Artist Auditions Registration

*Drop off packets at Meredith College between 12pm-6pm

From the President:

A note for your calendars, our December meeting is on the **second** Wed. of the month, Dec. 9. The brunch will be held in the Carswell lobby after a short business meeting. Come enjoy food and fellowship! Thank you to Susan Burnette (our 2009-10 yearbook dedicatee (is that a word?)) for making the arrangements.

My wish for each of you is that you will spend your holiday break in whatever pursuit that allows you to come back to your teaching in the New Year refreshed and with joy in your heart! ☺

Diane

YAA 2010

YAA Jobs- All teachers who enter students will be required to help. For details about how to make sure you get an assignment you are happy with, see details in last month's newsletter. Teachers who are not entering students are welcome to sign up to help if they are interested in what happens or just want to help out.

Students preparing compositions for YAA- questions about student composition levels have led to the following statement of policy: Students may enter more than one composition but not at more than one level. We will trust the teachers to encourage their students to enter at the highest level at which they are now composing.

Hospitality

The December brunch is Wed., Dec. 9th, 9:45 AM in Carswell Lobby. The cost is \$8.50. Please make reservations by Friday, Dec. 4th. Make checks to RPTA.

Thanks to Alma Sparks, Patti Cook, and Loogwah Kradlak for bringing refreshments to the November meeting.

Susan Burnette



Independent Music Teachers Forum

December Question of the Month:

As more and more students are on modified or year round school calendars, have you changed your teaching schedule? Do you offer make-up days when lessons are missed due to a student being tracked out? How do you balance the needs of families on different schedules while honoring your own need for an occasional break?

Email your answer to dottie.buster@gmail.com or mail it to:

Dottie Buster
8516 Riddle Place
Raleigh, NC 27615

Welcome, New Members!

We had one new member join our group last month- Olga Kleiankina. Do you know of a teacher interested in joining? Contact Pin Pin Jong (jongp@meredith.edu) or visit our website for more information.



Upcoming Events of Interest

**The North Carolina Crafts Gallery in Carrboro will host a CD release reception for pianist Greg McCallum's latest release with MSR Classics, *Voyage à Paris*, on Friday December 11th from 6-9 p.m. This recording marks McCallum's fourth CD release and the second in his cultural studies series with MSR Classics. For the completion of *Voyage à Paris*, McCallum spent five months living in Paris while completing his research. He was also a resident artist at the Banff Centre in Alberta, Canada, in the winter of 2007. *Voyage à Paris* features some of the finest works of the French piano repertoire, including Poulenc Improvisations, Debussy Preludes, Franck's *Prélude Choral et Fugue*, Ravel's *Gaspard de la Nuit*, and Messiaen's "Regard de l'Esprit de joie" from the *Vingts Regards sur l'Enfant Jésus*. The North Carolina Crafts Gallery is located at 212 West Main Street in Carrboro (942-4048).

** On Sunday, December 13, 2009, the Chapel Hill Philharmonia will feature Elizabeth Tomlin, piano soloist, at its Music for Dreaming concert. Ms. Tomlin is on the Duke University Music Faculty. Ms. Tomlin will be performing Schumann's Piano Concerto, a lyrically beautiful work once described as music that tastes like chocolate. The program includes Mozart's Symphony #25 (featured in the movie Amadeus) and Borodin's rousing Polovetsian Dances, familiar from the musical Kismet.

The Chapel Hill Philharmonia is a community orchestra of serious amateur musicians who play for the love of classical music. Conductor is Don Oehler. The concert is at 7:30 pm in the newly remodeled Hill Hall auditorium on the UNC-CH campus. Admission is free.



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RPTA General Meeting

Nov. 18, 2009

- The meeting was called to order by President Diane Blanchard. Approximately 36 people attended the meeting in Carswell Recital Hall on the campus of Meredith College.
- The minutes, as written, were called approved, by general consent.
- Allen Herther, upon Kristen Barchuk's resignation, reported for Burrage Music. He reported the store is working to keep literature in stock; work has also begun on a January workshop with Dr. Cathy Albergo. New issues included Hal Leonard's *Chinese Folk Songs* for intermediate piano, and *Easy Hymn Solos*, arrangements by Wendy Stevens. Three books of piano/organ duets, were shown and a new series by Mark Hayes, *Sacred Piano* was introduced. Teachers were reminded that store items may be brought to the RPTA monthly meeting if requested before the Monday prior to Wednesday's meeting.
- Carol Moyer of Quail Ridge Music and Books, in Ridgewood Shopping Center, 3522 Wade Ave. Raleigh, brought a box of free CDs and flyers containing 25% off discount coupons valid through Jan. 1, 2010. She also reminded teachers of the Free Listener's Club Membership which offers a 10% discount on all instock items.
- Treasurer reported a balance of \$6,195.39 in checking account and \$13,486.03 in money market account. Three YAA student winner checks have not yet been cashed.
- Pin Pin Jong reported one new member - Olga Kleiankina.
- SKY Woo of YAA reminded teachers that more volunteers are needed to cover the jobs of this year's two-day event; Teachers with small assignments may need to cover additional tasks. A sheet was passed to collect volunteer names, the job they desire, and their time preference. She also made a special plea for someone to assist her with logistics. Jeanine Skinner gave an updated YAA report. Thanks to the diligent work of Margaret Anne Smith, most judges have been confirmed. The dates were restated, and teachers were reminded to keep those dates open. The YAA is Friday, March 12th and Sat. March 13th. The traditional deadline for returning YAA packets is by noon of the December Brunch; that date this year is Wednesday, December 9th. The "drop dead" or extended deadline is Friday, January 8th from 12-5 PM in Carswell lobby. Packets were again made available and some are being held at Burrage for teachers who still need them. Concerning composition entries, teachers must complete two forms; one is a participation sheet and the other is the application. Both composition forms were made available. Teachers were reminded not to seal their envelopes and not to ask for special accommodations. Teachers will receive their scheduling information Feb. 17th. In response to question concerning online registration; the response was there is no online registration option this year. Also, return materials should be submitted at the same time. Marie Willett showed YAA dated souvenir tote bags which may be purchased by completing the appropriate form enclosed in this year's packet. Members were instructed to include a separate check for totes; make a note if you do not want the year printed on them.
- Alma Sparks reported the Nov. 1st musicale at Hopper's Piano Co. was a warm success despite the rainy weather. There were 13 student participants, some of which played two pieces. She thanked the participating teachers, their students, and her helper, Moira Conolly as well as extended a welcome to all teachers and students to attend. The date of the next Musicale was announced; the date is Feb. 1st. Diane reported on the Hopper Piano Sale which occurs after the Musicale date and benefits the RPTA scholarship fund. She announced that one teacher had purchased a piano; it was also made known that another student had purchased a Boston grand.



- Carole Nicholson, RPTA Scholarship chair, brought scholarship audition applications to the meeting and announced the deadline for their completed return; the deadline is the January meeting. The auditions are Feb. 22 and the winners' recital is Feb. 28th. For planning purposes, a sign-up sheet was again placed on the piano to collect teacher information regarding the number of student participants, and their level.
- Susan Burnette of Hospitality reminded teachers of the upcoming Dec. Brunch; the cost is \$8.50.
- Dottie Buster of IMTF encouraged members to read the "Dilemma or Question of the Month" printed in the newsletter, and to send her your responses, as well as any dilemmas/questions to which you would like answers. She shared the responses and ideas of last month's dilemma.
- Diane, in the absence of Donna Naeser, encouraged members to inform Donna of any courtesies concerns.
- There were no other reports.
- No old business; no new business.
- Concerning NCMTA news, Diane congratulated RPTA teachers and their students at the MTNA Auditions. She specifically congratulated Karen Allred whose student won in the southern division and will compete in January in Alabama. The winning students as listed in the agenda were: Junior Piano Winner-Mendel Nguyen (student of Karen Allred) Alternate-Ethan Chu (student of John Ruggero) Honorable Mention-Celia Henderson (student of John Ruggero) Senior Piano Winner-Sidney Zaleski (student of Thomas Otten) Young Artist Piano Alternate-Katherine Barton (student of Margaret Evans).
- There were several announcements:
 - The MTNA Collegiate Chapter of Meredith College was represented by Amy Gardner and Elizabeth Bjork who advertised the chapter's T-shirt sale. Members were encouraged to support the Meredith group by ordering a T-shirt; cost is \$12 per shirt.
 - Pin Pin Jong announced Chopin Festival to be hosted by Meredith College in February, 2010. Guest artists will include Walter Hautzig, and Anne Schlein. The week-long event (Feb. 22-27) will feature a piano competition for high school students, master classes, guest lectures, recitals and maybe even Polish dancing. According to the agenda announcements, the Chopin Piano Competition will be February 23, 2010.
 - Diane announced the NC Crafts Gallery in Carrboro will host a CD release reception for pianist Greg McCullum on Friday, December 11th 6-9pm. The CD "Voyage à Paris" is Greg's fourth CD release and the second in his cultural studies series with MSR Classics. The NC Crafts Gallery is located at 212 West Main Street in Carrboro (942-4048).
 - Jeanine Skinner announced Sacred Jazz Concert on Jan. 31st. She also advertised improvisation workshops for both pianists and instrumentalists to be held at Music Academy South in Wake Forest. Bradley Sowash will be the featured clinician. Registration flyers were made available.
 - Diane invited members to lunch at nearby Tripps.
 - The program of the day was announced: "Classic Ragtime Music; Its Characteristics, Sources, and Influences" presented by special guest Paul Stewart.
- Meeting was adjourned.

