

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

May 2010-Newsletter No. 74

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



Wed. May 19 8:45 am Executive Board Meeting, Meredith
Wed. May 19 9:45 am Monthly Meeting and May Brunch, Carswell

Thurs.-Sat., June 3-5 "Focus on Piano Literature" UNCG

Fri. July 16 10 am Full Board Meeting, home of Marie Willett

Fri.-Sun., Oct. 8-10 NCMTA Conference UNCW

From the President:

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve as your president for the past 2 years. It has truly been an honor to lead such an outstanding organization. 30 years ago, my piano teacher in New Bern told me that the Raleigh Piano Teachers were a tough group to join and become connected with; I have found just the opposite. RPTA serves as a facilitator to music teachers to increase their professionalism, improve their teaching skills, and broaden their circle of networking in the musical community in the Triangle. Excuse my casual talk here, but any piano teacher in the triangle is making a dumb move if they don't join and get involved with RPTA.

On the agenda for the May 19th RPTA Monthly Meeting is a special showing of the video that was produced for the 50th Anniversary of our state association, NCMTA. The video has 3 parts: pictures of NCMTA's history and longtime members, pictures of the MTNA conference in Atlanta, and current NCMTA pictures that include pictures from the conference last October. The meeting will conclude with the installation of your new RPTA Officers. This is a not-to-be-missed meeting!! See you there! Diane



Referral Program

The referral page on the website will be erased in June. You must resubmit your information to be listed for the 2010-2011 year. More information will be sent out in June through Yahoo Groups.

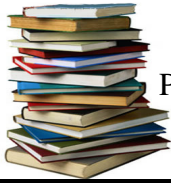


Thank you to everyone who supported RPTA this past year. Special thanks to Meredith College, Peace College, Burrage Music Company, Hopper Piano Company, Ruggero Piano Company, Maus Piano Company, and Piano and Organ Distributors.



NCMTA Fall Conference
Oct 8-10 University of NC Wilmington

Check your NCMTA May Journals for deadlines on hotel bookings. Just confirmed is the BEAUTIFUL venue that the banquets will be held in. Two new session proposals have come in...one on percussion that sounds very intriguing and another on performance anxiety. So many great minds to learn from all gathered in one beautiful, coastal community!



Library Books Due

Please return all library books at the May meeting. Contact Susan Riggs (susan@riggsmusic.com, (919) 556-0218) if you have any questions.



MTNA Dues

**Remember to pay your 2010-2011 MTNA dues.
Your membership must be paid in full by July 1
to participate in Young Artist 2011.**

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

It has been my absolute pleasure to serve as editor of the RPTA newsletter for the past two years. I have enjoyed learning more about the organization and its members. I hope I brought a little enjoyment to each of you every month. To submit information for future newsletters, please contact Dana Mallory at 88keys@nc.rr.com.

-Melissa Jeffreys

Looking Ahead to 2010-2012

RPTA Officers for 2010-2012

President - Margaret Anne Smith
1st Vice President - Amy Gardner
2nd Vice President - Marlowe Carruth
Treasurer - Melissa Jeffreys
Corresponding Secretary - Dana Mallory
Recording Secretary-Debra Heath



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Committee Chairs for 2010-2012

Budget: Melissa Jeffreys
Certification: Kathleen Vockeroth
Courtesy: Donna Naeser
Email/Telephone: Dottie Buster
Ensemble Festival: Maxine Salvatore
History: Fay Ward
Hospitality: Susan Burnette
IMTF: Dottie Buster
Library: Sharon Haigler and Diana Thomas
Musicales: Alma Sparks
Past President: Diane Blanchard
RPTA Scholarship: Marie Willett
Referral: Ellen Scott
Scholarship Funding: Claudia Hinson
Website: Rebekah Taylor
Workshop: Diane Blanchard
Yearbook: Marie Willett
YAA: Jeanine Skinner

Message from Margaret Anne Smith:

I am honored to be your new president. It is a daunting task. Diane Blanchard has been one of our finest presidents and it will very difficult to live up to her high standards of service to our organization. She has already provided me with lots of help and I appreciate all of her kindness in helping me get started. Thanks, Diane.

The membership of RPTA has grown so much over the past few years that it is now possible to attend a meeting and see ever so many new faces and think, "Now who is that?" I have noticed that we have done and I'm sure will continue to do a good job of introducing ourselves to those we don't know. I feel good when I think of RPTA and the many friendships I have made over the years - such a tradition needs to be continued. Attendance at meetings is vitally important. We have been blessed with outstanding vice-presidents who searched very hard to find good speakers. These past two years, Brenda Bruce has worked wonders in inviting people who would appeal to all of us with their excellent observations on various aspects of music. If you were unable to come to the April meeting and hear Dr. James Fogle, for instance, you missed a treat. I'm confident that with Amy Gardner in charge of programs, the same fine tradition will continue.



RPTA Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2010

- **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Diane Blanchard in Carswell Recital Hall on the campus of Meredith College. According to the attendance sheet, approximately 32 people attended.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the Feb. 17th general meeting stood approved as emailed to the membership.
- **Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer reported \$6,891.40 in checking account and \$13,502.93 in money market account. She reminded members that anyone needing to be reimbursed must use the "check request form" (available on the website).
- **Burrage Music Report:** Allen Herther of Burrage, distributed flyers which listed several new music issues now available at Burrage. For the many teachers who had requested simplified contemporary Christian easy piano arrangements, Allen called attention to *Pure and Simple Praise* by Carol Tornquist as well as other new books. He also announced the Recreational Music Making Workshop with Brenda Dylan, Tuesday, August 3rd at Burrage; registration will begin at 8:30 AM. Brenda's handbook, *Recreational Music Making* is also available at the store; likewise, Diane purchased a copy at the National Conference which will be placed in the music library. Allen gave complementary copies of the new method by Helen Marlais. He passed along the publisher's suggestion which was to find a friend; one person gets the Primer and the other person gets Book One of the new method. You sit down together and play through both books with one as the teacher and the other as the student and then switch roles. Play page by page evaluating carefully. Allen also gave small "thank you" geranium plants.
- **Special Announcement:** Richard Ruggero of Ruggero Piano expressed their family's deep appreciation for both teachers, and those who mentor. Instead of giving a portion of their recital hall fees back to RPTA, as in the past, Richard announced that Ruggero Piano will now be giving an annual award to a RPTA teacher who will be selected on the basis of outstanding service to students, community and the organization. This yearly Teacher Merit Award will be in the amount of \$500 and presented at a time to be determined. The nominating form will be available online. The group enthusiastically applauded this generosity.
- **RPTA Scholarship:** Carole Nicholson placed recital programs from the winners' event on the piano in Carswell Lobby. She reported that the competitions and recital went very well.
- **Hospitality:** Susan Burnette announced the upcoming Spring Luncheon, May 19th in Carswell Lobby. Make your reservation now and submit your check payable to RPTA. The cost is \$8.50.
- **Courtesy:** Donna Naeser shared the following concerns: Deedy of Burrage is having thumb surgery, Jeanine Skinner, (present at the meeting) continues to recover from a broken shoulder, and Brenda Bruce's husband has been hospitalized for over 6 weeks. Donna will post updates on the Yahoo Group and suggested that the group prepare meals to help Brenda. Sending her a card would also be thoughtful. Donna announced she will be using the Yahoo Group more to inform members of courtesy concerns.
- **Referral:** A motion was made, seconded, and a vote was taken to amend the *RPTA Bylaws* Article V Section 14d. This is regarding the refreshing of the website referral page. The current reading which states "Refresh the referral section of the RPTA website twice a year" will be amended to read "Refresh the referral section of the RPTA website once a year in June." All voted in favor of the amendment and none opposed.
- **Old Business:** Diane announced the two Teacher Grant Winners this year were Ann Patterson and Marlene Kelsey. Each received \$300 for their participation and support of scholarships.



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- **New Business:** A motion was made, seconded and voted upon to accept the following slate of RPTA officers for 2010-2012. They were called to the front, each by name, as follows:
President-Margaret Anne Smith
1st Vice President- Amy Gardner
2nd Vice President- Marlowe Carruth
Treasurer-Melissa Jeffreys
Corresponding Secretary-Dana Mallory
Recording Secretary-Debra Heath
- **Musicale:** Alma Sparks encouraged teachers to participate in the upcoming May 2nd event to be held in Carswell Recital Hall at 5:30 PM (new time due to the availability of the hall); students will rehearse at 5:00.
- **Young Artist Auditions:** Jeanine Skinner began her report by expressing appreciation for the teachers and students who participated. She then presented the Young Artist Auditions Report which included the following information: 108 teachers entered 1092 students. After expenses, over \$1400 was cleared for RPTA. The two-day scheduling worked very well for traffic flow and for judges. Because the honor recitals were lengthy, the possibility of 3 recitals will be considered. The "To Do List" for the YAA committee will be: to review guidelines and criteria for the composition judge, bring awareness on how teacher errors will be handled, examine the possibility of videotaping the honors recitals, and updating the YAA Repertoire List which will be used in 2012 (Email your suggestions for American pieces to Jeanine). Future discussions will also evaluate and address how to manage the increasing size of the event as well as how to ensure that the quality of the event is maintained and the standard for judging is fair. Jeanine praised the work of SKY Woo and SKY was applauded for her work and particularly the organization of the traffic flow. Jeanine also volunteered to mail or bring to the May meeting copies of the YAA recital programs for those who need them. Jeanine also personally thanked the membership for supporting her during her arm injury which occurred prior to the YAA event. Marie Willett brought twelve left over YAA totes and extra certificates and stickers for those who wanted or needed them. The cost of the totes is \$15. Diane also brought student winner thank-you notes and placed on the piano in Carswell.
- **MTNA National Conference Report:** Polly Greene reported on some of the highlights from the MTNA National Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She commented enthusiastically on the opening day which celebrated Chopin and then shared some of what she learned from other sessions. One idea from a session about documents in the studio was for teachers to list their tuition costs on a separate document rather than putting it in their policy statement. Polly also shared the response of Jane Bastien to the question, "What is talent?" Bastien's response was, "Learning piano is 50% coordination, 40% motivation, and 10% talent." Polly also attended a session on free online piano resources and brought copies of the handout. She encouraged all to attend the National Conference.
- Diane, having attended the Piano Duet Competition, encouraged teachers to use more piano duets with their students. She also expressed how much she cherishes meeting the composers of the music she teaches and hearing what they have to say about their own compositions.
- Diane called attention to the three NC finalists represented at the MTNA Auditions. They are Michael Bennett (teacher Julie Harris) 1st place in Junior Composition. Dr. Karen Alred is his piano teacher. Anna Darnell (teacher Anthony Taylor) won 1st place in Senior Woodwinds and the Halcyon Winds (teacher Tadeu Coelho) won 2nd place in Junior Chamber Music.



- Joyce Gibson, historian, would like any photographs you have to share for the Scrapbook. Diane reminded the membership that only photos of teachers and adults will be kept or posted on the web; children photos will not be.
- **Announcements:** Karen Sultan announced a keyboard festival for church musicians at Forest Hills Baptist Church, Sat. Nov. 6th 4-8PM. This event will include all levels, (K-12) for piano and organ. Details will be on the website which will be completed by July.
- Diane announced lunch at Tripps. The meeting was adjourned followed by a special program by Dr. James Fogle on Robert Schumann's *Scenes from Childhood* and *Album for the Young*.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Duran NCTM

