

**Jayne Galloway, President CPGU**

**Sep 2023**

Welcome to our 5th year as a guild. I hope that you are finding great satisfaction in your activities as a collaborative pianist. I also hope that the relationships you build with guild members and the meetings and events that we plan are helpful to you.

One of the missions of CPGU is to create a liaison between collaborative pianists and the musical community of Utah. I would like to add that networking among us a group is also part of that liaison. Here are 10 benefits of networking within our industry:

**1. Strengthen your connections**

Networking is about sharing, not taking. It is about forming trust and helping one another toward goals. Regularly engaging with your contacts and finding opportunities to assist them helps to strengthen the relationship. By doing this, you sow the seeds for reciprocal assistance when you need help to achieve your goals.

**2. Tap into network for ideas**

Your network can be an excellent source of new perspectives and ideas to help you in your role. Exchanging information on challenges, experiences and goals is a key benefit of networking because it allows you to gain new insights that you may not have otherwise thought of. Offering helpful ideas is an excellent way to build your reputation as an innovative thinker.

**3. Raise your professional profile**

Being visible and getting noticed is essential in career building. Attend meetings and events, even performances of other members. Create value for others by listening carefully, following up on conversations, and offering your knowledge and expertise.

**4. Grow your personal brand**

Authenticity is crucial when building a personal brand. Showcase your passions, share your personal story, and create trust between yourself and other pianists as well as those you accompany.

**5. Get access to job opportunities**

Actively building networks helps to keep you top of mind when opportunities arise and increases your likelihood of receiving referrals.

**6. Exchange best practice knowledge with your network**

A wide network of informed, interconnected contacts means broader access to new and valuable information.

**7. Get advice and support**

Gaining the advice of experienced peers is an important part of networking. Discussing common challenges and opportunities opens the door to valuable guidance.

**8. Build your confidence**

By putting yourself out there and meeting new people, you are stepping outside of your comfort zone and building valuable social skills and self-confidence. The more you network, the more you'll grow and

learn how to make lasting connections. This is especially true when working with private teachers, students you accompany and groups you serve.

**9. Gain a different perspective**

It's easy to get caught up in day-to-day work and end up in a rut. By networking, you can gain insights that only come from viewing a situation with fresh eyes.

**10. Develop long-lasting relationships**

Of course, the point of networking is to develop and nurture professional relationships but some of the strongest friendships are borne from work connections.

The benefits of networking include access to job opportunities, professional connections, advice, new ideas and valuable information. No matter the reason that brought you accompanying, it also helps with personal and business growth, building relationships and providing a very special service to our musical community. Play on!

The guild is still rather new territory to all of us. If you have ideas, comments or suggestions, I welcome them. Please contact me through email or text ([jcgalloway88@gmail.com](mailto:jcgalloway88@gmail.com) / 801 420-8284).