

KEY *Issue*

March/April 2017



Letter from the President

Burned out? This is the time of year where most teachers start to get a little burned out. Let's try to stop that before it begins. What do you do to prevent burn out?

Here is a list per google.

To avoid burnout, follow these tips:

1. Work with purpose.
2. Perform a job analysis, and eliminate or delegate unnecessary work.
3. Give to others.
4. Take control, and actively manage your time.
5. Get more exercise.
6. Learn how to manage stress.

We can take some things from this list, but as piano teachers, we are constantly thinking about our studio, what events to put students in, how to get that one (or more) student to practice, and Recitals! This makes us feel like we are constantly working and that even our down time is spent on work. It is even harder to turn your this off when you teach from home. With that constant attention on our studio it is easy to start to feel overwhelmed and feel like our work is

taking over our private lives. It is easy to burn both ends of the candle if you don't set aside time each day to turn off. Especially in our society today, it's like a competition to see who is the busiest. I encourage you to challenge that notion and find your own inner peace. Maybe that is taking time each morning on a walk, drinking a cup of coffee, read a book, or practice music you want to play. Find what gives you peace and don't feel guilty about prioritizing it.

Sarah Mensen

President, SPPTA

Sarah Mensen



Sarah Mensen

SPPTA President 2016-2018

Sarah Mensen, SPPTA President

Calendar of Events

MARCH/APRIL/MAY

Monthly Programs

10:00 Social Time
10:20 General Meeting & Guest Speaker
10:30 Presentation
11:50 Board Meeting

March 14, 2017 TBA
“Present Teachers: Cultivating Calm in Chaos”
Presented by Jennifer Niedzielski
NEW LOCATION: Roseville Lutheran Church
1215 Roselawn Ave. W., Roseville, MN

April 2017 Date TBD, 2017
All Association Spring Luncheon hosted by MMTF

May 9, 2017
“Russian Piano Music – a Pedagogical Approach”
Presented by Dr. Gabriel Quenneville-Belair
NEW LOCATION: Cadenza Music Store
149 Snelling Ave., N, Saint Paul, MN 55104

Book Club - 10:00 am

Cafe Latte, Saint Paul
3rd Tuesday of the Month

Mar. 21
Apr. 18
May 16

Upcoming Recitals

Date: Saturday, Mar. 18; Deadline: Saturday, Mar. 4
Location: Schmitt Music, Brooklyn Center
Time: 10:00am-2:00pm; Programmer: Marilyn Henry

Date: Sunday, Apr. 9; Deadline: Saturday, Mar. 25
Time: 1:00pm-5:00pm;
Programmer: Donna Swanson Liew

Date: Sunday, May 7; Deadline: Saturday, Apr. 22
Time: 2:00pm-5:00pm; Programmer: Elsa Hosch

Honors Recital at St. Catherine's University
Date: Sunday, June 4; Deadline: Friday, May 20
Time: 2:00-7:00pm; Programmer: Elsa Hosch

Membership Directory Updates

WELCOME to these new or reinstating members of SPPTA! Please update your directory with their contact information, as needed.

Steven D. Jackson
1240 Pierce Butler Rte. #3
Saint Paul, MN 55104
612-867-7858
steve@landmarkpiano.com

Kyle Witherow
8968 Saint Croix Rd.
Woodbury, MN 55125
651-357-3793
ktwitherow@comcast.net



Monica Allen
Directory Chair

In Memoriam

Elaine Fraher, SSND
9/28/1926- 12/19/2016

S. Elaine began her music studies at the age of nine, studying under Freeman Koberstein, a graduate of the Julliard school of music. From that point on music became her life.

She taught elementary school music, high school chorus and gave piano lessons in addition to being a church organist and choir director. From 1994-2003 S. Elaine taught at K&S Conservatory of Music. In 2007 she retired to Good Counsel in Mankato, MN where she continued to play organ for a time.

S. Elaine was active in many music organizations including MMTA, SPPTA, AGO, and several Archdiocesan liturgical commissions to name a few.

Elaine's radiant smile endeared her to many.

“May she now be singing and playing with joy and praise to the God who called her so long ago!”

Concerto Competition

Submitted by Beverly Olsen, Concerto Competition Chair



Two weeks ago, Brian Jewell - a violist with the Mississippi Valley Orchestra who's been "instrumental" in working with SPPTA and promoting the winners' concerts over the years - sent me an exciting email. "This week the entire MVO met and heard Daniel Stein perform in our rehearsal. We were dazzled by his interpretation of the Schumann piano concerto, and look forward to a wonderful concert." Many people came to Sunday's concert anticipating the same thing, filling First Lutheran Church's main floor and balcony seating for "Let the Spirit Sing Free." It was in this setting that **Daniel Stein, winner of this year's SPPTA Concerto Competition**, and student of Richard Tostenson, performed

Schumann's Concerto in A minor. From quiet to commanding, and with expressive artistry throughout, he captivated the audience. When congratulating and speaking with Daniel afterwards I asked him what it felt like to play with an orchestra. His answer, with a smile: "Comfortable." It turns out this is his third opportunity to do so. Daniel's mannerisms on the bench, and his interchanges with artistic director and conductor Brian Dowdy while performing, support that one word description - comfortable, indeed. Thank you, Daniel, and congratulations on a wonderful concert.

Congratulations, also, to the very talented musicians who competed for this performance opportunity, and advanced to play and place as Finalists in December:

- 2nd Place:** Noah Qiu, student of JoAnne Link, playing the third movement of Brahms' Concerto #1 in D Minor
- 2nd Place:** Chen Chen, student of Denis Evstuhin, playing the first movement of Tchaikovsky's Concerto No. 1
- 3rd Place:** Joseph Caswell, student of Paul Wirth, playing the first movement of Beethoven's Concerto No. 2
- Finalists:** Aurora Wang, student of Tina Park, playing the first movement of Chopin's Concerto No. 1 in E minor
Saejin Yoo, student of Joseph Zins, playing the first movement of Grieg's Concerto in A minor

"Well done!" to each of you. Fabulous music filled the auditorium at the finals competition, and we hope you'll share your talents again next year. Those of us in attendance on the snowy day of the January SPPTA meeting, got to sample some of that amazing music, grateful that Saejin, Aurora, and Joseph's schedules permitted them to come and perform their concerto for us.

Thank you, judges, for sharing your expertise with the SPPTA Concerto Competition. Your establishment in your fields, and thoughtful observations given to each participant in your critiques, help to shape, encourage, and challenge each student to continued musical growth. Dr. Amy Grinstiener, and Dr. David Viscoli heard each of the performers in the preliminary round, and selected the finalists to advance. Then, they were joined for the finals competition and to determine the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners by Sue Ruby. Here is a bit about each of them, with links to read more. We are grateful to each of them, and their generous investment in SPPTA and the next generation of talented musicians. *(continued on next page)*

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Dr. Amy Grinsteiner is currently an Assistant Professor in the joint College of St. Benedict/St. John's University Department of Music in Minnesota, teaching studio piano, class piano, collaborative piano and Music through History. Born and raised in Montana, she holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Washington, Diploma of Postgraduate Performance and L.R.A.M. Teaching Certificate from the Royal Academy of Music in London, a Master of Music Degree in Piano Performance from the Eastman School of Music, and Bachelor of Music Degree in Piano Performance from the University of Colorado, Boulder. At the University of Washington, Dr. Grinsteiner studied with Dr. Robin McCabe. Her other primary teachers include Dennis Alexander, Angela Cheng, Dr. Nelita True, Christopher Elton, and additional studies with Paul Lewis.

Dr. Grinsteiner enjoys a varied performance schedule that includes solo recitals, concerto performances, chamber music recitals, choral accompanying work, and choral conducting.

More information, as well as upcoming performances, can be found at <http://www.csbsju.edu/music/faculty/amy-grinsteiner/biography>

Dr. David Viscoli hails from Santa Fe, New Mexico and attended the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan. David obtained his Bachelor of Music at the University of Texas at Austin, his Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of Southern California. David is the most recent recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award at MSU, Mankato, for the College of Arts and Humanities, and is currently Professor of Piano at the university. In recent years, his students have won both first and second prize in the Minnesota Music Teachers Association College Young Artist Competition.

Dr. Viscoli is a member of the Chiarina Piano Quartet, the Kasota Piano Trio, and the Viscoli/Rieppel duo and has collaborated with principal members of the Minnesota Orchestra and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. He has performed extensively as a soloist and chamber musician around the globe, including concerts in Panama, Taiwan, Korea, Austria, Germany, and Canada. More information, as well as upcoming performances and recording projects can be found at https://www.mnsu.edu/carts/faculty_awards/dist_faculty_D_Viscoli.html

Sue Ruby graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in music education, piano pedagogy, from the University of MN-Duluth and received her master's degree in music from Columbus State University (GA) where she studied with John O'Brien and Betty Anne Diaz. Ms. Ruby has been a teaching artist at MacPhail Center for Music since 2001. In addition to teaching private, group and Music Tree piano, Sue serves as collaborative pianist for the Prelude

program and Interlude or the Advanced Music Theater Performance Lab. Ms. Ruby is an avid lover and performer of chamber music and in 2012, co-founded the Fridays in the Valley Chamber Music Series. An active member of Phi Beta Kappa and MMTA, Sue is also co-founder of the Association of Professional Piano Instructors (APPI).

Thank you again, to each of you, for your integral role in this year's Concerto Competition.



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*Left: **Daniel Stein***

Winner of this year's SPPTA Concerto Competition

*Right: **Brian Dowdy***

*Artistic director and conductor
of the Mississippi Valley Orchestra*

SPPTA Recitals

“SPPTA is so grateful for Schmitt Music’s generosity in allowing us to use their auditorium at their Roseville location for recitals for so many years. Countless students have been grown as both musicians and people by their participation in the recital program and so many memories have been made at the Roseville Schmitt Music. It is with bittersweetness that we look back at the end of a wonderful era.

As we move forward, SPPTA will be rotating between venues for our recital program. Locations such as the Landmark Center, Brooklyn Center Schmitt Music, Roseville Lutheran Church, and St. Joseph School of Music are being considered. Members will be notified by email and we will also post information on our website and Facebook page about the venues for the rest of the year. Members are welcome to submit any suggestions of halls that could be used to the President Sarah Mensen or Recital Chair Elsa Hosch.

Special thanks to Sue Freeman-Dopp Haugen for her endless support of SPPTA’s recital program. So many teachers, students and their families have been touched by her caring heart and interest in young musicians’ performances. Now that the Roseville Schmitt Music has closed its doors, she has tirelessly worked to make sure that SPPTA have locations for our students to continue to grow through this program.

Respectfully submitted,
Elsa Hosch, Recital Chair

Upcoming Recital Dates:

Date: Saturday, Mar. 18; **Deadline:** Saturday, Mar. 4

Location: Schmitt Music, Brooklyn Center

Time: 10:00am-2:00pm; **Programmer:** Marilyn Henry

Date: Sunday, Apr. 9; **Deadline:** Saturday, Mar. 25

Time: 1:00pm-5:00pm; **Programmer:** Donna Swanson Liew

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Salon Se Lève

Submitted by Deanna Andersen

March 19th, 2:30 PM:

“A Real Schubert Club Showcase!”

Salon se Lève presents two more sensational 1st Prize winners of the prestigious Schubert Club Competition: Cellist Madeline Sheard, Junior High First Prize winner of the 2015 Schubert Club Competition will return this year again to enrich our lives with her beautiful musicianship and gorgeous tone... And pianist Abigale Arkley, the 2016 Schubert Club Senior High Piano 1st Prize winner will make what promises to be a stunning debut for us with her very special firebrand virtuosity! Bring a friend and treat them to a fabulous musical afternoon in the intimate Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church Art Gallery!

April 30th, 2:30 PM:

“A Fittingly Fabulous Finale!”

Come join us for our stunning finale, as we present two astonishing young artists in their Salon se Lève debuts: Pianist Collin Jinks, 1st Prize winner of the Thursday Musical Competition and the Rising Star Concerto Competition in LaCrosse will astonish us with his pianistic flair... And the young violinist Katia Tesarczyk, 1st Prize winner of the Schubert Club Competition and already highly praised by the St. Paul Pioneer Press - “Violinist wows Landmark crowd!” - will end our season in head-wagging wonderment!

May 21st, 2:30 PM:

Benefit Concert TBA

“Chamber Chamboree and Alumni Extraordinaire!”

Come and hear our wonderful emerging young artists AND (a new tradition!) our AMAZING ALUMNI!... play some of the world’s greatest solo and chamber music, filling the HAUMC Art Gallery with a resonance to be remembered and our hearts with joy! This event is ticketed, and ensures our Salon se Lève series the financial security it needs! Please come and support Salon se Lève, now in its 15th season! This will be an exciting event!!

<http://www.wirthcenter.org/salon.html>





MusicLink News
Sue Wege, Chair

The MusicLink Playathon took place on the weekend of February 11th & 12th and a good time was had by all. It was a wonderful celebration for the 25th Anniversary of the MusicLink Foundation raising over \$12,000 to help more low income children get the opportunity for music lessons.

SPPTA had a great showing with 10 teachers registering 40 students. Thanks so much for your support! Here are a few photos from the event:



As always, if you want to get involved as a MusicLink teacher, please contact me at swege71@comcast.net or visit the Foundation website and volunteer: www.musiclinkfoundation.org
Click on "How to Participate"



I also want to recognize Sue Krebsbach who was recently honored as a MusicLink Teacher of Distinction with Honors for her 15 year record of being an active MusicLink teacher. Congratulations, Sue, and thank you for all you've shared with your MusicLink students!

ASSOCIATION
TEACHERS
PIANO
Saint Paul



SPPTA Publicity Chair
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Saint Paul, MN 55117

