

KEY *Issue*

January/February 2017



Letter from the President

This is the time of year where almost all your students come in with a sniffle. Do you have ways to prevent the spread of germs in your studio? As I write this article, I am still recovering from a nasty sinus infection. Normally, I am very good about staying healthy this time of year, but I think it's time that I revisit my list and start following through again. What do you do to stay healthy this time of year? All my students are required to wash their hands before their lesson. I also have a large bottle of hand sanitizer in my studio too, so if a student needs to blow their nose they can quickly clean off their hands after. I try to clean off my piano keys at least once a week, or after a lesson with a student that seemed particularly germey. Just think how many students touch you piano keys each week. In my policies, I

have a clause that states I have the right to refuse a lesson if a student comes in sick. I even give students the option to do a video lesson if they are sick but not too sick to play the piano. Then no one misses a lesson and no one else will get sick.

Sarah Mensen



Sarah Mensen
SPPTA President 2016-2018
Sarah Mensen, SPPTA President

Calendar of Events

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Monthly Programs

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

January 10, 2017 Schmitt Music, Roseville
“SPPTA Concerto Competition Finalists’
Performance”
Hosted by SPPTA Board Members

February 14, 2017 Location: TBA
Teacher to Teacher: Open Forum Discussion on
your Questions,
Thoughts, and Ideas on Piano Teaching
Facilitated by Rachel Crooks

Book Club - 10:00 am
Cafe Latte, Saint Paul
3rd Tuesday of the Month

Jan. 17
Feb. 21

Upcoming Recitals

Schmitt Music, Roseville, MN

January 14 - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Deadline: December 31, Elsa Hosch

February Location: TBA

February 18 - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Deadline: February 4, Linda Chacholiades



Submitted by Sue Freeman Dopp

Membership Directory Updates

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

Rick Drake
10557 Wellington Lane N.
Osseo, MN 55369
763-267-2750
roadysurv@yahoo.com

Samantha Dusek
2194 Lexington Ave. N. #8
Saint Paul, MN 55113
715-808-2450
samantha.dusek525@gmail.com

Emily E. Ireland
4309 41st Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55406
651-485-0153
emily@brightermindsmusic.com

Timothy Kraack
1725 Laurel Ave. #3
St. Paul, MN 55104
651-343-1299
kraack.tim@gmail.com

Tina Park
2988 117th Ave. NE
Minneapolis, MN 55449
612-636-3470
juanli8@yahoo.com

Adrienne Stankey
2708 29th Ave. NE
St. Anthony Village, MN 55418
612-817-3640
Aljohnsonandsons7@msn.com

Richard Tostenson
9421 Elliot Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55420
612-718-7534
tostenson.richard@macphail.org

Concerto Concert
Sunday, February 26th
3:00 pm
First Lutheran Church
Columbia Heights, MN



Saturday, December 3rd was a day full of exceptional music at the Roseville Schmitt Auditorium, made possible by many individuals' involvement and support. Thank you, Sue Freeman Dopp, and Schmitt for hosting this year's event. Thank you to our two daytime judges, Dr. Amy Grinsteiner, from College of St. Benedict/St. John's University, and Dr. David Viscoli, from Minnesota State University – Mankato. Their thoughtful critiques of each performance provide encouragement and opportunities for musical growth for each participant. Thank you to Sue Ruby, at MacPhail, who joined them in the evening to judge the finals competition. Thank you to Helen Marie Plourde and her student, Madie, for taking care of all timekeeping responsibilities. Thank you to each teacher who helped a student prepare for this event, and for each student who invested the hard work needed to participate. And finally, thank you to Brian Dowdy, artistic director of Mississippi Valley Orchestra, for joining us that evening to hear all the finalists in person.

Congratulations go to Daniel Stein, winning this year's SPPTA Concerto Competition with his performance of the first movement of Schumann's Concerto in A minor. When asked for some information about himself to include here, this is what he shared:

"I am a seventeen-year-old junior at Minnehaha Academy. I have been playing piano since age five, and I am currently studying with Richard Tostenson at MacPhail. Previously, I have performed in the MacPhail Concerto and Aria concerts, including a Mozart double piano concerto with another MacPhail student. I also play violin in the Symphony Orchestra in the Minnesota Youth Symphonies (MYS). Practicing and performing beautiful pieces like the Schumann concerto brings both wonderful challenge and great delight. I am grateful for my teacher's artistic and technical guidance

and my family's constant support. Outside of music, I participate in math competitions, run cross-country, and enjoy biking."

Please mark your calendars to come hear Daniel Stein perform the Schumann Concerto in A minor with the Mississippi Valley Orchestra in concert, at 3pm on Sunday, February 26th at First Lutheran Church in Columbia Heights. This performance opportunity sets the SPPTA concerto competition apart, and we appreciate the ongoing partnership with the Mississippi Valley Orchestra which makes it possible.

Congratulations to the others competitors who advanced to play as Finalists in the evening competition: Aurora Wang, Saejin Yoo, Noah Qiu, Chen Chen, and Joseph Caswell. More information about the judges and finalists will be in the next newsletter. We have the opportunity to hear the finalists' performances very soon. Though not all are available to come, as it is a school day, you will be privileged to hear some of these individuals perform their competition concerto as guest artists at SPPTA's January 10th meeting. It will be an inspiring and enjoyable time, and a celebratory way to kick off the New Year. So, let's fill the room – come, and bring a friend – to have an audience who can not only enjoy the music, but also appreciate the talent, technique, and musicianship demonstrated.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Olson



Daniel Stein
Winner of this year's SPPTA Concerto Competition
Performancing of the first movement of Schumann's
Concerto in A minor.



MusicLink News
Sue Wege, Chair



It won't be long before the MusicLink Playathon is here. Now is the time to begin making plans to have your students participate in this exciting event. Every dollar raised will help more low income children get the opportunity to have lessons, receive an instrument or participate in a Summer Music Camp experience. Here is a recap of the dates, deadlines etc.:

Dates: February 11th and 12th

Venue: Macy's Court, Mall of America

Hours: All day both days—you can choose your day.

Popular Styles Hour—Saturday—TBD, probably 7:00 p.m.

Deadlines: Postmark—Jan. 30th Online--Feb. 1st

NEW: For those students who wish to perform with the musicians during the Popular Styles Hour, you may choose repertoire NOT on the MMTA Popular Styles List if you wish. Anyone wishing to perform with the band will need to register by January 14th, so that the musicians have time to prepare

More detailed information about the Playathon is on page 21 of the MMTA Handbook or send me an e-mail swege71@comcast.net

Online registration is available on the MMTA website. Look under Events/MusicLink Playathon February 2017 or click on this link: <https://www.mnmusicteachers.com/node/208> You do not need to log in.



The MusicLink Foundation will be celebrating its Silver Anniversary in 2017. Let's help celebrate by making this the biggest Playathon ever!

Student Recital Program

Great opportunity for your students!

The formal student recital program is a venue enabling students to perform and listen to other students in a formal setting. The themed recitals are also formal and follow a theme. Each student receives a written critique and credit toward earning a ribbon (3 recitals), medal (6 recitals) or trophy (9 recitals). The SPPTA recital program is non-competitive.

SPPTA invites teacher-members of all instruments and voice (no organ is available) to register their students in the recital program for solo, duo and small ensemble performances.



November SPPTA Recital
Students receiving awards for participation



SPPTA Publicity Chair
1431 Avon Street N
Saint Paul, MN 55117

