

KEY Issue



April / May 2016

Letter from the President

Of what accomplishment over the past two years are you most proud? Is it a student who has found their own delight in music? Or is it a personal goal you have met? Or is it the connection you feel with your students that will last long after the lessons are discontinued?

We are drawing to the conclusion of my term as president, and I can say I am very proud of the way the board has worked together to accomplish much during the past two years. People have donated time and expertise in ways that we may never fully appreciate, but the results will have lasting benefit. We've had several who have had to step away from their offices due to cross country moves, changes in employment and further education. There have been others ready and willing to step in and finish well.

We live in the midst of constant change due to the impact the internet has had on our lives. SPPTA has striven to meet those challenges head on, and adapt as we must to the new ways of communication. We have streamlined elected offices, set up a teachers-only Facebook page, produced the newsletter for digital distribution, and continue to work toward more innovative ways to use technology. We have purchased a projector, sound system and video screen. We have established an on-going support group for those pursuing National Certification. We have made the Honors Recital an opportunity

for all students to be considered to perform. SPPTA exists to benefit the membership by offering continuing education, camaraderie with other teachers, and opportunities for our students to be challenged. I am thankful for the unity we have felt as we pursued our shared goals. We have worked together to accomplish these purposes and have had a great deal of fun along the way. When someone commits to serve on the board of an organization staffed solely by volunteers, it is cause for celebration.

Today I celebrate my fellow board members.

Thank you all for your willing service! Sarah Mensen (President-elect, 3rd VP and Honors Recital co-chair), Sue Krebsbach (Treasurer), Elsa Hosch (Secretary and Recital chair), Judy Sherman (Corresponding Secretary/Historian), Elizabeth Richter (1st VP), Beverly Olson (Concerto Chair), Rebecca Buseman (2nd VP), Barbara Rossow and Sue Freeman Dopp Haugen (Contest Workshops), Rachel Crooks (Programs Chair and Membership Chair), Donna Liew (Social Chair), Monica Allen (Directory), and Cynthia Ali (Publicity Chair).

**With gratefulness,
Marilyn Henry**



Marilyn Henry, SPPTA President

Calendar of Events

APRIL & MAY

Monthly Programs 10:00 am

April 12, 2016

All-Association Spring Luncheon,
hosted by SPPTA

Midland Hills Country Club

2001 Fulham St., Roseville, MN 55113

"Creative Composition"

Presented by Wynne-Anne Rossi

9:30 Registration

10:15 Meeting and program

May 10, 2016

Schmitt Music, Roseville

"Sight Reading from the Very Beginning"

Presented by Monica Allen

Book Club - 10:00 am

Cafe Latte, Saint Paul

3rd Tuesday of the Month

April 19th Start reading, **The Savvy Music**

Teacher by David Cutler

May 17th Continue reading, **The Savvy Music**

Teacher by David Cutler

NCTM Certification Preparation

Schmitt Music Auditorium, Roseville, MN

11:00 am

April 4th

May 2nd

Upcoming Recitals

April Recital

Deadline: April 2 /Programmer: Deanna Andersen

April Recital: Sunday, April 17

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

SPPTA Honors Recital

May 1st, 2016, 4:30pm

Saint Catherine's University Recital Hall, St. Paul

Save the Date! Annual Convention

June 13-14, 2016, Crown Plaza Mpls W,

Plymouth, MN

SPPTA Recitals

Thank you to all the teachers and their students who have participated in this year's recitals! It has been a privilege to hear the performances of so many dedicated students. Sunday, April 17th will be the final recital for the year before the Honors Recital at St. Catherine's recital hall on May 1st. This will be a wonderful opportunity for students preparing for end of the year recitals, so please send your registrations to Deanna Andersen by April 2nd.

Respectfully submitted,
Elsa Hosch, Recital Chair

SPPTA Meeting Highlights

SPPTA members have been industriously planning for the months ahead. The board of officers for the coming term continues to have a few openings including Membership Chair and Historian/Corresponding Secretary.

SPPTA is also looking for members to form a committee to choose repertoire for MMTA's 2018 contest list. The suggestions need to be submitted to MMTA's Contest Committee by October 1st of this year.

Topics for the 2016/2017 programs are also in the process of being selected.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsa Hosch, Recital Chair



Elsa Hosch

NCTM Meetings

Have you ever contemplated becoming a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music through MTNA but just do not know where to start?

SPPTA has now begun FREE workshops on the steps to complete this professional development. They are held on the first Tuesday of each month from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the auditorium at the Roseville Schmitt Music and all are welcome to attend.

For more information, please contact Elsa Hosch:
elsahosch@icloud.com or
651-407-2600



SPPTA Honors Recital

May 1st, 2016

4:30pm

**Saint Catherine's University Recital Hall
Saint Paul, MN**

SPPTA Honors Recital is May 1st at the Saint Catherine's University Recital Hall. Please consider coming to support students that have received honors in one of the SPPTA Recitals. We would love to see you there!

For more information, please contact Sarah Mensen



Sarah Mensen, Honors Recital Chair

**All-Association
Spring Luncheon**

Tuesday, April 12, 2016
Venue: Midland Hills Country Club,
2001 Fulham St, Roseville 55113

9:30-10:15 Registration / coffee
10:15 Meeting
10:30-11:30 Program
11:30 Luncheon

Luncheon Program

Creative Composition in the Studio

by Wynn-Anne Rossi

Wynn-Anne Rossi is a dynamic composer and unique music educator. Her compositions have reached audiences throughout the United States and across the oceans. She has over 100 publications, primarily for piano... Wynn-Anne has a specialty for bringing the art of composition to young musicians. She has been offering composition residencies in Minnesota schools since 2003, inspiring hundreds of students to write their own music. (See www.rossi-music.com for a detailed bio.)

**Thanks to our Social Chair, Donna Swanson Liew
for organizing this event!**



Donna Swanson Liew, Social Chair

The 8th Annual MusicLink Playathon

The 8th annual MusicLink Playathon was held at the Mall of America on the weekend of Feb. 13-14 and was another wonderful success. 247 students performed on a variety of instruments and voice raising over \$9,000 for the work of the MusicLink Foundation. 48 teachers were represented including 8 SPPTA teachers. Our Saturday evening Popular Styles Hour was another hit featuring Doug Rohde with the “Katzen Jammers” playing back up to our young performers. It was a fun and rewarding weekend!



MusicLink Summer Camp

Active MusicLink teachers be sure to share information about the \$250 Summer Music Camp Scholarships and the \$1,000 Ruth Stenson Award with your MusicLink students. Click here for application forms:

http://sppta.org/Programs_for_Students.html

If you would like to become involved as a MusicLink teacher, sign up to volunteer at: <http://www.musiclinkfoundation.org> Click on “How to Participate” at the top of the page. If you have any questions, please contact me, Sue Wege at swege71@comcast.net



Over 30 years!

Over 30 years! – That’s how long the partnership between Mississippi Valley Orchestra and St. Paul Piano Teachers Association has been in place. What a privilege to have each winner of the SPPTA Concerto Competition, be able to perform their solo in concert with the Mississippi Valley Orchestra! This year’s performance took place on Sunday afternoon, February 21st, at the First Lutheran Church in Columbia Heights. After the audience was welcomed to the event, and had applauded while pianist Nita Qiu and conductor James Straka took their places, the people in the auditorium quieted. The conductor did not raise his arms as expected, but instead observed as Nita alone opened the concert with unaccompanied solo piano. Smiles were on the faces of orchestra members. Quiet murmurs could be heard in the audience. Some individuals shifted to get a better view; others, eyes closed, needed no visual. Then, enter full orchestra...lovely. Nita performed the first movement of Saint-Saëns’ Piano Concerto No. 2, confidently navigating the entire keyboard. After returning to bow again to a standing ovation, and receiving a bouquet from the orchestra, Nita walked again to the back of the auditorium to join Jim Straka. From there, unseen by the audience, he clearly yet silently communicated to the orchestra, through a fist raised to the ceiling in victory, and a smile. Congratulations again, Nita, on being SPPTA’s 2015 Concerto Competition winner, and thank you for your years of participation in this program. It has been delightful – through these annual snapshots - to watch you grow as a musician, and we are confident that growth will continue!

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Olson, SPPTA Concerto Competition Chair



“ Congratulations again, Nita, on being SPPTA’s 2015 Concerto Competition winner, and thank you for your years of participation in this program.”



*SPPTA Concerto Competition Winner for 2015
Nita Qiu, pictured with conductor James Straka.*

REMINDER: Honors Recital Requirements

The second annual SPPTA Honors Recital will take place on May 1st, 2016 at 4:30. The recital will take place at St. Catherine's University recital hall in St. Paul, MN. To be eligible to perform in the Honors recital a student must earn an honorable performance from a judge at a SPPTA recital. There are only 3 recitals left, February 20th, March 19th and April 17th, so if you students wants to play in the honors recital they still have a chance to get in. If your student has already received an honorable performance in a SPPTA recital see below for the registration form.

Registration Deadline: April 23rd, 2016

To Register online:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/SarahsPianoStudio1/SPPTAHonorsRecitalRegistrationForm>



SPPTA Honors Recital Registration Form

Fill out the form below to register for the SPPTA's Honors Recital. Eligible students must have received an honorable performance at an SPPTA recital this year.

Deadline: April 23rd, 2016

Mail this form to:

Sarah Mensen
1648 Ross Ave
St. Paul, MN 55106

Teacher's Name: _____

Teacher's Email: _____ Teacher's Phone: _____

Student's Name: _____

Age: _____ Level: _____ Exact Time: _____

Complete Title of Piece: _____

Composer, Full Name: _____

Date of Honorable Performance: _____



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Salon se Lève 2015-2016 Concert Series

Offered in the intimate setting of the Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church Art Gallery, hear the world's greatest music played by some of Minnesota's finest pre-college classical musicians.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2015 AT 2:30 P.M.
The Larson Memorial Recital I
Mark Prihodko, cello

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2015 AT 2:30 P.M.
The Larson Memorial Recital II
Toni Lyn Andres, flute

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2016 AT 2:30 P.M.
Daniel Eras, piano
Tori Adams, soprano

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2016 AT 2:30 P.M.
Madeline Sheard, cello
Christina Waldron, piano

SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2016 AT 2:30 P.M.
Shuen Wu, piano
Zhen Tu, piano

SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2016 AT 2:30 P.M.
"Chamber Chamboree!" Benefit Concert
(TICKETED EVENT, Contact 320-255-0318)

Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church
511 Groveland Avenue at Lyndale
Minneapolis, MN 55403
612-871-5305

Salon se Lève

"Renewing the salon concert to encourage emerging young artists."

All concerts are free except the Benefit Concert on May 22, 2016, which is a ticketed event. All donations are tax-deductible.

All concerts are followed by a fabulous reception!

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WIRTH CENTER FOR THE Performing Arts
<http://www.wirthcenter.org/salonseleve.htm>