

# KEY Issue



February / March 2016

## Letter from the President

**Congratulate yourself!** You are one of a dynamic group of forward thinking music educators who have joined together to better themselves, their students and their community. Here are some new ways SPPTA is working to do just that.

**A National Certification interest group** has been formed to outline steps members need to take to become Nationally Certified through MTNA. Elsa Hosch, NCTM, is familiar with the current requirements and is leading the group. You may contact her for information regarding the dates and times of meetings. We encourage every member to pursue this certification whether they are college faculty, recent graduates, or teachers who are just entering the field.

**SPPTA continues to use more and more technology** to benefit our members. In efforts to make registrations for events easier, we are beginning to work on an on-line registration system for our members. We are thankful for Cynthia Ali who is spearheading this endeavor. If you have expertise in this area you are willing to share, you may contact her.

**Technology will benefit us** in another way as well. If you are unable to attend a meeting, SPPTA has plans to video-record the speaker and provide the content to our membership.

Information regarding this will become available as the details are worked out.

**SPPTA attracts some of the finest pre-college musicians** in the state for our concerto competition. You will have an opportunity to hear and interact with some of next year's finalists during our February, 2017 meeting. It will be our own version of MPR's "From the Top."

**These are just a few of the new ideas** that will be implemented during the coming months. While we celebrate the new, be sure to take advantage of the programs that are already in place: recitals, the spring luncheon, the monthly book club, and all of the MMTA programs that are offered through your membership.

If you haven't been active in SPPTA yet, you will find a warm welcome in whatever way you choose to connect.

**Happy teaching!**

*Marilyn Henry*



*Marilyn Henry, SPPTA President*



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## Calendar of Events

### FEBRUARY & MARCH

#### Monthly Programs 10:00 am

**February 9, 2016** Schmitt Music, Roseville

"Teacher to Teacher:

Open Forum Discussion on Your Questions,  
Thoughts, and Ideas on Piano Teaching"

Facilitated by Rachel Crooks

**March 8, 2016** Schmitt Music, Roseville

"Motivation in the Piano Lesson"

Presented by Sue Ruby

#### Book Club - 10:00 am

Cafe Latte, Saint Paul

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month

**February 16th** Start reading, *Teaching Music:  
The Human Experience* by Shirley Mullins

**March 15** Continue reading, *Teaching Music:  
The Human Experience* by Shirley Mullins

#### NCTM Certification Preparation

Schmitt Music Auditorium, Roseville, MN

11:00 am

February 2nd

March 1st

#### Upcoming Recitals

**February 20 – Saturday**, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Deadline for registration: February 6

Programmer: Linda Chacholiades

**March 19 – Saturday**, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Deadline for registration: March 5

Programmer: Elsa Hosch

#### Save the Date! Annual Convention

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

## SPPTA Recitals

The SPPTA recitals have experienced many wonderful performances so far this season. It has been exciting to watch the students share their talent and work so hard to perfect their performing skills. The December and January recitals provided great opportunities for students preparing for upcoming competitions to practice playing their pieces for an audience. The upcoming recitals will also be beneficial for events later this year; please consider registering your students, we would be thrilled to hear them play!

During December, programmer Rebekah Richards enhanced the experience of the recitalists and audience by providing commentary on the pieces performed. The parents especially seemed to enjoy hearing about how different styles are characteristic for particular eras and how certain composers lives were linked with each other. She also challenged the listeners to pay attention to how composers write music to convey various moods and paint pictures with music. Hopefully other programmers will be inspired to do the same in future recitals. I know they are all treasure troves of musical knowledge!

Respectfully submitted,

Elsa Hosch, Recital Chair



Elsa Hosch

## SPPTA Meeting Highlights

The January meeting kicked the new year off to a great start despite the frigid temperatures. Dr. Paul Wirth gave an amazing presentation on preparing students for recitals and competitions. He covered multiple aspects of performing including having the right philosophy on competing, memorization strategies, and using performance anxiety in a constructive way. This was Dr. Wirth's fifteenth time speaking at an SPPTA meeting, and we hope he continues sharing his expertise and wisdom with our association.

During the board meeting, it was discussed how we can help SPPTA continue to benefit its members as the technological age continues to progress. Updates to the website with new assets such as online registrations for events and having the directory available for members to login to are changes that we are looking to implement in the coming year.

In March, the board will be presenting the slate of officers for the upcoming two-year term. Membership and Historian/Corresponding Secretary are two of the open positions, so if anyone is interested in serving SPPTA with their talents and specialties, please contact a board member and we will be happy to help you find the right fit for you.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsa Hosch, Secretary

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### DEADLINE

APRIL/MAY NEWSLETTER

Please submit information for the newsletter by  
March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Cynthia Ali:  
[cynthialistudios@yahoo.com](mailto:cynthialistudios@yahoo.com)

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## 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](mailto:elsahosch@icloud.com) or  
651-407-2600



All are welcome to attend the meeting to prepare for the NCTM Certification process and to offer mentorship.

**February 2nd, 2016**

**March 1st, 2016**

Every 1st Tuesday of the Month, 11:00am - 12pm

Schmitt Music Auditorium, Roseville, MN

Questions: Elsa Hosch  
[elsahosch@icloud.com](mailto:elsahosch@icloud.com)

## It's Concert Time!

After a day of stiff competition on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, the judges selected Gloriana Wolf as the SPPTA Concerto Competition's 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winner, performing the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> movements of Chopin's Concerto No. 2; Joey Tranvik as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner playing the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> movements of Greig's Concerto in A minor; and Nita Qiu was announced as our SPPTA Concerto Competition Winner for 2015. Congratulations to each of them – it was a phenomenal day of music!

You will be able to hear Nita perform the first movement of Saint-Saëns' Concerto No. 2 in G minor with the Mississippi Valley Orchestra on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. Join us at 3pm for the concert at the First Lutheran Church in Columbia Heights. The address is 1555 40<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421.

Let me introduce you to this year's winner, Nita Qiu, pictured here at the piano.  
“Nita Qiu is thirteen years old and in 8th grade at the Trinity School at River Ridge. Nita has studied for eight and one-half years with the nationally distinguished artist/teacher, Dr. Joseph Zins, of Crocus Hill Studios in Saint Paul, Minnesota. An active performer all over the country, Nita is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions. Some of her most recent awards include placing 1st in the St. Paul Piano Teacher's Association Concerto Competition in December, 2015, receiving 3rd place in the Aloha International Piano Competition (Junior Division) in Honolulu, Hawaii in June, 2015, and being a National Finalist of the Music Teacher's National Association Young Artist Competition (Junior Division) in Las Vegas, Nevada in March, 2015. She has played the second movement of Mozart's Piano Concerto No 21 with the Young Artist World Piano Festival Orchestra at the age of 12, and the first movement of the same concerto with the Kenwood Symphony Orchestra at the age of 11. Aside from piano, Nita is a competitive swimmer and loves reading and watching movies as well. “

We look forward to seeing many of you later this month as we enjoy this talented artist's performance. Please invite your friends, and tell students of this great family event!

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Olson, SPPTA Concerto Competition Chair



**“Congratulations  
to each of them –  
it was a phenomenal day  
of music!”**



*SPPTA Concerto Competition Winner for 2015  
Nita Qiu, pictured here at the piano*

REMINDER: Honors Recital Requirements

The second annual SPPTA Honors Recital will take place on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 20<sup>th</sup>, March 19<sup>th</sup> and April 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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: \_\_\_\_\_



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

## The MusicLink Foundation Playathon February 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>

**Online Registration Deadline:  
February 3rd**

How to Register • Register online by going to [www.mnmusicteachers.com](http://www.mnmusicteachers.com). Under the “Student Programs” menu, click “MusicLink”. (See Handbook p. 15 for instructions.)

The MusicLink Foundation believes that anyone who shows musical potential should be given the opportunity to nurture this musical promise to its full extent. MMTA and Schmitt Music sponsor an annual Playathon at the Mall of America to raise funds to benefit the MusicLink Foundation. Students of all ages and their teachers are invited to perform at this exciting venue demonstrating how their music can benefit others.

Program Director Sue Wege, NCTM ▪  
[swege71@comcast.net](mailto:swege71@comcast.net)

**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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