



Key Issue

Volume XLIX Edition 4

February-March 2015

From the President

While Music is a Language— Communication is a Necessity

Our goal as teachers is to make each personal contact minute as beneficial to the student as possible. That means we minimize the time spent on housekeeping details and logistics. Some parents, especially those with small children, never come into the studio at lesson times, so all communication must be done apart from the lesson time.

Parents need to be made aware of what is going on in the studio, what expectations are, and the details of extra curricular events we want them to be involved in. The ways in which you handle this will largely depend on your personality, number of students, and complexity of the issues involved.

Some families enjoy the warmth of a personal phone call, but that is usually impractical. Years ago, I remember spending 15 minutes on the phone trying to schedule a 30 minute lesson. I now reserve phone calls for last minute cancellations or I may call to discuss strategies with parents when things seem to be stagnated or there is an issue we need to address as a team.

Email is my preferred method for routine communication. It is quick, easy and can be referred to in the future. My students are a contacts group so I can send an email to everyone at once for studio wide interests.

The best form of communication in my studio, however, is my monthly newsletter. It takes me about three hours to generate each month, so it is labor intensive, but I think it is worth the investment.

I love pictures, so I take lots of them. I take a picture of each student at their first lesson in the fall, and use that picture in the newsletter to announce when they pass a method book. I take pictures when students earn awards at SPPTA recitals, or when they receive a check from MMTA for a high score on an exam. I always take pictures at our repertoire classes as well. These pictures liven up my layout in my newsletter and students love to see themselves being celebrated.

I also use the newsletter to promote the next “big opportunity.” it forces me to think way ahead and invite people to participate while their still is plenty of time to prepare.

I include a “tech talk” section where I review an app for iPad that I think would be helpful to my students. I may include information about myself if I am attending a conference or highlights from one of our SPPTA meetings. I want them to know I am actively working for them beyond the lesson.

I email everyone a copy of the newsletter, publish it on my website and print one out for the waiting area. I have found it to be a valuable, detailed journal of each teaching year.

Happy Teaching!
Marilyn Henry



Calendar of Events

- 3/7 **Deadline** for entering students in 3/21 recital at Schmitt Music – Roseville
- 3/10 **General Meeting** -Schmitt Music (Roseville)
10:00 Social time
10:20 Meeting – Dr. Paul Wirth
11:50 Board meeting
- 3/17 **Book Club** – Cafe Latte (St. Paul)
10:00 Meeting
- 3/21 **SPPTA Student Recital**
10:00 – 2:00
- 4/7 **All Association Spring Luncheon** hosted by Minneapolis Music Teachers Forum (Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West – Plymouth)
“Impressions on Debussy, Ravel, and French Macarons,” presented by Richard Tostenson
Registration deadline: Saturday, March 28

SPPTA ADVERTISING POLICY

Advertising will be accepted for the SPPTA KEY ISSUE at the discretion of the editor and the executive board. Advertising may be submitted by any member of MMTA or professionally-related person or organization. Copy must be accompanied by payment and submitted on or before the newsletter deadline date. Checks are to be made payable to SPPTA. Materials and inquiries are to be addressed to the newsletter editor. Advertising would include items for sale or services for sale. Philanthropic and nonprofit information should be submitted in the form of a news story. Advertising rates are:

Full page ad: \$40.00
Half page ad: \$20.00
Fourth page ad: \$10.00
Column Inch (six typewritten lines): \$6.00

Third Vice President: Kathy Martinez
Newsletter Editor: Mitch Grussing
Circulation Editor: Mitch Grussing

Updated member contacts

The following member addresses are corrected or updated from this year's directory:

Lynn Foster
5569 Ozark Ave. N
Oak Park Heights, MN 55082

Jo Cheryl Holmes
150 Front St, Unit 425
Prescott, WI 54021

MMTA Convention Master Classes: NEW Collaborative Master Class!

As usual, the MMTA convention will feature a master class, led by the guest artist, in which students are invited to perform. In addition to this, however, we will be welcoming Martha Fischer, of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, to present a master class for *collaborative* student pianists. This will be a wonderful opportunity for those students of ours who perform for solo instruments or in other types of ensembles. Forms can be mailed to the MMTA Office, 10800 Lyndale Ave South, Ste 263, Bloomington, MN 55420. Auditions will be held by email: send an MP3 recording or YouTube link to kamabel@juno.com. Those selected to perform will be notified by April 20.



The Music Room, George Goodwin Kilburne

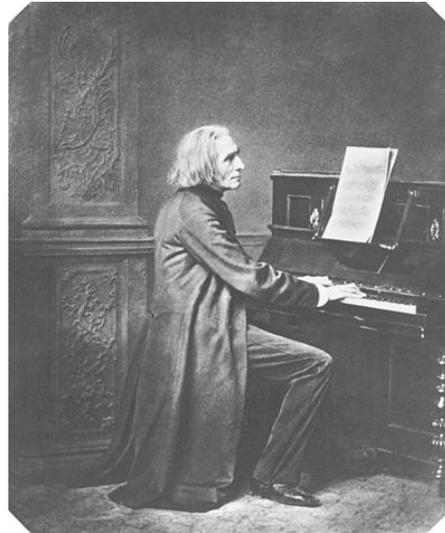
Many Congratulations, Collin Jinks!

Those individuals seated, ready and waiting on the chilly afternoon of Sunday, Feb. 22nd, were looking forward to an enjoyable concert, in the lovely venue of First Lutheran Church, Columbia Heights. Those of us who were at SPPTA's Concerto Competition in November, knew Collin's performance would indeed be enjoyable, and so much more! With great poise Collin took his place at the piano and proceeded to fill the room with beautiful, expressively-played music. In some places it was dramatic, full and powerful, while in other places so light and flowing – just as the piece demanded. Permeating his artistic performance was a technical excellence that spoke of the many hours devoted to the preparation of this work.

What a delight it was to hear the applause as the piece concluded, to watch as many bows of acknowledgement were needed before the clapping stopped, and to see people sharing words of appreciation, encouragement, and thanks with Collin, during intermission. Thank you, Collin, for your diligence and delight in presenting Beethoven's 1st Piano Concerto to us all, and thank you, Mississippi Valley Orchestra, for your ongoing partnership with SPPTA, which allows us to offer this unique performance opportunity to the elite youth pianists participating in Concerto Competition!

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Olson
SPPTA Concerto Competition Chair



Play for your peers!

How would you like to share some of your talent with your fellow music instructors? MMTA is currently accepting applications for the Members Recital, to be held at this year's convention at Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West in Plymouth on Monday, June 15 at 4:15 p.m. Registration is due by March 15, so be sure to sign up soon!





MMTF All-Association Spring Luncheon!

**All Local and Collegiate Association members
are invited to attend!**

Tuesday, April 7, 2015

Crowne Plaza, Minneapolis West, 3131 Campus Drive, Plymouth

Registration 9:30 am

Program 10:00 am

Luncheon 11:00 am

Impressions on Debussy, Ravel and French Macarons

Presented by Richard Tostenson



Menu: Sauteed Breast of Chicken, garden salad, rolls, coffee, tea, milk and dessert (vegetarian option available).

Cost: \$24.50, checks payable to MMTF

Send bottom portion and payment to:

Ruth Hembre

16740 14th Ave N.

Plymouth, MN 55447

Deadline: ***Saturday, March 28***

Registration form for MMTF All-Association Luncheon, April 7, 2015

Name _____

Guests _____

Number of registrants _____ \$24.50 per person Make check payable to MMTF

Total amount enclosed _____