

# KEY Issue



OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2015

## Letter from the President Starting Anything is Fun, Right?

**Enthusiasm is high.** We have new binders, new schedules, new students, new routines. We all have the opportunity to begin again and do things better this year than last.

**By nature, we love the beginnings of things.** There is something invigorating about even the new seasons we enjoy here in Minnesota. Let's apply that same enthusiasm to our teaching by building in some "begin again" times in our studios. It could follow the natural cycle of semesters, the seasons, or some arbitrary or scheduled milestone that you have set up.

**Emotionally,** September and October are full of the promise of the potential of what is to come. In my studio, we work diligently on polishing the duets begun in the summer, culminating in the Ensemble Festival in November. Hallowe'en is also a turning point for me, since then we immediately begin

working on music for the Christmas recitals. We all heave a collective sigh of relief after those recitals and shut things down until January. January is another chance to pick something to resolve to do better. For me, it may be inspecting the practice records more carefully, or finalizing dates for exams or finding ways to make a student's eyes light up in their lessons.

**Change is refreshing.** Change your bulletin board, change seasonal decor, change the arrangement of the room, change the sequence of the lessons. It may inspire the teacher just as much as the student!

**Happy teaching!**  
*Marilyn Henry*



*Marilyn Henry, SPPTA President*

# Calendar of Events

## OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

### Monthly Programs 10:00 am

October 13, 2015 Schmitt Music, Roseville  
"Matching Programs with Your Student: SPPTA and MMTA Program Overview"  
Presented by Marilyn Henry

November 10, 2015 Schmitt Music, Roseville  
"The Piano Performer: Dealing with Performance Anxiety and Memory"  
Presented by TBD

### Book Club - 10:00 am

Cafe Latte, Saint Paul  
Oct. 20  
Nov. 17

### MMTA Piano Contest Materials Workshops

October 1 Intermediate A  
October 8 Junior B  
October 15 Primary/Junior A

### Recital Schedule 2015-2016

October 24 – Saturday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm  
November 14 – Saturday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

### Concerto Competition

Registrations dates: Applications will be accepted between the postmarked dates of Sept. 1-Oct. 15, 2015

### Master Class

October 9 – Friday 7 pm, Schmitt Music, Roseville, MN



# SPPTA Recitals

The first SPPTA recital for the 2015/2016 season will be hosted by Marilyn Henry on Saturday, October 24th from 10:00 am. - 2:00 pm. at the Schmitt Music Auditorium in Roseville. Please send Marilyn the registrations by October 10. These recitals are wonderful ways to give your students performing opportunities in a noncompetitive atmosphere and receive feedback from qualified judges as well. I hope to hear your students there!

Respectfully submitted,  
Elsa Hosch, Recital Chair

# SPPTA Meeting

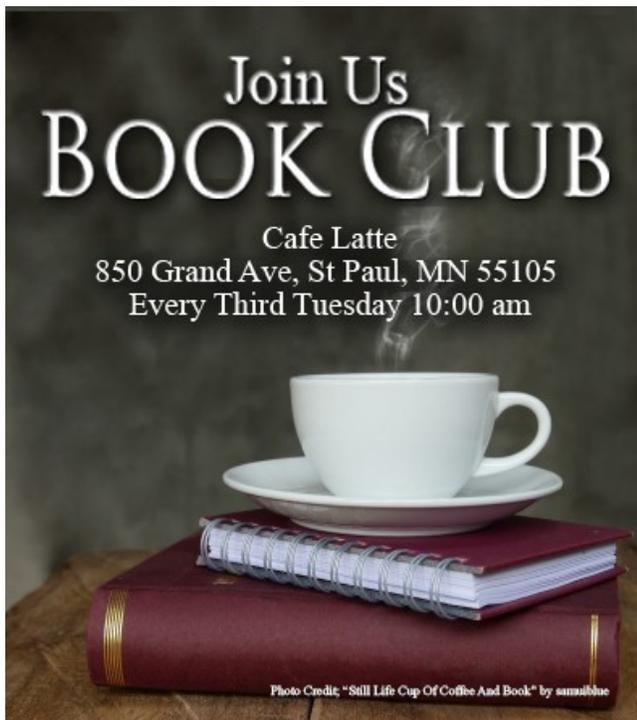
## Highlights from September 8

It was announced that SPPTA is looking for volunteers to fill the open board positions for 2nd Vice President, Publicity Chair, Newsletter Chair, and Nominating Committee. Cynthia Ali has stepped into the positions for Publicity and Newsletter. Thank you, Cynthia!

During the board meeting, we discussed how to use SPPTA's assets to benefit its members and their students. It was decided that any members who apply to become a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM) through MTNA will receive a \$100 rebate to help deflect the registration fee. We hope that this will encourage members to invest in this valuable professional development. If anyone has questions about the certification process, please contact Judy Sherman or myself.

SPPTA is also reached out to the UNW MMTA Collegiate Chapter by attending their meeting on September 15. Members donated sheet music, SPPTA provided three gift cards to be used in a drawing for the student members, and the opportunities for mentorship and lesson observations were offered. We wish the best for these young members who are the future of piano teaching!

Respectfully submitted,  
Elsa Hosch, Secretary



***"Building Your Studio Success!"***  
*September 8, 2015 Schmitt Music, Roseville*  
 Panel discussion by Emily Ireland, Susan Munson,  
 Sue Krebsbach, and Deanna Andersen  
 Facilitated by Rachel Crooks

---

**DEADLINE**  
**DECEMBER/JANUARY NEWSLETTER**  
 Please submit information for the newsletter by  
 November 5th  
 Cynthia Ali: [cynthiaalstudios@yahoo.com](mailto:cynthiaalstudios@yahoo.com)

---

## Directory Update

Hi, SPPTA Members-  
 I hope you all received your handbook and directory.  
 If you have any  
 corrections or updates, please email Monica Allen at:  
[monicakayallen@hotmail.com](mailto:monicakayallen@hotmail.com).

Please add this person to your 2015-2016 directory:

Marlene Lee, NCTM  
 2250 6th Street, #220  
 White Bear Lake, MN 55110  
 651-295-1116  
[m.lee@hihcm.org](mailto:m.lee@hihcm.org)

Sincerely,  
 Monica Allen, SPPTA Directory Chair



**SPPTA**  
**Master Class**  
 with faculty members  
 from UW Madison  
 Friday, October 9th, 7pm  
 Schmitt Music, Roseville, MN



**Martha Fischer, Jessica Johnson,  
 John Chappell Stowe and Christopher Taylor**



Teachers, please nominate  
 your high school students to  
 participate. Music may still be  
 in the working stages.

Deadline for submission is  
 October 1st, 2015  
 Contact: [MarilynHenry@msn.com](mailto:MarilynHenry@msn.com)

## MusicLink-- Teaching a Child in Need

The MusicLink program helps children in financial need get the opportunity to take music lessons at an affordable price. If you are willing to reduce your normal lesson fee by at least half, you can become a MusicLink teacher and make a child's dream come true. Much support is available.

MMTA & SPPTA support our MusicLink students by waiving all program fees for them. In addition, all MMTA educational materials are 50% off for MusicLink students. Make this the year you become involved. Contact me for more information.



Please mark your calendar for the upcoming MusicLink Playathon on the weekend of Feb. 13-14, 2016. The

dates were incorrect in the hard copy MMTA Handbook, so please make note of these dates and plan now to have your students participate in this exciting event.

Sue Wege  
MusicLink Chair  
[swege71@comcast.net](mailto:swege71@comcast.net)

---

### TECHNOLOGY CORNER

---

#### Tenuto App :: [musictheory.net](http://musictheory.net)

“Tenuto is a collection of fifteen customizable exercises designed to enhance your musicality. From recognizing chords on a keyboard to identifying intervals by ear, it has an exercise for you. Tenuto also includes five musical calculators for accidentals, intervals, chords, analysis symbols, and twelve-tone matrices.” *quote by* <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/tenuto/id459313476?mt=8>

---

## Concerto Competition -- Minor changes...Major Difference

**News Flash** -- if you have not entered a student into SPPTA's Concerto Competition before, now is the time! Here are three changes to encourage your involvement and your student's participation. First of all, the registration fee has been reduced to \$50 per student. Secondly, the winners' cash prize amounts have been increased so 3rd place receives \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$150, and 1<sup>st</sup> place - \$250 plus a solo performance with the Mississippi Valley Orchestra. And the final bonus is time. Since the competition is not scheduled until December 5<sup>th</sup>, first Saturday in December, you even have additional weeks to prepare.

Registration is currently open, and the deadline is October 15<sup>th</sup>. The registration form and competition guidelines are in the SPPTA Handbook as well as on the SPPTA website under the Programs for Students tab. All participating students receive two valuable critiques from the highly qualified judges adjudicating the preliminaries. These critiques serve to simultaneously congratulate the student on their musical investment which allowed them to participate in the event, and supply additional feedback and perspective to encourage the student's ongoing musical growth. So help us spread the word...we're looking forward to an amazing day of music, with a full list of contestants, and an auditorium filled with individuals eager for a treat!

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Olson  
Concerto Competition Chair

# Enthusiasm, Eats, and Musical Treats

Warm cinnamon rolls, fruit, and hot cider welcomed those gathered at the University of Northwestern for MMTA's collegiate meeting on September 15th. This kick-off event was coordinated by UNW student Rachel Revennaugh, and attended by other students, as well as MMTA and SPPTA representatives. Suzanne Greer, current MMTA President, and Jill Kilzer, who just finished in that role, shared about the programs available within the Minnesota Music Teachers Association, for both the collegiate members and their own piano students. Comments were made by seasoned teachers at the table, at how helpful these types of resources would have been, when pursuing their own music education.

Dr. Richard Lange, MMTA member and UNW Music Faculty, was able to attend, providing a familiar face and an on-campus connection. SPPTA representatives Sue Freeman-Dopp Haugen (also a former MMTA president) and Beverly Olson supplied the link to the local chapter, with invitations to attend our meetings (rides available) and observe lessons. Sue also came ready with musical trivia questions, used to determine the winners of the three \$25 gift cards donated by SPPTA, for the UNW book store.

The meeting closed with conversations, "shopping," and photos. Thank you to all of the teachers who donated music -- the college students appreciatively looked through the boxes of books, adding volumes to their libraries. One student commented with a smile, "I just found the exact book I needed to go buy later this afternoon." If you have music you'd like to make available, please bring it to our monthly SPPTA meeting, or contact Beverly Olson at (651) 341-0353 to drop it off at your convenience.

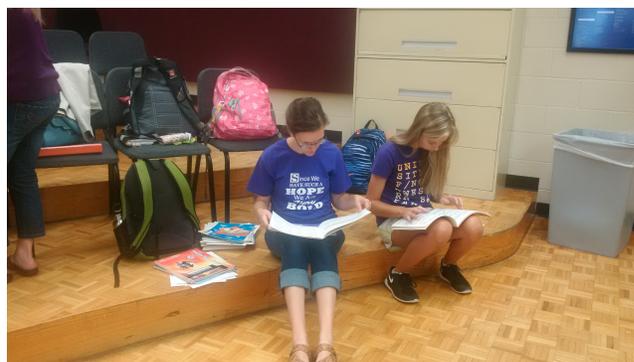
It is a delight to be able to build into the lives of these students with resources, education, and encouragement. Sue articulated well, the

sentiment shared by those of us who attended, "There is much hope for the profession of private piano teaching...I was so impressed by the joy and enthusiasm of these young people!! I came away with a big smile!!"

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Olson

## Highlights of MMTA's Collegiate Meeting





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

## Member Interview :: By Elsa Hosch Cynthia Ali, New Publicity Chair

**Elsa: How did you get interested in piano?**

Cynthia: As long as I can remember I loved piano. I grew up in a house filled with music. My mom played piano and taught in her home piano studio. At age 4, my mom taught me my first piano song.

**Elsa: If you could have dinner with any composer (past or present), which composer would it be and what would you serve him/her?**

Cynthia: I would love to have dinner with Claude Debussy. Instead of serving him, I would take him out to eat to WA Frost in Saint Paul and sit on the patio on a beautiful summer day. I would imagine him to be as charming as his compositions.

**Elsa: Who is the most influential person in your life?**

Cynthia: The most influential person in my life for the piano was my grandfather. He played like no one else I have ever heard and he had so much enjoyment playing. His eyes lit up every time he played. Watching him, year after year, I was dazzled by his passion. I was held in curiosity and memorized by how his fingers danced across the keyboard. One of my saddest days was when his song went silent.

**Elsa: Do you have a favorite piece of music? Or favorite genre? If so, what is it and why?**

Cynthia: Favorite piece...hmmmm? Too many and it depends upon the day. I love to play Waltzes, Minuets, Polkas, any dance music. .

**Elsa: What is your favorite quote?**

Cynthia: "I long ago observed that the real beauty of the sound comes from the generosity of the heart." by Marcel Moyse, flutist

**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!*

Sponsored by:  
**WIRTH CENTER**  
FOR THE Performing Arts  
<http://www.wirthcenter.org/salonselve.htm>

Photography by Andrew Gertz