



# Key Issue

Volume XLVIII Edition 3

Celebrating our 71<sup>st</sup> year of SPPT December 2013/January 2014

## From the President

As I prepare this note to you, my first studio recital of the year is almost here. I want to share a list I made for another teachers' group showing what I think about before performances- my students' and my own. How lucky are we, to help children build the skills needed to share music with others and get enjoyment from it? It is a big responsibility to make it a positive experience for all involved.

### Before the performance

- Young children should have their music polished and memorized four weeks before a recital. Intermediate students should have their music polished and memorized six weeks before a recital and advanced students eight weeks before a recital.
- Have practice performances for friends, family, or a school music class.
- Use different practice and memory drills to solidify the different types of memory- aural, visual, kinesthetic, and theoretical.
- Practice the page turns or practice with the page-turner, if using music.
- Visit the performance space and rehearse there, if possible.
- Practice visualizing all aspects of the performance including the location, the overall atmosphere, and the music being performed.
- Use positive self-talk and have confidence. Set up a positive self-fulfilling prophecy. -Get support from friends and family for music education, music practice, and music performance.
- Get a good night's sleep the two nights before a performance.

### Day of the performance

- Eat a good breakfast including protein.
- Gently stretch the body and hands and take a few deep breaths.
- Go for a walk before the performance.
- Warm-up slowly and thoughtfully with some technical drills or a favorite piece.

### Right before and during the performance

- Stretch and breathe deeply a couple of times.
- Keep the hands warm with some gloves or running warm water over them.
- Use positive self-talk.
- Be ready to show off the hard work and hours of preparation.
- Have something in the music to listen for and to express.
- Bring the music to life.
- Remember that most performances are not perfect, so have a goal to have the best possible performance in that moment.
- Enjoy sharing the music!

Best wishes to each of you on your upcoming studio recitals and performances!

Monica K. Allen, NCTM, MM



SPPTA President, 2012-2014

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 10	Holiday Tea: Home of Marilyn Henry
December 14	Student Recital
January 14	General Meeting Rhythm for Beginners
February 2	Student Recital
February 11	General Meeting Group Discussion

### **December: Holiday Tea with Flautist Julie Johnson**

Come to the Holiday tea! Hosted at the home of Marilyn Henry starting at 10:00 am on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Marilyn's address:

3069 W. Owasso Blvd. Roseville

*A Note about our performer:* Based in Minneapolis, flutist and composer Julie Johnson brings her distinct sound and approach—rougher and more soulful than a typical classical sound, yet more pure than a typical jazz player's—to many multi-genre projects, including places where, she's been told, the flute doesn't belong. As a creator and a performer of new music, Julie's work walks the line between composition and songwriting, art music and popular music, between genres as seemingly different as classical and blues. A finalist for the McKnight Fellowship for Performing Musicians and a winner of grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board, the American Composers Forum, the Lanesboro Arts Center, Springboard for the Arts, MacPhail Center for Music, MRAC, and a Banff Centre residency, she plays in many styles, working to bring both the flute and her audiences to music they haven't been in contact with before.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Granias

### **January: Rhythm for Beginners With Bob Adney**

Bob Adney, music educator/percussionist/timpanist, has been a part of the Twin Cities music community for 36 years and has been teaching at MacPhail since 1977. His students range in age from 8 to adult. Whether preparing his high school students for college entrance auditions or looking at music as a fun activity, Bob has earned the reputation as being the "go to" teacher.

He has played with virtually every musical organization in the area, and has a discography of over 22 cds performing with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Dale Warland Singers and the World Voices Choir. Bob has accompanied the Minnesota Orchestra and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra on five national tours and two tours of Asia. He begins his 6th year as acting principal timpanist with the South Dakota Symphony. During the summers he is the timpanist for the Minneapolis Pops Orchestra. In addition he is a founding member of the Minnesota Percussion Trio (1987) ([minnesotapercussiontrio.com](http://minnesotapercussiontrio.com)). This group has played in over 1000 schools and continues to play throughout Minnesota and western Wisconsin. The trio was awarded the Jim Dusso award from Compass this past May.

Bob is the author of several self-published instructional books for percussion as well as a handful of arrangements and original compositions for percussion ensemble. On the administrative side, he coordinates MacPhails School Clinic Program, Musical Passport Program, All-State Video Online Tutorials as well as the MacPhail Online Initiative Program.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Granias, Programs Chair

## **SPPTA 2013 Holiday Tea Outreach Project Victims of the Typhoons in the Philippines**

The St. Paul Piano Teachers Association will be collecting monetary donations, checks payable to "American Red Cross", to help the victims of the November 2013 typhoons and floods in the Philippines. Please add in the check memo line: "Philippines Typhoons and Flood". Checks can be delivered to SPPTA Treasurer, Sue Wege, at the December 10, 2013 Holiday Tea or mailed to her home by that date (mailing address is in the SPPTA Directory). Thank you for your support of this year's outreach project through SPPTA.

## **Jean Hegland Honored as an MTNA Foundation Fellow: Donations Being Accepted**

A Note from Raeanna Gislason, NCTM, the MTNA Foundation Chair for MMTA:

I am sending you this note to ask you to help spread the word that MTNA is still accepting donations to honor Jean Hegland, SPPTA Member, as an MTNA Foundation Fellow. She will be honored at the 2014 MTNA Convention in Chicago. When you spread the word it is *very important* to remind potential donors to designate their donation by writing Jean Hegland's name on the memo line of the check and on the envelope. We need to reach the goal for Jean's award by the end of this year.

A note from Monica Allen, SPPTA President:

SPPTA thanks everyone who has already donated to the MTNA Foundation for student and teacher programs in Jean's honor! If you would still like to donate and need more information, please contact Raeanna Gislason at [gislason@charter.net](mailto:gislason@charter.net) or Monica Allen at 651-330-5412.

## Dr. Jess Johnson Master Class – Performer Application

The St. Paul Piano Teachers Association (SPPTA) is pleased to welcome Dr. Jess Johnson, Associate Professor of Piano and Director of Graduate Studies in Piano Pedagogy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, for a student master class at the Roseville Schmitt Music Auditorium on Saturday, March 29, 2014 at 1-3pm. Class topics may include: work with whole body alignment, whole brain processes (see her article in the Aug./Sept. AMT journal), as well as healthful piano technique and biomechanics.

Performer applications are open to all SPPTA teachers and their students. Applicants of all ages and abilities, who need help with a certain aspect of performing (technical, musical, physical, or other), who are adaptable, and who can be helped in a master class setting are welcome. Please submit one piece or one movement that will be performed by memory.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student Grade and Age \_\_\_\_\_

Student or Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

Student or Parent Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Piece Title \_\_\_\_\_ Piece Composer \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Email \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Items to include with this application:

\_\_\_\_\_ Teacher statement (max. 250 words) on why student is a good choice to participate in this event.

\_\_\_\_\_ Student statement (max.250 words) on why he/she should be chosen to participate in this event.

\_\_\_\_\_ Video clip of the entire memorized performance piece. Please upload the clip to

YouTube and send the link to the SPPTA President at [monicakayallen@hotmail.com](mailto:monicakayallen@hotmail.com).

\*Note: The performance video may be posted to the public SPPTA Facebook page.

Students under age 18 must receive permission from a parent or guardian to do so.

I confirm that the student video may be posted on the public SPPTA Facebook page.

Parent or Guardian Permission Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for submission is February 15, 2014. Please submit all items electronically to the SPPTA President at [monicakayallen@hotmail.com](mailto:monicakayallen@hotmail.com). Applicants will receive a confirmation notice once all items are received. An SPPTA Board committee will select four performers and will notify all applicants by March 1, 2014. This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Minnesota Music Teachers Association Foundation.

## Plan Now for the MusicLink Playathon

The holidays will soon be upon us and our to-do list will begin to grow quickly. Mark your calendars now, so you don't forget the upcoming MusicLink Playathon at the Mall of America. The dates are Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> with a registration deadline of January 27<sup>th</sup>

The Playathon is a fun performance opportunity for all students (AND their teachers if you wish to join in the fun.) This annual fundraiser helps our Minnesota MusicLink program stay strong.

More information about the Playathon is available on the SPPTA website. Look under "Student Programs". MMTA teachers can also register online at the MMTA website. MMTA students will get 100 Challenge Award points for participating in the Playathon.

If you have any questions about the Playathon or any aspect of the MusicLink program, please contact Sue Wege.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Wege



## Concerto Thank you!

THANK YOU to all teachers, students, judges and volunteers who helped make SPPTA's Concerto Competition a fantastic success, and to Schmitt Music, Roseville for hosting us all on that exciting day! Watch for the full article complete with winners' bios and more next newsletter!"

Beverly Olson, Concerto Chair

## Playathon FAQ

Q. Is this Playathon for MusicLink students only?

A. No. This is a benefit fundraiser for the MusicLink Foundation. Any and all students and their teachers are invited to participate.

Q. Do performers have to be students of MMTA teachers only?

A. No. Any student may perform in the Playathon, so please share this information with any of your colleagues who are not part of MMTA.

Q. Can any instrument be included?

A. Yes. We welcome any instrument or voice student to participate. In fact, we would love to see a greater variety of instruments represented.

Q. Can ensembles be included?

A. Yes. Besides solos, we have had duets, trios, quartets and small ensembles perform.

Q. Is there a specific amount of money that has to be collected to participate?

A. No. This is first and foremost a fundraiser, so it is expected that the students try to collect some pledges for their performances, but a student will not be excluded if they don't bring any money.

Q. Is it possible to donate online?

A. Yes. Donations can be made on the MusicLink Foundation website ([www.musiclinkfoundation.org](http://www.musiclinkfoundation.org))

Click on DONATE and include the name of the performer when you specify how you want your donation used.

Q. Can the student choose their performance time?

A. The student can indicate on the registration form which day they prefer. If they MUST have a morning or afternoon time, they can write that on the form and I will try to honor it. With over 200 students to schedule, it's easier for scheduling if there aren't a lot of specific time requests.

This is especially true for blocks of students.

Q. When will the student know their performance time?

A. Once the deadline passes, I will make up a performance schedule and will e-mail the specific performance times to the teachers—usually within the week.

Q. Does the student have to stay after they've performed?

A. No. The student is welcome to stay and listen to other performers, but the student is free to leave once they've performed. They should check out at the desk before leaving.

Q. When will the student get any prizes they may have earned?

A. The student will get their participation prize when they check in. All other prizes and the tax receipts for their donors will be available for pick up after their performance.

Q. I am a teacher and would like to come to hear my students perform. Will they be scheduled together?

A. Yes, if possible. If you don't need a particular time frame, they can definitely be grouped together. It gets much more difficult when specific times are requested.

# Things to Know About Honors and Awards Auditions

Every spring SPPTA holds a one-day event called Honors and Awards Auditions. The purpose of this event is to motivate outstanding students by offering an award and giving them a performance opportunity where they will share the stage and enjoy hearing each other play. Students who enter play one piece for a judge. Students are grouped into the following age categories: Fourth grade and under, 5th and 6th grades, 7th and 8th grades, 9th and 10th grades, and 11th and 12th grades. The best performer in each age group wins a cash award. The judge chooses up to three outstanding students in each category to play at the Honors and Awards Recitals, which is held the evening of the auditions.

List of fees and awards:

4th grade & under

Fee: \$25 Prize: \$60

5th & 6th grade

Fee: \$25 Prize: \$60

7th & 8th grade

Fee: \$40 Prize \$100

9th & 10th grade

Fee: \$50 Prize \$120

11th & 12th grade

Fee: \$80 Prize \$150

The literature is chosen from the standard teacher literature. Some examples of pieces chosen by age categories in recent years are:

4th Grade and under: J.S. Bach-Short Prelude No. 3 in C minor and Short Fugue in 2 voices; Prokofiev-Fugitive Visions, Op. 22, Nos. 1, 3, 5 and 10.; Gurlitt-Scherzo in D minor; Pieczonka-Tarantella.

Grades 5-6: Rachmaninoff-Polichinelle Op. 3, No. 4; Schubert-Impromptu, Op. 90, No. 2; Debussy Arabesque No. 2 in G Major; Mozart-Sonata K. 332.

Grades 7-8: Bartok-Ten Easy Pieces, No. 1, 5, 6, and 10; Glinka-Variations on a Russian Song; Khatchaturian-Toccata.

Grades 9-10: Chopin-Nocturne, Op. 15, No. 3; Haydn- Sonata No. 50, Mvt. 1; Chopin-Valse, Op. 64 No. 2; Franz Liszt- Concert Etude in Db Major No. 3.

*Things to Know...continues on page 8*

Grades 11-12: Rachmaninoff-Prelude in C# minor Op. 3 No. 2; Chopin-Scherzo in B minor; Ravel-Sonatine.

The date for this year's auditions is Saturday, April 26th, 2014 and will take place at Schmitt Music Auditorium-Roseville location. The auditions take place from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Winning students return at 5:00 p.m. that same day for the recital. The application form is available on the website and in this newsletter. The postmark deadline is April 5th, 2014 Send your application with the fee to:

Sarah Mensen

1648 Ross Ave

Saint Paul, MN 55106

Sarah Mensen, Honors and Awards Chair

## **Board Has Accepted the New Honors and Awards Program for 2015.**

After discussion in the SPPTA member meeting and board meeting, the board approved the new Honors program for 2015. The changes will not take effect until next school year, so this year the Honors and Awards program will remain the same. This is a new program, so we are open to suggestions but this is how we see the program right now:

At the end of the school year SPPTA will hold an Honors Recital at a location that has yet to be determined. Students that have had an outstanding performance in an SPPTA recital will be asked to play in the Honors Recital. Judges from each SPPTA recital will choose up to three students that will be eligible to play in the honors recital and up to one student may be eligible if space in the program allows. Students of all ages and levels will be considered by the judges. A picture will be taken after the recital of all the performers and it will be published in the local newspaper. Students will receive the honor of performing their piece again, or a different one, a certificate and their photo in the newspaper. Teachers will still have to submit a registration form by a due date.

Sarah Mensen, Honors and Awards Chair

**APPLICATION                      SPPTA HONORS AND AWARDS AUDITION                      2014**

APPLICANT \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

COMPOSITION TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

FULL NAME OF COMPOSER \_\_\_\_\_ Length of performance: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please be precise)

AUDITION: Saturday, April 26th at Schmitt Music Auditorium, Roseville.  
CONCERT: April 26th at 5pm at Schmitt Music Auditorium, Roseville.

Would an alternate selection for concert be available in case of duplication?    Y / N

TEACHER SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**FEE PER APPLICANT: \$25.00 (Please make check payable to SPPTA) ALSO ENCLOSE TWO self-addressed stamped business-size envelopes with this form. Send form, fee and envelopes to: SARAH MENSEN, 1648 Ross Ave, St. Paul, MN 55106.....DEADLINE: April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**FEE PER APPLICANT: \$25.00 (Please make check payable to SPPTA) ALSO ENCLOSE TWO self-addressed stamped business-size envelopes with this form. Send form, fee and envelopes to: SARAH MENSEN, 1648 Ross Ave, St. Paul, MN 55106.....DEADLINE: April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

## 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

### Addition to Membership:

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Circulation Editor: Rebecca Heyn

