



# Key Issue

Volume XLVIII Edition 4

Celebrating our 71<sup>st</sup> year of SPPTA

February/March 2014

From the President

Personally, I need performance goals to motivate myself to practice. Unfortunately, I do not spend time playing piano for my own enjoyment right now. I did this for hours on end as a young person and it developed from an interest into my teaching career. I think it is important to maintain my practicing and performing skills, when I can. When I schedule a performance, then I get motivated to practice more. I believe these spurts of practice and performance are good for myself, my students, and my studio.

Here are some ideas I have for motivations for reading more music, practicing, and performing, ranging from more casual to more formal:

- practice students' repertoire, to find the technical and musical challenges
- record duet parts on a digital piano or other technical gadget, for student accompaniments
- get together with a teacher friend to play piano duets
- go to the music store stacks, pull out new music, and try it out on their piano
- set up a teacher meet-up group for sharing solo or duet repertoire (Note: SPPTA used to have a duet group and could again if more people are interested to participate)
- perform a piece at a student studio recital (share your love of music with your clients!)
- perform at a retirement community or nursing home
- set up a holiday music gig

- provide music for weddings, receptions, or parties
- accompany a music student, a music teacher peer, a choir, etc.
- find a church music position or be a church musician substitute
- set up a teacher recital with other independent music teachers
- set up a faculty concert at a multi-teacher studio or music school
- audition as a performing member of Thursday Musical ([www.thursdaymusical.org](http://www.thursdaymusical.org))

I hope you will add to this list on the SPPTA Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/SPPTA](http://www.facebook.com/SPPTA)) or email me with more ideas for practice and performance.

May your fingers get moving in 2014!

Monica K. Allen, NCTM, MM SPPTA President, 2012-2014



An additional note from the President:

### SPPTA Mass Emails to Gmail Users

Mass emails from SPPTA and going to Gmail users, will automatically be put into the "promotions" folder. Be sure to drag them to the "primary" folder, or at least notice them in the "promotions" folder. Currently, SPPTA emails event reminders and newsletter notices, when they are posted on [www.sppta.org](http://www.sppta.org). Thanks to Past President Emily Ireland for bringing this to our attention!

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- February 2 Student Recital
- February 8-9 MusicLink Playathon
- February 11 General Meeting
- Group Discussion: Bach to the Future:  
Making Classical Repertoire Relevant  
to Today's Students
- February 15 Dr. Jess Johnson Applications DUE
- March 11 General Meeting
- Using Humor When Teaching  
Music with Ginger Reynolds
- Board Meeting
- March 16 Student Recital
- March 29 Dr. Jess Johnson Master Class
- April 5 Student Recital
- April 5, 6 Concerto Winners Perform
- April 8 Spring Luncheon
- April 26 Honors and Awards

## **FEBRUARY IS GROUP DISCUSSION**

We hope you all can join us at our February group discussion entitled: Bach to the Future: Making Classical Repertoire Relevant to Today's Students.

What a wonderful topic which our own Dr. Chris Granias will facilitate.

Bring your research, your success stories, challenges, and any ideas on how to better help our students bring the beautiful classics into our 21<sup>st</sup> lives.

Becky Heyn, Publicity

## **MARCH "Using Humor When Teaching Music" with Ginger Reynolds**

On March 11<sup>th</sup> we are sure to have some good laughs with Ginger Reynolds as she shares some tips on how to use humor in the piano studio. Here is a little bit about our speaker:

Piano instructor Ginger Reynolds has been at MacPhail since 1995, but has been teaching for 30 plus years. She specializes in teaching adults classical and transcriptions of jazz.

Ginger has extensive experience as a collaborative pianist including recitals with Fred Ormand, Patty MacCarty, University of Michigan Choirs, Interlochen Festival Chorus and Camp Recitals; Double Reed Festival, Edinburgh, Scotland; Contemporary Music Festival, Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor MI, and faculty recitals at MacPhail. She has had many of her original compositions featured at the following venues: MENC National Conference, Lanier Middle School, Fairfax, Virginia; University Club at U of M, Minneapolis; Unity Church, St. Paul; MacPhail Center for Music. She is a member of ASCAP, and founder of [gingermusicforall.com](http://gingermusicforall.com).

Ginger holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Converse College in Spartanburg, SC; and Master of Music from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and two years of private study with Margo Garrett.

We hope to see you for this great presentation.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Heyn

Publicity

## **Welcome New Member to SPPTA**

Please welcome new member and add to your Directory:

Heather Jo Bolton

750 Stillwater Rd

Mahtomedi, MN 55115

(651)274-9040

hjobolton@yahoo.com

Sue Krebsbach,

Membership

## **SPPTA Members Support Victims of Hurricane**

The SPPTA annual Holiday Tea was not only a great get-together to enjoy wonderful music, holiday treats and fellowship, but was also an avenue for giving back. SPPTA members were encouraged to make a donation for the victims of Hurricane Haiyan in the Philippines and \$135 was collected and sent to the Red Cross to help in this effort. Thank you to all who contributed.

Submitted by,

Sue Wege

## **Applications for Dr. Jess Johnson Master Class due February 15**

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.

This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Minnesota Music Teachers Association Foundation.

Monica Allen, SPPTA President

## 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.

## **OPEN POSITIONS ON THE 2014-2016 SPPTA BOARD**

The current SPPTA Board is looking for volunteers and nominations for the 2014-2016 SPPTA Board. Here are a few of the open positions:

- 1) Recital Chair
- 2) Publicity Chair
- 3) Newsletter Chair
- 4) Treasurer
- 5) Nominating Committee Member

Did you just stop to ponder one of these options for yourself or a teacher you thought would be a good fit? Please contact Monica Allen (President), Marilyn Henry (President-Elect) or Helen-Marie Plourde (Nominating Committee Member) for more information or for the official job descriptions. Contact information for these nominating committee members is in the current SPPTA directory.

Board meetings are conveniently scheduled immediately after the Tuesday SPPTA general meeting and program speaker, so the additional time commitment for the monthly board meeting is minimal, yet very productive.

Joining the SPPTA Board is a great way to meet people and get to know your SPPTA peers better. The SPPTA Board works both in their own positions and collaboratively to plan the student and teacher events, problem solve for any issues that arise, improve the current programs, and brain storm for future developments. Chair people learn more about how SPPTA works through their work on the Board. Lastly, Board members make such a large contribution to the SPPTA organization and to the professionalism of piano pedagogy in the St. Paul area.

Again, please contact Monica Allen, Marilyn Henry, or Helen-Marie Plourde with your interest or nominations (see current directory for contact information). We appreciate your thoughtful consideration and will look forward to hearing from you about the 2014-2016 SPPTA Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Allen, 2012-2014 SPPTA President

## The View from the Other Side of the Window

To learn about the SPPTA Concerto Competition last year, I was assigned the fortunate task of being time-keeper. I had the privilege of sitting in the auditorium, observing and listening as each participant played. I was amazed at the skill and the uniqueness of each performance. This year, overseeing other details throughout the day, I experienced the event from the other side of the performance door. While some sound traveled through, more striking was the visual performance seen through the window. How wonderful it is to watch a musician who's engaged with the music from head to toe! Of those eighteen very talented musicians, congratulations go out to the six finalists: I am now pleased to introduce you to our second and third place finalists, as well as announce this year's winner and April performer.

Placing third is Derek Hartman, a 16 year old from Blaine, MN, and a junior at Spring Lake Park High School. Starting lessons as a five year old, Derek currently studies with Dr. Sarah Miller (composition) and Dr. Paul Wirth (piano).

In 2008, Derek won first place in the Preteen Division of the Minnesota State Fair Amateur Talent Contest, playing an original composition. During the year 2011, he participated in the MTNA National Competition. He advanced to regionals, where he received third place. In this same competition, his original piano trio, written for piano, oboe, and French horn, was selected to advance to nationals. Derek had the honor of playing with the LaCrosse Symphony Orchestra in April, 2013, after receiving first place in the Rising Stars Concerto Competition. This is Derek's second year participating in the SPPTA Concerto Competition. He has received 2nd and 3rd place in 2012 and 2013, respectively. He also has attended the Young Artist World Piano Festival every summer since 2009, where he has received coaching and guidance from world class artists such as Roberto Plano and Eugene Pridonoff.

Aside from his solo endeavors, Derek has also enjoyed playing chamber music. He, Luther Warren, and Nora Doyle make up the Cartesian Piano Trio. This group had the honor of performing on Christopher O'Reilly's radio show, "From the Top" in 2013.

Derek, who strives to keep a well-rounded, typical-teenager lifestyle, also plays other genres of music. He is a French horn player in his school's wind ensemble, and the pianist for his school jazz band. Outside of school, he enjoys being a singer/songwriter in an alternative rock band formed with his friends, and singing in the weekly contemporary band at his church.

Placing second is Christina Waldron. Christina Waldron is 15 years old and is a Sophomore at Trinity School at River Ridge in Eagan, MN. She is a student of Dr. Jo Anne Link of Crocus Hill Studios. Christina received Honorable Mention in the La Crosse Symphony Orchestra's Rising Stars Competition in 2013, in Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) National Young Artist Competition and in Minneapolis Music Teachers Forum Mozart Concerto Competition in 2012.

First place winner, and performing the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> movements of Grieg's Concerto in A minor with the Mississippi Valley Orchestra this spring, is Michael Tang. Congratulations, Michael!! Michael Tang is 13 years old and in the ninth grade at Valley View Middle School in Edina, Minnesota. Michael has studied with Dr. Jo Anne Link at Crocus Hill Studios in St. Paul for seven years. He was the winner of the 2013 Thursday Musical Junior Competition, and has had masterclasses with the world-famous artists Roberto Plano, Sontraud Speidel, and James Anagnoson. Michael has a passion for mathematics and loves to discover new things.

We hope you and your students will plan to come to one of the following two performances!

7:30pm, Saturday, April 5, 2014, at Augustana Lutheran Church in West St. Paul

4:00pm, Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014, at First Lutheran Church in Columbia Heights

Respectfully Submitted,

Beverly Olsen, Concerto

## **Right around the Corner: Honors and Awards to be held April 26th**

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: 4<sup>th</sup> grade and under, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades, and 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. The best performer in each age group wins a cash award. Awards range from \$60 to \$150. 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.

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

4<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>: 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<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>: Bartok-Ten Easy Pieces, No. 1, 5, 6, and 10; Glinka-Variations on a Russian Song; Khatchaturian-Toccata.

Grades 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>: 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.

Grades 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>: 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and will take place at Schmitt Music 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 in the Auditorium.

The application form is available on the website and in this newsletter. The postmark deadline is April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Send your application with the \$25.00 fee to:

Sarah Mensen  
1648 Ross Ave  
Saint Paul, MN 55106

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**

---

**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**

*Saint Paul Piano Teachers Association and the Minneapolis Teachers Forum cordially invite you to join us at the*

## **2014 Spring Luncheon**

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Midland Hills Country Club

2001 Fulham St, Roseville, Minnesota



### **Please join us!**

9:30 a.m. Registration

10:15 a.m. Meeting

10:30 a.m. Guest Speaker:

# **Sue Ruby**

### **Got Game? Games for the Home Studio**

11:30 a.m. Lunch

*Entrée 1 - Dijon and breadcrumb-crusted chicken breast baked and served with a Dijon cream sauce, served with roasted baby red potatoes and broccoli, salad, and dessert*

*Entrée 2 - Bourbon Street Penne Pasta (vegetarian): pea pods, sun-dried tomatoes, carrots, mushrooms, and penne pasta tossed in a Cajun cream sauce, served with salad and dessert*

*This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Minnesota Music Teachers Association Foundation.  
Hosted by the Saint Paul Piano Teachers Association.*

Send in bottom portion, along with registration fee, to:

Rachel Crooks  
3338 38<sup>th</sup> Ave South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406

-----  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of registrations at \$25.00 each \_\_\_\_\_ (Make check payable to SPPTA)

Total \$ amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your meal selection:     Dijon Chicken  
   Bourbon Street Penne Pasta (Vegetarian)

**Postmark Deadline: Tuesday, March 25, 2014**

Registration form is also available to download and print at [www.SPPTA.org](http://www.SPPTA.org)

Connect with us! [www.facebook.com/SPPTA](http://www.facebook.com/SPPTA)

## **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: Kathryn Martinez  
Newsletter Editor: Rebecca Heyn  
Circulation Editor: Rebecca Heyn