



Key Issue

Volume XLIX, Edition 2

October – November 2014

Forecasting Success

The beginning of the new school year can be exciting, fun, and inspiring. Six months from now, what can we do to make the end of the school year equally exciting, fun and inspiring?

Imagine the end of the year recital program. What awards and achievements do you want to have listed on the back? What is a reasonable goal for each student? Parents typically want their children to have a tangible achievement to mark the year, so it is our job to fit them with the most appropriate event. If parents choose to not participate in extra events, it will not be because their children were not offered the option.

We have the option to structure a unique plan for each student. Now is the time to set those goals and establish milestones along the way. If we procrastinate in moving things forward, our work becomes much more difficult in the months ahead.

Here are some compelling reasons to do your planning work now:

1. Human nature makes it easier for parents and students to say “yes” to a goal that is in the distant future. We assume we will have plenty of time to accomplish the requirements, so the requests seem reasonable. We as teachers need to capitalize on this, setting our plans far ahead.
2. A commitment that is made months in advance is elevated in importance over one that is made at the last minute. Parents are usually willing to plan around an event that is already on the schedule.
3. It is always easier to postpone an exam or decide to take only a part of the comprehensive exam than it is to put together an exam from the ground up.

4. You will inspire confidence in your teaching if parents see that you have a thoughtful plan for their children. They will appreciate the many opportunities you can offer, even though they may not take advantage of most of them.

5. Students will work with more accountability if they know they have a deadline, even if it is months away.

Both MMTA and SPPTA have many opportunities for students at all levels. The SPPTA recitals are an excellent first goal in a young musician’s musical progress. Students may be very inspired as they see others earning ribbons, medallions, and trophies. For some, the preparatory keyboard skills exam would be enough of a challenge. More aggressive students could participate in several adjudicated events. No matter how small, every event moves a student forward.

Set a goal, put the plans in motion, and watch your students and studio grow.

Happy Teaching,
Marilyn Henry



PianoFun MN Competition

Thank you again for your interest and support of the 2nd PianoFun MN Competition!

I'm happy to announce that the third year of children's inspirational musical event PianoFun MN Competition will be held on February 14th (Preliminaries) & 15th (Finals), 2015 at the University of Northwestern-St. Paul. There's no repertoire list, and all you need is 1 free piano-solo piece within 5 minutes.

All performances are open to the public. Forty finalists will receive diplomas and comments from the professional musicians which will include U of M piano faculty. Nine winners will receive trophies & Schmitt Music gift cards and will participate in a winner's recital. Also new "Honorable Mention" prizes for each group are available starting this year!!

It is a wonderful opportunity for young children (under 12 years old) to practice and to perform. Hope you're all motivated!!

For more information, please, visit our website www.pianofunmn.com. Thank you and have a great week!

Best Regards,
Dr. Soojung Hong
Artistic Director
PianoFun MN Competition

Coffee Social Hour for New and Returning SPPTA members

Are you a new member of SPPTA? Are you hoping to network with colleagues, share ideas, get insights and build friendships? We want to get to know you! Join us before the November 11th SPPTA meeting for a coffee hour at 9 am, at Baker's Square located along the Hwy 36 Frontage Road in Roseville, near Schmitt Music.

Chris Granias Bartok Lecture

SPPTA board member Dr. Chris Granias was the featured speaker at the opening meeting of the Minnesota River Valley Music Teachers Association at Schmitt Music Edina on September 12. The topic was World Music and Cultures with reference to Bartok.

SPPTA Book Club

SPPTA Book Club is excited about the book members are currently reading. It is called *Quiet* by Susan Cain. This book is about being an introvert in an extrovert-driven society. It is very interesting and good food for thought.

Our future books are: *The Organized Student* by Hartounian and *The Practicing Mind* by Thomas Sterner.

If you are interested in joining us, we meet the second Tuesday of the month at Cafe Late on Grand Avenue in the back room. The coffee/tea and other food items are delicious and the conversation is always stimulating and informative.

For more information, contact Judy Sherman: judyms Sherman@gmail.com.

Welcome New Members!

SPPTA would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new members for the 2014-2015 school year: Cynthia Ali, Kevin Hobbs, Rachel Papillon, Catherine Ramirez, Meghann Schmidt, and Joy Vigilius. We're off to a great start!

Rachel Crooks, Membership

Calendar of Events

- 11/11 **Coffee Hour** – Join us at Baker's Square in Roseville for coffee and an extra pre-meeting social hour to get to know other teachers and welcome new members.
9:00 a.m.
- General Meeting** – Schmitt Music (Roseville)
Music, Piano, and Movement
Presented by Betsy Keno
10:00 Social Time
10:20 Meeting
11:50 Board meeting
- 11/18 **Book Club** – Cafe Latte, St. Paul
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
- 11/23 **Student Recital** – Schmitt Music (Roseville)
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
- 12/9 **Holiday Tea**
Guest artist: James Allen, guitarist
10:00 a.m.
- 12/13 **Student Recital** – Schmitt Music (Roseville)
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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

NEW: SPPTA Members Forum

For those who have Facebook accounts, there is now a discussion forum just for SPPTA members! This forum is completely separate from our Facebook Page, <http://www.facebok.com/SPPTA>, which is public. The SPPTA Members Forum is a private Facebook *group* and exists to allow informal discussion and communication between SPPTA members. To protect the privacy of our discussions, SPPTA Members Forum is a “closed” group, meaning that people can find it but cannot simply join at will. However, this doesn't mean we wouldn't love for you to join! Simply request to be added, and an administrator will do so promptly. Or, if you know somebody who would like to join, send him or her an invitation to the group. Or, if you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact Mitch Grussing at mitch@grussingmusic.com or (612) 787-2132 (call or text).



Are You Familiar with the MusicLink Program?

We at SPPTA have been blessed with the addition of many new energetic young teachers and we welcome your enthusiasm and new ideas. Since you are new to SPPTA and possibly to MMTA, you may not have heard about the MusicLink (ML) program.

ML is a national program that supports teachers who are reaching out to a child in financial need by reducing the normal lesson fee by at least half. ML is able to support these “links” between teacher and student with discounted music and materials, assistance with practice instruments, reimbursement to the teacher for out-of-pocket expenses (not tuition), and Summer Music Camp Scholarships.

SPPTA has been a strong supporter of the ML program with 15 active ML teachers currently, 12 others who have been ML teachers in the past and a great number who have volunteered, but have not yet been paired

(continued on page 4)

(MusicLink from page 3)

with a ML student. SPPTA also waives all its program fees for ML students making it possible for them to participate free of charge.

If you are reducing your normal fee to keep a valued student whose family is struggling financially or if you would like to reach out to teach a student in need, please consider volunteering to be a ML teacher.

For more information, contact Sue Wege at swege71@comcast.net or 651-458-0143. Or visit the MusicLink Foundation website: www.musiclinkfoundation.org. Also, don't forget to mark your calendars for the MusicLink Playathon at the Mall of America on the weekend of Feb. 7-8, 2015.

Concerto Competition

“A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

SPPTA's annual Concerto Competition is an event designed to foster new experiences and growth. There will be contestants who have never participated in a high level competition, with an entire concerto movement under their fingertips and committed to memory. There will be experienced judges who have not adjudicated this event previously, meeting these very talented students for the first time. There will be new volunteers assisting, learning more about one of SPPTA's many programs. There will be a winner who has never before had the privilege of being the soloist, with an orchestra, in live concert! And hopefully, there will be new people in the audience soaking in the music, marveling at the age and dedication of these individuals, gathering up inspiration, challenge, and motivation through their simple decision to attend.

This event is open to the public—but to this point the public has been missing. Let's make this year different! Attached you'll find an invitation that is ready to print out and give to your students. It invites them to come to the Concerto Competition Finals on Sunday evening, November 23rd. A second “You Be

The Judge” page, with sections students can complete during the evening's performances is also available if you choose. How wonderful it will be to hear such “big” music as it is played, to be so close you can watch the pianists' fingers fly, and to know it is all being performed by students not much older than you. And then, to be there as the winner is announced – this definitely counts as an experience that will be remembered!

I am delighted that Dr. Herbert Johnson and Dr. Susan Billmeyer have both accepted the position of judge for the daytime preliminaries on November 23rd. They bring expertise, a discerning ear, and critiques filled with constructive feedback and encouragement for all participants. They are responsible for selecting our finalists. A third judge will be joining them for the Finals Competition in the evening, bringing another set of attuned eyes and ears as determinations are made for the third, second, and first place winners of this exciting event.

Mark your calendars, share this with your students, plan to join us, and together let's foster MANY new experiences on November 23rd!

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Olson

Directory Updates

Chris Granias

2680 Lake Court Drive
Mounds View, MN
55112
[612-559-3090](tel:612-559-3090)

SONG 6:

Mood _____

Tempo _____

Sounded like _____

Enjoyed? _____

Favorite part _____

Surprise? _____

Message to the Performer _____



Concerto Competition Finals!

YOU BE THE JUDGE...

The job of a judge is to be a careful, attentive listener, and then use words to describe what they heard. This page is for you to write down what you hear and feel this evening as you are listening.

What is the mood of the song? How does it make you feel?

What is the tempo of the song?

What does it sound like, or what does it remind you of?

Was it a song you enjoyed hearing? Do you have a favorite part?

Was there a surprise in the song anywhere?

What would you say to the performer?

SONG 1:

Mood _____

Tempo _____

Sounded like _____

Enjoyed? _____

Favorite part _____

Surprise? _____

Message to the Performer _____

SONG 2:

Mood _____

Tempo _____

Sounded like _____

Enjoyed? _____

Favorite part _____

Surprise? _____

Message to the Performer _____

SONG 3:

Mood _____

Tempo _____

Sounded like _____

Enjoyed? _____

Favorite part _____

Surprise? _____

Message to the Performer _____

SONG 4:

Mood _____

Tempo _____

Sounded like _____

Enjoyed? _____

Favorite part _____

Surprise? _____

Message to the Performer _____

SONG 5:

Mood _____

Tempo _____

Sounded like _____

Enjoyed? _____

Favorite part _____

Surprise? _____

Message to the Performer _____



YOU'RE INVITED:

to SPPTA's

Concerto Competition Finals!

Treat your ears to a great evening out!!

7:15pm, Sunday, November 23rd, 2014
Roseville Schmitt Music Auditorium
2436 Cleveland Avenue N, in Roseville

Come hear the six youth finalists compete! They've made it past preliminaries, and their performances this evening determine who receives prizes for placing 3rd, 2nd, or 1st, and who wins the event.

Which of these talented pianists will earn the honor of performing their concerto movement as SOLOIST in concert with the Mississippi Valley Orchestra in February?! Be there and find out.

Mark your calendars

Doors open at 7:15pm. Admission is free.
Performances begin promptly at 7:30pm.
Winners are announced at the close of the event!



Questions? Contact
Beverly Olson
(651) 341-0353



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Salon se Lève
“Renewing the salon concert to encourage emerging young artists”
The 2014-2015 Season

Hear the world’s greatest music played by some of Minnesota’s finest young artists in a setting as it was first meant to be heard ... the “salon!” The Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, in partnership with the Wirth Center for the Performing Arts and the Salon se Lève Contributing Members are proud to present six recitals, featuring our amazing young regional artists in an intimate venue – reminiscent of old world salons. Offered in the Art Gallery at HAUMC, this “up-close-and-personal” setting brings the music and performers directly to the audience, stirring hearts and arousing emotions and imaginations as only a true salon atmosphere can! Join us for these exciting Sunday (except for May 16) afternoon concerts as we encourage Minnesota’s own emerging young artists in the 2014-2015 season:

October 12th, 2:30 PM: “The Larson Memorial Recital”

Presenting our “Larson Memorial Award” winner, pianist **Evren Ozel**. Chosen as our “most outstanding performer” last season, this celebrated young artist is the impressive first prize winner of both the Junior High Thursday Musical, and Schubert Club Competitions, as well as the 5th prize winner AND “Audience Favorite” of the Cooper International Piano Competition, 2014. Evren has a big following here in Minnesota, so come early for a good seat, as he performs an unforgettably beautiful program of Chopin, Schumann, and Ravel. You won’t want to miss our opening concert featuring this fabulous young artist!

November 23rd, 2:30 PM: “Young Artists Extraordinaire!”

Spotlighting pianist **Henry Wang**, first prize winner and national finalist of the prestigious MTNA Auditions who will definitely amaze us again in his 2nd appearance at Salon se Lève... and also back for a return performance is oboist **Sarrah Bushara**, first prize winner of the Thursday Musical Junior High Woodwind Division and a Showcase Performer of the Minnesota Varsity Competition. Sarrah literally mesmerized us last year with her lyricism! This event will definitely be a “Pre-Thanksgiving Blessing!!”

February 15th, 2:30 PM: “A Very Special ‘Double-Delight’ Thursday Musical Valentine”

Featuring two equally phenomenal young artists - at least that’s what the Thursday Musical judges declared, as pianists **Crystal Cheng** and **Aaron Fagerstrom** were awarded co-first prizes at the Thursday Musical Competition last spring! You’ll certainly want to come and hear them for yourself, as this Salon se Lève recital will be “Doubly Delightful” ... and especially heartfelt!

March 15th, 2:30 PM: “A Dazzling Duo of Strings and Hammers!”

Salon se Lève introduces two more Thursday Musical laureates performing in their debut on our series: violinist **Jason Shu**, first prize winner of the 2014 Thursday Musical Senior High Strings Competition, and pianist **Noah Qiu** (pronounced “chew”), first prize winner of the Thursday Musical Junior High Piano Division. These two sensational young artists promise to dazzle us with their virtuosity, and move us with their musicianship!”

April 19, 2:30 PM: “A Fabulous First Place Finale!”

Come join us for our stunning finale, as we present two astonishing young artists in return “Command Performances” ... Flautist **Toni Lyn Andres**, first prize winner of both the Thursday Musical Senior High Woodwind Competition AND the 2014 Senior High Schubert Club Competition, will again be wowing us with her wondrously magical flute, and cellist **Mark Prihodko**, another first prize winner of the prestigious Schubert Club Competition, will finish off our season with his “signature” virtuosic flair and emotional depth! We know that these young artists will put a BIG exclamation point on the conclusion of our season - BRAVISSIMO!!

May 16th, Sat., 2:30 PM: Benefit Concert TBA “Chamber Chamboree!”

You won’t want to miss our wonderful emerging young artists play some of the world’s greatest chamber music. Three or four groups, depending upon availability, will be filling the HAUMC Art Gallery with resonance to be remembered - and filling our hearts with the joy that only this genre can provide. This event – which will be WELL attended - is ticketed – so be sure to get your tickets early!