

# KEY Issue

January/February 2018



## Letter from the President

### New Year Resolutions

Do you do a new year's resolution? I don't because I don't stick to them longer than one week. But this year, I am thinking about things I can change in my studio, things for now and things for the summer and beyond. Here are some ideas.

### Organize your music library

This is something that always seems to be on my to do list but this year I am taking the steps to get it done! First, I purchased new magazine organizers here ([https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0038JATAG/ref=oh\\_aui\\_detailpage\\_o00\\_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0038JATAG/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o00_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1)). Magazine organizers are a great way to hold your music. It keeps everything upright and in view and it is easy to pull out a box and find the music you want. Another big project of mine is to catalog all my books so I can keep track of who is using what book. I like using Barcode Library Scan & Catalog app because you can easily scan the barcode of your music books and add it to your library. It is available for both android and apple devices.

### Communicating more with parents

I read an article recently that suggested sending weekly progress reports to parents. We all know that when parents are engaged and participate in the learning process, students will practice more. I have 43 students so sending weekly progress reports will take a ton of time, unless I come up with some templates that I can easily change for each student. If I spend some time now on these templates that will save me

a lot of time later. These emails don't need to be long either, just a couple of sentences, saying what the students played well in the lesson and what they need to work on this week.

### End of teaching day routine

When I get done teaching, the first thing I think of is getting home as fast as I can. I am hungry and tired, and I want to change into my sweatpants. But this year, I am going to try to do a couple of things before I leave the studio so when I come back the next day I won't have so many things to do before I start teaching. I don't know about you, but my studio gets messy after a day of teaching, so I am going to start putting things back at the end of the teaching day. A little bit of cleaning each day means I won't need to come in and spend hours cleaning up on an off day. Lastly, I plan on writing down my to do list for the next day. This way when I come in I can get to work right away instead of thinking about what I want to accomplish.

What new ideas/things are you going to try? Let me know at our next meeting!



*Sarah Mensen*  
President, SPPTA

## Calendar of Events JAN/FEB 2018

### Monthly Programs

10:00 Social Time  
10:20 General Meeting & Guest Speaker  
10:30 Presentation  
11:50 Board Meeting

#### January 9, 2018

Location: Schmitt Music, Brooklyn Center  
"SPPTA Concerto Competition Finalists' Performance"  
Hosted by Beverly Olson, Chair of Concerto Competition

#### February 13, 2018

Location: Cadenza Music, St. Paul  
149 Snelling Ave N,  
St Paul, MN 55104  
(Parking on street, behind the store or across the street at O'Gara's)  
"Teacher to Teacher: Open Forum Discussion on Motivation"  
Facilitated by SPPTA Board Members

### Book Club - 10:00 am

Cafe Latte, Saint Paul  
3rd Tuesday of the Month

Jan. 16  
Feb. 20  
Mar. 20  
Apr. 17  
May 15



## Upcoming Recitals January

Location: Brooklyn Center Schmitt  
Date: Saturday, January 20  
Deadline: Saturday, January 6  
Time: 10:00-2:00pm  
Programmer: Donna Swanson Liew

### February

Location: Brooklyn Center Schmitt  
Date: Sunday, February 11  
Deadline: Saturday, January 27  
Time: 1:00-5:00pm  
Programmer: Elsa Hosch

### March

Location: Brooklyn Center Schmitt  
Date: Saturday, March 3  
Deadline: Saturday, February 17  
Time: 1:00-5:00pm  
Programmer: Mary LaChapelle



Elsa Hosch, NCTM  
SPPTA Recital Chair

### SPPTA Members Forum

Join our SPPTA Members Forum! This is a private group for SPPTA members, a closed group, so your posts are visible only to its members. Make a request on Facebook to join the members only group. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/535763026524608/>

## **Membership Directory Updates**

**WELCOME to these new or reinstating members of SPPTA!**

Imogen Davis  
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St. Paul, MN 55107  
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auscolto@yahoo.com

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kathyschleusner@gmail.com

Richard Tostenson  
9421 Elliot Ave. S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55420  
612-718-7534  
tostenson.richard@macphail.org

Cindy Uhlemann  
5267 Ridgeway Dr.  
Minnetonka, MN 55345  
952-221-0203  
cnsuzukiviolin@gmail.com



**Monica Allen**  
**Directory Chair**



## SPPTA Concerto Competition

Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 revealed 15 very talented competitors at this year's SPPTA Concerto Competition. Congratulations to everyone who participated! I heard from each of the judges how they greatly enjoyed being part of the day. Thank you to the Brooklyn Center Schmitt Music for hosting the exciting event.

Many thanks to Dr. Richard Lange, from the University of Northwestern, St Paul, and Dr. Nathan Kennedy, from Concordia University St. Paul for each being full-day judges for this year's competition, writing valuable critiques for each of the participants, selecting the six finalists to advance, and adjudicating the evening portion of the event to determine the winners. Thank you, Susana Pinto, from MacPhail, for joining them as the third judge at the evening Finalists' competition, listening to each performance and conferring to assign the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners. Each of these winners received a cash award for their accomplishments, with Aurora Wang earning the Mississippi Valley Orchestra concert performance opportunity.

### **Congratulations to this year's winners:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Aurora Wang, student of Dr. Tina Park, performing Chopin's Concerto #1, 3<sup>rd</sup> movement

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Joseph Caswell, student of Dr. Paul Wirth, performing Beethoven's Concerto #3, 1<sup>st</sup> movement

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Beatrice Grant, student of Maria Grant, performing Schumann's Concerto in a minor, 1<sup>st</sup> movement



*Photo: Aurora Wang, student of Dr. Tina Park*





*Photo: Joseph Caswell, Student of Dr. Paul Wirth*



*Photo: Beatrice Grant, student of Maria Grant*



Congratulations, to the other finalists:

Orion Kim, student of Dr. Joseph Zins, performing Mozart's Concerto in D minor, K466, 1<sup>st</sup> movement

Matthew Qu, student of Dr. Irina Elkina, performing Chopin's Concerto #1, 1<sup>st</sup> movement

Ezra Hayward, student of Richard Tostenson, performing Mozart's Concerto #21, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> movements



*Photo: Concerto Competition Finalists*

Like last year, those individuals placing 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> at the event have been invited to perform their concerto movement at the January SPPTA meeting, at the Brooklyn Center Schmitt Music.

We look forward to hearing Aurora Wang's solo performance of the 3<sup>rd</sup> movement of Chopin's Concerto #1 with the Mississippi Valley Orchestra on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The concert begins at 3pm and will be held at Augustana Lutheran Church in St. Paul. Please mark your spring calendar. We hope you'll be able to attend, and invite others to join you. Admission is free, and families and students are welcomed.

Here are the interesting bios of the talented winners, and of the skilled judges who shared their expertise with us on December 2nd. I trust you will enjoy learning a bit more about each of them.

First place winner Aurora Wang is a 12-year old seventh grader from Shoreview, MN. She began her piano study at the age of five and has been studying with Dr. Tina Park since the age of six.

Aurora performs extensively in many piano competitions and festivals throughout the Twin Cities. She made her orchestra debut at the age of ten, performing the first movement of Mozart Concerto No. 21 with Kenwood Symphony Orchestra after winning the MMTF Mozart Piano Concerto Competition. Also at ten, Aurora performed the first movement of Mozart Piano Concerto No. 17 with the Young Artist World Piano Festival Orchestra after winning the festival's concerto competition. She won first place in her division at the Northwestern Piano Solo Competition in 2015.

In addition, Aurora performed in masterclasses for Sontraud Speidel, Bernadene Blaha, and Pavlina Dokovska in various occasions. While Aurora's repertoire spans across various style periods and composers, she feels a special connection with Chopin – she loves the deep poeticism and dazzling brilliance in Chopin's music. When Aurora isn't playing piano, she enjoys reading, figure skating, downhill skiing, swimming, and drawing.

Second place winner Joseph Caswell (age 14) is a student at The Lighthouse School and Spring Lake Park High School. He is a piano student of Dr. Paul Wirth and a chamber music student of Tom Rosenberg. Joseph has been a featured performer at many corporate, professional, and fund-raising events, including: Mano a Mano, Park Dental, JDRF, U of MN Diabetes Research, St Paul and Minneapolis Chapters of AAUW, the Minnesota Music Teacher's Forum, and the Minnesota Boychoir. He has also performed in the Young Artist World Piano Festival (YAWPF) Honors Recitals and St Cloud State University Fall Convocations starting at the age of 6. Joseph has appeared in demonstration lectures with Dr. Paul Wirth and Tom Rosenberg, and played with multiple chamber groups in the Salon se Leve concert series. He has played in Masterclasses given by Ksenia Nosikova, Nelita True, Pavlina Dokovska, Ann Schein, and the Horszowski Trio.

In 2014, Joseph won the YAWPF 12-and-under Concerto Competition and played Mozart's Concerto #21 with the YAWPF Festival Orchestra, conducted by Marlene Pauley (conductor of the Wayzata Symphony Orchestra). In 2016, Joseph and his piano trio, Trio Giovane, won first place in the junior division of the SPCO Youth Chamber Music Competition. In recent years, Joseph was awarded 2nd place and Honorable Mention in the Mozart Concerto Competition sponsored by the Minneapolis Music Teachers Forum, competing with students up to 18 years old. Also in each of the last 4 years, he was awarded Honorable Mention or 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the MTNA Junior Piano Performance Competition for the state of Minnesota. In the 2016-2017 school year, he won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the SPPTA Concerto Competition, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Thursday Musical Competition, and 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Schubert Club Competition. Joseph is taking Calculus classes at the U of MN through the UMTYMP program. When not doing music or math, Joseph enjoys biking, ping pong, computer games, singing in the Minnesota Boychoir, and curling up with a good book and his cats, Grayson and Tycho.

Third place winner, Beatrice Grant, age 15, has been immersed in music from birth, as making music is a big part of her family life. She studied piano and music theory with Maria Grant (her mother) for more than twelve years. Very recently Beatrice joined Crocus Hill Studios in Saint Paul, where she studies with Dr. Joseph Zins. She was unanimously voted by the piano faculty to receive the prestigious Maddy Summer Artist Award, category piano, at the 2017 Interlochen Center for the Arts Summer Camp (MI). In 2017, she also won first place at the Winter Piano





Competition at Concordia College (Moorhead, MN) and was a prize winner at the Minneapolis Teachers Forum 9th grade Award. She received the Interlochen Center for the Arts 2016 William and Helen Janson Memorial Scholarship (MI), received Honors at the Minneapolis Music Teachers Forum 2015 Mozart Concerto Competition and was a finalist at the all-instrument Interlochen 2015 Concerto Competition. In 2014 she was awarded the Schubert Club's Special Grant (MN) and a scholarship from Cazadero Performing Arts for the 2014 Cazadero Performing Arts Camp (CA). Beatrice received scholarships from MacPhail Center for Music for the 2012 Summer Piano Camp (MN) and from the Suzuki Association of Minnesota for the 2012 American Suzuki Institute (WI).

Sensitive to the importance of music in communities, she performed a solo recital at Clinton Elementary School (MN), benefiting the food shelf in January 2017 and is a regular performer at Waconia nursing homes. She has also performed annually at the Mall of America, during the MusicLink Foundation Play-a-thon. At school, during her elementary and middle school years, she contributed both as a pianist and violinist during choir concerts and in March 2016 she performed for Waconia's Show Choir "Spectacular" shows at Waconia High School. She enjoys performing chamber music works of Brahms, Prokofiev, Clark, Schumann and Bruch as well as new compositions of contemporary composers during summer camps. She was the collaborative pianist for violin students in a recital in December 2017 and since August of 2016 Beatrice works as an accompanist at Immaculate Conception Church in Watertown (MN) playing for masses during weekends.

Dr. Nathan Kennedy joined the faculty of Concordia University - St. Paul in 2012 where he is the Coordinator of Keyboard Studies in the Department of Music, Theater, and Dance. He completed his graduate work at the University of Wisconsin - Madison and the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities in piano performance, music theory, and collaborative piano. In addition to teaching applied piano at Concordia, he teaches the music theory sequence for music majors, class piano, accompanying, piano pedagogy, and leads the Chapel band.

Dr. Kennedy maintains an active performance schedule on and off campus, giving an annual faculty recital as well as collaborating with faculty and various ensembles throughout the year on campus. In the spring of 2016, he was featured as guest soloist with the Concert band, performing Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. Outside of Concordia, he is regularly engaged as an accompanist with ACDA - Minnesota, performing with the middle school honor choirs on an annual basis, and has been the accompanist for the annual Choral Arts Finale massed choir for the past five years. He is equally at home in classical, jazz, and popular music idioms at the keyboard. Nathan and his wife Faith have three children: Josiah, Tobias, and daughter Abijah.

As noted on the UNW website, Richard Lange, Coordinator of Piano Studies and Professor of Piano & Piano Pedagogy at UNW since 1989, is an active performer, teacher, and adjudicator. He also coordinates an annual Piano Institute and Piano Festival at UNW. Lange received a Bachelor of Music degree from the College of Notre Dame (Belmont, California), and a Master of Fine Arts degree and Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano from the University of Minnesota. Lange is a frequent soloist and chamber artist. Performances include Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1, Beethoven's Concerto No. 1, Beethoven's Concerto No. 5, and Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. He has appeared with Master's Chamber Players on KTIS radio in St. Paul,



Live from Landmark radio series in St. Paul, and KCSM-TV in San Mateo, California. He is also an active member of the Minnesota Music Teachers Association (MMTA).

Susana Pinto has been a member of the piano faculty at MacPhail Center for Music since 2001. She is an individual instructor to students of all ages, a piano class instructor for adults and adjudicates regularly. Susana has an extensive teaching experience giving lately master classes at Central Michigan University and in Lisbon, Portugal.

A dedicated teacher, Susana also performs as a solo and chamber music musician and encourages all her students to do the same in order to reach their goals as musicians. She strives to inspire her students to express themselves, tailoring her teaching according to their technical, musical abilities and interests. Through her mentorship, Susana hopes that each of her students finds the study of music and piano a highly rewarding life-long process. In 2009, Susana started with her colleague and friend Pinar Basgoze their piano duo, Basgoze-Pinto. Their performances have attracted and deeply impressed audiences in and out of the Twin Cities area.

A native from Portugal, Susana holds a Bachelor of Music from the Escola Superior de Musica de Lisboa in Portugal, a Master of Music from Central Michigan University, and is currently finishing her Doctoral degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Iowa where she was a recipient of the Iowa Arts Performance Fellowship.

Thank you to each of the individuals mentioned here, as well as all those who have chosen the occupation of teacher - every day inviting students of all ages to try, stretch, grow, understand, engage with, and express music. You add on-going beauty to the world.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Olson



Beverly Olson,  
Concerto Chair





## Upcoming MusicLink Playathon

It won't be long now until the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual MusicLink Playathon. It will take place on the weekend of February 17-18, 2018 in the Macys Court at the Mall of America. If you've never had a student participate in this fun event, this may be the year to give it a try. The students love performing at the Mall of America and parents like the idea of their children supporting less fortunate students with their music.

Registration can be done online at the MMTA website. A link to the registration form plus hard copy forms and more information are available on the SPPTA website under Programs for Students/MusicLink. Registration deadlines are Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> by mail and Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> for online.

Please join us this year in making this 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Playathon the best yet!

Sue Wege, NCTM  
State MusicLink Chair



**To register for the 2018 Playathon visit here:  
<https://www.mnmusicteachers.com/event/2018-musiclink-playathon>**



Sue Wege, NCTM  
State MusicLink Chair



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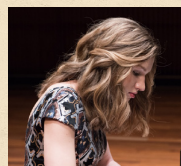


**January 14, 2018, 2:30 PM**

Joyce Zhao, Violin  
Emma Taggart, Piano

**February 18, 2018, 2:30 PM**

The Larson Memorial Recital  
Abigail Arkley, Piano

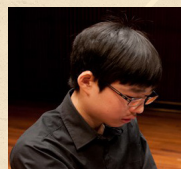
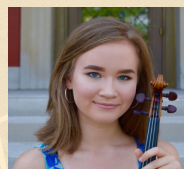


**March 25, 2018, 2:30 PM**

Nygel Witherspoon, Cello  
Austin Cheng, Piano

**April 15, 2018, 2:30 PM**

Katia Tesarczyk, Violin  
Shuen Wu, Piano



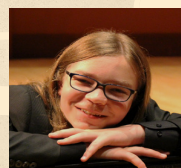
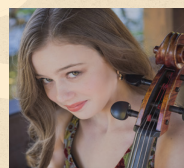
**April 29, 2018, 2:30 PM**

The Larson Memorial Recital  
Emma Richman, Violin



**May 20, 2018, 2:30 PM**

Madeline Sheard, Cello  
Joseph Caswell, Piano



**June 10, 2018, 2:30 PM**

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