

SOUTH SUBURBAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

December 2016 Newsletter

President: Gloria Ross (303) 290-0511

Membership Chair: Jean Lee-Baker (281) 705-1583

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Website: www.smtamusicteachers.org

CALENDAR

- December 10 SSMTA December Saturday Student Recital at Skyview Presbyterian Church
- December 13 SSMTA Meeting/Holiday Musicale/Potluck:
Arapahoe Road Baptist Church (780 E. Arapahoe Road)
- December 27 Deadline: SSMTA Student Achievement Day Registrations due
(received by this date)
- January 10 SSMTA Meeting and Program
Arapahoe Road Baptist Church (780 E. Arapahoe Road)
- January 28 Deadlines: SSMTA Masterworks Festival Registrations due
SSMTA February Saturday Student Recital Registrations due
- February 11 SSMTA February Saturday Student Recital at Skyview Presbyterian Church
- February 14 SSMTA Meeting and Program
- February 25 SSMTA 2017 Achievement Day
- March 11 2017 Masterworks Festival Auditions
- March 12 2017 Masterworks Festival Honors Concert
- March 14 SSMTA Meeting and Program
- March 15 Deadlines: Excellence in Music Applications due
Performance Medal Requests due.

MEASURE FOR MEASURE

from Gloria Ross, President

It's the "Most Wonderful Time of the Year"... and the busiest! It's nice to have an excuse to take a breather from the shopping and planning, wrapping of presents and wrapping things up for the year... sooooooo... please be sure to join us for our last meeting of 2016, our Holiday Musicale and pot-luck luncheon. The camaraderie, great music and good food will energize you for the rest of the day and beyond!

If you have your registrations for Achievement Day ready by Tuesday, you can hand them in at our December meeting.

Otherwise, be sure to mail them to Yoko Ashcroft, **so she receives them by December 27.**

Have a beautiful, memorable time with family and friends at your holiday gatherings.

A blessed Christmas to all!



ACCOMPANIST REFERRAL LIST

Linda Cody, 796-0369; Stephen Fiess, 791-6473; Barb Galuzzi, 906-0430; Betsy Johnson, 719-649-2521; Carol Rankin, 477-2686; Cheryl Saborsky, 771-2532; Elaine Van Dellen, 955-5790. Please contact newsletter editors if you wish to have your name added to this list!

TEACHER REFERRAL

If you have any openings for new students, please contact our SSMTA Referral Chair Linda Vogan: (303) 908-1694; or denlinvog@comcast.net . Also, if you know of any potential students that you cannot accommodate, please give them Linda's contact information!

SSMTA MEETING NOVEMBER 8 2016 MINUTES

- The meeting was call to order by president Gloria Ross at 9:43 am.
- The minutes of the October meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.
- Treasurer Sheila Hamaker reported a balance of \$5,261 in checking. That includes restricted funds of \$645 (for SPARKS) and \$106 (for Education Scholarship). Our savings account balance is \$10,000.
- Student Activities Reports:
 - ✓ Ensemble Festival entries are up this year but the number of participating teachers is the same, and there will be 7 recitals on Saturday 11/12.
 - ✓ Achievement Day registration deadline is Dec 27. The forms are on the website. All participating teachers must sign up to help on one of the committees. Sara McDaniel has been hired to run the performance classes this year, on the topic of memorizing and maintaining repertoire. The performance classes are restricted to students in 7th grade or older. And they must be playing at Achievement Day level 7 and above.
 - ✓ Masterworks Festival registration deadline is January 28. The forms are on the website. Forms should be turned in to Robin Stewart.
 - ✓ Saturday Recital Series has a recital on December 10. Registrations are due to Pam Simpson by November 26. Forms are on the website. A second December recital is being planned at Whole Foods on December 17. This will be announced via e-blast.
- Announcements:
 - ✓ Please contact Bonnie Kreutz if you are interested in storing (and using) the association's Clavinova. The instrument is used by SSMTA and member teachers for various events. The member responsible for storing the instrument is also welcome to use it in their studio.
 - ✓ Linda Vogan announced the CantoDeo's upcoming concerts on Nov 26 and 27.
- The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 and followed by our November program featuring the Piano Music of Spain, presented by Patricia Chen.

Submitted by Sheila Hamaker



SSMTA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

This month's spotlight features SSMTA Member Sheila Conolly-McKin

Sheila Conolly-McKin

Both my parents were musicians. My mother taught violin and theory at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and my father taught high school band and orchestra. A classical pianist, he was also a professional jazz musician. I was taught piano by both parents and singing by my mother, who also gave voice lessons. At the age of thirteen, I asked my Dad to teach me jazz, which opened up a wonderful new world for me! I learned how to improvise from a "fake book" and was in heaven.

My sister, who works as an exercise physiologist, is also a musician. She sings and plays classical guitar. Many of my most precious and happy memories are of my family making music together, not just for ourselves, but for others as well, for we all performed professionally.

The first time I had lessons outside my home was when I entered college. I couldn't decide between music and French, so completed a double major. One thing I was sure of was that I wanted to teach. This I knew from a very young age. I then received a Master's degree in Education. I taught French and music at the elementary and high school levels.

My husband and I moved to Toronto where I taught music and was an administrator for a language program with the Toronto School District. In Toronto I studied voice, organ, and harp at the Royal Conservatory of Music. I was admitted to the Comparative Literature program at the University of Toronto. I also completed an Artist's Diploma with Trinity Guildhall School of Music (UK).

After having enjoyed the wonderful cosmopolitan city of Toronto, my husband and I moved to Denver to be closer to family in Wyoming. In Denver I completed a Master's of Music at Lamont School of Music (University of Denver).

I taught French in the Cherry Creek School District while teaching piano and voice in my private studio. During my time at Overland High School, I was honored to be included in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* for three years in a row. Finally, after eight years of ninety-minute daily commutes, I decided to devote myself entirely to private music teaching. Although I sometimes miss the classroom, I really enjoy teaching voice and piano in my own studio. And by the way, I have a wonderful husband who studied piano at Mannes School of Music in NYC. He is also a certified piano technician who keeps our piano in tip-top shape. We play duets and he accompanies me as well. Recently, a friend and I have formed a violin and piano duo. We are excited to be working on our first recital.

Not a day goes by without music in our house. What a blessing! Can it get any better than that?

WISHING YOU

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JOY
HOPE
LOVE
PEACE
PROSPERITY
▲

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!!

SSMTA MEETING DAY SCHEDULE
December 13, 2016

9:10 -- 9:30 a.m.	Arrival/Social Time/Browse SPARKS music
9:30 -- 10:20 a.m.	SSMTA General Meeting
10:20 – 10:30 a.m.	Break/Browse
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	SSMTA Holiday Musicale
11:30	SSMTA Holiday Potluck Luncheon

PLEASE HELP THE MEETING RUN SMOOTHLY

Help is needed from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. to set up the tables with boxes of SPARKS music.

Please arrive early for refreshments if you plan to partake, and take your seat by 9:30 a.m. so we can begin the meeting on time.

Please continue to be respectful of all those in attendance at the meeting by giving your undivided attention to the meeting in progress and refraining from private conversations.

OUR DECEMBER SSMTA PROGRAM

Please join us for this annual holiday tradition as we gather for our annual SSMTA teachers *Holiday Musicale*. It is always a delightful time of sharing wonderful music!

REFRESHMENTS FOR OUR DECEMBER MEETING

Please bring a dish to share at our luncheon after the Musicale.

It will be a fun time to catch up with everyone!

Ongoing thanks to Barb Galuzzi for taking such good care of hospitality at all of our meetings and student events; and thank you to everyone who has brought refreshments to our meetings throughout the year!

TEACHING MOMENT

This month, Patty Kershaw will share one of her successful teaching techniques with us.