

SOUTH SUBURBAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

March 2017 Newsletter

President: Gloria Ross (303) 290-0511

Membership Chair: Jean Lee-Baker (281) 705-1853

Editors: Stephen Fiess/Neal Wegener (303) 791-6473

CALENDAR

- March 11: 2017 Masterworks Festival Auditions
March 12: 2017 Masterworks Festival Honors Concert
March 14: SSMTA Meeting and Program at Arapahoe Road Baptist Church
780 E. Arapahoe Road, Centennial
March 15: Deadlines: Excellence in Music Applications due; Performs Medal Requests due
March 18-22: MTNA National Conference
March 25: Deadline: Registrations for April SSMTA Recital
April 8: SSMTA Saturday Recital at Skyview Presbyterian
April 11: SSMTA April Meeting and Program at Arapahoe Road Baptist Church
April 22: Rising Stars Festival
May 1: Early Registration Deadline for CSMTA Conference
May 9: SSMTA May Meeting and Pot-luck Luncheon at Arapahoe Road Baptist Church
June 1: Applications Due for Educational Scholarships
June 1-3: CSMTA Conference in Greeley

MEASURE FOR MEASURE

from Gloria Ross, President

I had some students attend Achievement Day for the first time this year, and they loved it! I hope your students had a wonderful experience as well. Achievement Day provides affirmation of a year's progress, and it also serves as a dry run for students participating in Festival. Although the AD performances are more low key, it still provides an opportunity to play in front of a "judge," in front of an audience, and to work out any kinks that might still exist. Many thanks again to all those who worked hard to make this event meaningful and to help it run efficiently.

Remember to turn in your Performance Medal Requests and Excellence in Music Award Applications to Bonnie at the meeting. If you're unable to attend, mail them to her so she receives them by March 20 (and e-mail her to let her know they're coming). At the April meeting, Bonnie will pass out the medals, and we'll listen to performances by our EIM award winner(s).

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!

MINUTES OF SSMTA MEETING FEBRUARY 14, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: 9:38 a.m. by SSMTA President Gloria Ross.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Sheila Hamaker reported that there is a balance of \$10,558.00 in our checking account, and \$10,005.00 in savings as of January 31, 2017.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

SSMTA Performance Medals

Please turn in your Performance Medal forms and applications for student Excellence in Music Awards to Bonnie Kreutz at our March SSMTA meeting!!!!

SSMTA 2016-2017 Student Saturday Recital Series

Pam Simpson is currently in charge of the following upcoming SSMTA Student recital: April 8, 2017
Please note: Pam Simpson will need a teacher to run the 2nd recital on April 8th.

SSMTA 2017 Ensemble Event

This coming year's Ensemble Event will also take place on November 11th. We will be considering a change in the fee structure, allowing students to pay a single fee for the entire event rather than per piece.

Special thanks to Yoko Ashcroft, Marilyn Madsen, and Smita Rodrigues who chaired this event this past year.

SSMTA 2017 Achievement Day

This year for Achievement Day, we have 40 more students signed up (than last year), with a total of 23 teachers participating. Doors open at 7:30 A.M., with evaluators scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Set up time is Friday from 11:00 to 1:00. Leila Viss will head up the Junk Yard Band.

TEACHERS ARE REMINDED NOT to give students credit for the Theory tests taken when you are evaluating them. The teachers in the Theory room will do that.

SSMTA 2017 Masterworks

All updated information is also listed on our SSMTA Music Teachers website.)

ADJOURNMENT 10:35 a.m.

Nazila Nekooraad, SSMTA Secretary



SSMTA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

This month's SSMTA Member Spotlight features SSMTA member Smita Rodriguez.

I am from India. I got my Licentiate from the Trinity College of Music, London. I moved to America in 1998; and have been teaching piano since 2010. I homeschool two of my children, and am busy with evening activities with them (and family dinner with the one who's in regular school) so I only have about four piano students. I also have the blood, sweat and tears of homeschooling piano.

I take lessons from Mrs. Carolyn Shaak in piano pedagogy, and I'm blessed to learn very interesting tips in enhancing creativity and technique. I've started monthly group lessons a few months ago, and they are going very well. I believe we teach a lot more than music, and I enjoy making my contribution with a piano studio even though it's really small!

Before getting married, I was very active as a Church accompanist in India, and other piano opportunities. Now, I play accompaniments only occasionally. I continue to learn new music from all the eras. With the recent addition of the Colorado Composes online community to my studio, I'm learning improvisation and composition alongside my children/students.

Homeschooling takes up most of my time and energy so I am part of a book club to keep my balance. I also actively work on my faith formation, catechize monthly, try to "pray unceasingly" and am glad I can do that through my work! I am also a foodie and enjoy experimenting with new recipes. I rarely make it to meetings but hope to bring you some Indian food some time and see just how spicy you can go!

SSMTA MEETING DAY SCHEDULE

March 14, 2017

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 – 11:45 a.m.	SSMTA Program

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 MARCH SSMTA PROGRAM

Our March program is entitled “The Piano Playing Mechanism: How to Make It Comfortable,” and will be presented by Jo Boatright. This promises to be an outstanding program! Please join us for this excellent presentation!

REFRESHMENTS FOR OUR MARCH MEETING

Many thanks to Linda Vogan, Kaye Craig, and Jean Lee-Baker for providing refreshments for this month’s meeting! Ongoing thanks to Barb Galuzzi for taking such good care of hospitality at all of our meetings and student events!

TEACHING MOMENT

Sheila Conolly-McKin will share one of her successful teaching techniques with us this month.

