

SOUTH SUBURBAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

January 2012 Newsletter

President: Yoko Ashcroft (303) 470-5936

Membership Chair: Bonnie Kreutz (303) 378-5265

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

CALENDAR

- January 27: **Deadline** to turn in SSMTA Masterworks Festival entries to Robin Stewart
- February 4: **SSMTA Student Recital**, Schmitt Music, 1:00 p.m.
- February 11: **SSMTA Student Achievement Day**, Foothills Canyon LDS church.
- February 15: **SSMTA/DAMTA teacher performance group**
- March 3: **SSMTA Masterworks Festival**

TEACHER REFERRAL

If you have any openings for new students, our SSMTA Referral Chair Dorothy Lomme has requested that you call her as soon as possible. Her phone number is (303) 798-5579. *Thanks, Dorothy!*

ACCOMPANIST REFERRAL LIST

Linda Cody, 796-0369; Stephen Fiess, 791-6473; Barb Galuzzi, 936-1772; Alicia Johansson, 797-9630; Nancy Kettering, 204-6430; 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!



MEASURE FOR MEASURE

from Yoko Ashcroft, President

A Happy New Year to everyone!! I hope you have had a wonderful Holiday season. The month of December is the busiest month for music teachers like you, but hopefully, you have had a chance to enjoy time together with your family and relax a little. It's always a bit sad to put away the Christmas tree, and ornaments and decoration, but it is an exciting time to move into a new year.

Have you made your New Years' resolutions? In our family, each of the family members write down their own goals and resolutions when the New Year comes, and we put them where we can check them often. One thing I would love to improve is my time management because it's getting so much busier during this time. There are several events coming: Achievement Day is just around the corner, the Masterworks Festival is a month later, student Recitals, your studio Spring Recital. There is a lot going on in our studios, but I hope you are looking forward to attending our monthly SSMTA meeting, and not only just to talk about the business and events, but also to see each other, share ideas, and encourage each other! I have learned so much from the members of SSMTA since I joined this group – I am a much better piano teacher because of that!



MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2011 SSMTA MEETING

The meeting was called to order by SSMTA President Yoko Ashcroft at 9:35 A.M.

Minutes of the November 2011 meeting were approved as published. (Vera Alder suggested that details of future *Teaching Moment* presentations be included in the Minutes.)

Gloria Ross read the Treasurer's report. The savings account balance is \$11,683.46, and the checking account balance is \$6,107.49.

MEMBERSHIP

Bonnie Kreutz announced that corrected 2011-2012 SSMTA Yearbooks are now available.

TEACHING MOMENT

Bonnie Kreutz and Marilyn Madsen shared teaching ideas that have proved successful in their studios:

a Bonnie Kreutz: 1) "Great Donut Challenge": Student sets a goal for the week. If the teacher is satisfied with the result, the student receives a donut.

2) "Gold fish crackers": When a student makes a mistake, throw a gold fish cracker – student is allowed to eat leftover crackers.

Marilyn Madsen: As students learn scales and chords, I have them write out the scale and identify the I, IV, and V chords. I then ask them to write out the melody for Happy Birthday in the key they are learning, using the correct chords. This helps solidify the scale and chord progressions. We do it for all the major and minor keys.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Yoko Ashcroft presented the SSMTA Ensemble Festival report. The Festival was held at Baker Piano Center, November 11-12, 2011. There were 8 recitals with 126 entries, and 18 teachers participated. Profit from the festival was \$415.07.

Patty Kershaw announced that the SSMTA Achievement Day will be Saturday, February 11, 2012 at Foothills Canyon LDS Church. A new location will be investigated for 2013. Please turn in entry forms to Stephen Fiess by Friday, December 16, 2011. Patty shared ideas for Achievement Day preparation and completion of the forms. Sheila Hamaker will do scheduling, and Pam Simpson will manage the Theory Room.

Foothills Canyon Church has waived the \$500 Achievement Day fee, and has asked that the money be used for SSMTA student scholarships or activities. A vote regarding disbursement of the \$500 will be taken at the January 2012 meeting.

Robin Stewart reported that the SSMTA Masterworks Festival will be Saturday March 3, 2012, at Foothills Canyon LDS Church (same location as the 2012 Achievement Day). Location for the recital, March 4, 2012 is yet to be determined. **Entry forms, which are available on the SSMTA website, must be completed and turned in to Robin by Saturday, January 27, 2012.**

PLEASE NOTE: Any downloaded music performed at the Festival must be accompanied by a cover page and invoice proving purchase of the music.

SSMTA STUDENT RECITALS

Pam Simpson announced that 10 teachers and 60 students participated in the December 13th, 2011 SSMTA recital.

Since Bakers Piano Center is closing at the end of the year, it will be necessary to find a new location for future SSMTA events. Possibilities are churches or Schmitt Music or service recitals held at hospitals. **(Editor's note: Please see 2012 SSMTA Student Recitals article in this month's newsletter for further details.)**

SPARKS

When donating music to Sparks, determine the value, fill out the form provided by SSMTA treasurer Gloria Ross, and get the treasurer's signature on the form. This document serves as proof of your donation for the IRS.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vera Alder has volunteered to join Ruth Wyeno as co-chair of Student Activities. Thank you, Vera, for your willingness to serve!

MTNA 2012 National Conference will be in New York City, March 24-28.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 A.M. and was followed by the Holiday Musicales and potluck luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Garner

2012 SSMTA STUDENT RECITALS

from Pam Simpson, Student Recital Chair

Due to the closing of Bakers' Piano Center over the Christmas holiday, it has been necessary to change the locations for the remaining SSMTA Student Recitals for the year.

The February recital will be held on **February 4** (same date) at **1:00 PM** (new time) at **Schmitt Music** (new location).

The April recital will be held at **Littleton Adventist Hospital**, most likely the afternoon of April 14. Pam will send out a gmail when that is confirmed. The format of this recital will be different from our usual recitals. Interested teachers should contact Pam Simpson (pspianostudio@gmail.com) and schedule **a block of time** for their students. Each individual teacher will be responsible for their own students. If you are unable to attend that day, contact Pam and she will have your students play during the same time block as her own students.

Thank you for your flexibility, and we look forward to two more excellent recitals this year!

SSMTA MEETING DAY SCHEDULE

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

9:00 -- 9:15 a.m.	Board Meeting
9:15 -- 9:30 a.m.	Arrival and Refreshments
9:30 -- 10:30 a.m.	SSMTA General Meeting
10:30 -- 11:30 a.m.	January 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. This should also be the time that materials are put on the sign-in table.

Please arrive on time for refreshments if you plan to partake, and be seated at the tables by 9:30 so we can begin the meeting on time.

Please plan to stay for the program.

AT OUR JANUARY SSMTA MEETING

Our January meeting program, entitled "*Dyslexia and the Keyboard: When Students Can't Read*," will be presented by Lynn Maloy. Please plan to attend this interesting and informative program!

JANUARY "TEACHING MOMENT"

The "Teaching Moment" for our January meeting will be presented by Sheila Hamaker and Patty Kershaw.

REFRESHMENTS FOR OUR JANUARY MEETING

Refreshments for our January meeting will be provided by Jackie Garner, Vera Alder, and Sheila Hamaker.

Thanks, too, to all who have provided refreshments during this past year!