

## SOUTH SUBURBAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

April 2013 Newsletter

**President:** Yoko Ashcroft (303) 470-5936

**Membership Chair:** Bonnie Kreutz (303) 378-5265

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

**Website:** [www.ssmtamusicteachers.org](http://www.ssmtamusicteachers.org)

### CALENDAR

- April 6: **SSMTA Student Recitals;** Skyview Presbyterian Church; 251 E. Sterne Blvd. (near Broadway & Arapahoe); 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30 p.m.
- April 9: **SSMTA April Meeting,** Arapahoe Road Baptist Church, 780 E. Arapahoe Road, Centennial, CO 80122 (please see *SSMTA Meeting Day Schedule* herein)
- April 12: **Pianists Cheryl Saborsky and Dr. Stephen Fiess,** with the Colorado Chamber Orchestra, performing Mendelssohn's Two-piano *Concerto in A-flat*. Hope United Methodist Church, 5101 S. Dayton St. (on Belleview, east of I-25), 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors 62+, and \$5 for students 18 and under.
- May 1: **SSMTA/DAMTA teacher performance group,** at the home of Blanche Greenberg, 8101 E. Dartmouth, Unit #39. To RSVP, call Blanche at (303) 755-7898.
- June 5-8: **CSMTA State Conference,** CSU, Fort Collins

### 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!*

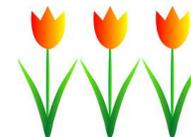
## MEASURE FOR MEASURE

*from Yoko Ashcroft, President*

Hello Everyone!

I truly enjoy teaching and working with students. It is so fulfilling to see students develop a strong love of music. My teaching is somewhat shaped by my experience as a young piano student in Japan. I vividly remember my older sister's piano teacher. Her teaching was based on fear. Nothing was ever good enough and she never gave any praise or positive feedback. As I observed this, I can remember thinking that if I were a piano teacher, I would do things much differently.

The more I teach, the more I realize the importance of giving praise and positive feedback to my students. I have high expectations and push my students to do their best; however, kind words of praise can play a big part in them wanting to do their best. We should always push our students to reach higher, but the way in which we do this can produce different results. Never under-estimate the value of words such as "I am proud of you" and "You did a great job".



### 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!

## MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2013 SSMTA MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Yoko Ashcroft at 9:30 A.M.

The minutes of the February, 2013 meeting were approved as published.

Gloria Ross read the Treasurer's report: checking account balance is \$8,061.56; and the savings account balance is \$10,008.08.

### MEMBERSHIP

A warm welcome was extended to visitor Betsy Johnson, a piano teacher in the Littleton/Highlands Ranch area, whose focus is Recreational Piano Music.

### TEACHING MOMENT

Michelle Lauritzen and Sheila Conolly-McKin shared ideas that have proven to be successful in their studios.

#### **A summary from Michelle Lauritzen:**

The most important thing that I do is to be totally present to each student. I say their name often during the lesson, love them, care about their stories while keeping it to a minimum. The result is a wonderful bond where they love coming to lessons and I love being with them (and I also get a very low turnover rate). The year before I did not lose any students. This past year, I've lost two – one because they moved and another because of sports.

I have them play the C scale beginning even at very early ages by doing quarter notes for 1 octave, eighth notes for 2 octaves, triplets for 3 octaves, and 16<sup>th</sup> notes for 4 octaves. We do this consistently every week so they totally master rhythms.

I have a musical library of used books where the students can bring in any gently used books that they no longer want. I write their name lightly in pencil on the front cover when they bring it in. If another student would like to buy books from the musical library, it's \$1 for sheet music and \$2 for a book. The credit goes to the

## MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2013 SSMTA MEETING (Cont'd)

family who donated the books. This helps everyone out (including the environment).

I have a Superscope recording system that I purchased for \$600.00 that allows me to record the students' best pieces during the year. This allows them to hear what they sound like so they can make necessary changes; and also at the end of the year, the students and their parents get to see how much progress was made during the year and also to revel in their polished pieces and what they've accomplished.

I am big on dynamics and storytelling at the piano. I always trace the dynamics in colored marker for the students so they are sure not to miss them. I also am known to sing, make big arm movements, etc... whatever I can do to get them to really fine-tune their dynamics.

#### **A summary from Sheila Conolly-McKin:**

For my teaching moment I compiled a sampling of web sites which contain music teacher resources. These sources contain free downloads as well as articles of interest. While many apply to piano teachers, there are some sites which have resources for teachers of voice and other instruments.

In addition, I recommended an excellent elementary piano book called "*A Day in Paris*" by Barbara Dodson. It is essentially a duet book which captures the atmosphere of Paris. It is very handy as a motivational book during a "difficult" lesson or a fun way to finish up a lesson. If the student is able he/she can play the teacher part. The "primo" part is for elementary students but it really does sound French and like "real" music. Students love it!

The handout will be available at the April SSMTA meeting as the list of sources is too long to include here.

**PROGRAM**

Yoko announced that the March 2013 program, entitled, "Who am I?" would be presented by SSMTA member Elaine Van Dellen, NCTM.

**SSMTA STUDENT RECITALS**

The next **SSMTA Student Recital** will be **Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**, 1:30 P.M., 2:30 P.M., and 3:30 P.M. at Skyview Presbyterian Church (251 E. Sterne Blvd. [near Broadway & Arapahoe]). Entry forms (available on the SSMTA website) and a \$5.00/student fee must be turned into Pam Simpson **two weeks prior to the recital date.**

**2013 SSMTA MASTERWORKS FESTIVAL**

Robin Stewart announced that 78 students participated in the Masterworks Festival, and 40 received a "1" rating. Judging was based on "is the piece recital-ready?"

**2013 SSMTA ACHIEVEMENT DAY**

Patty Kershaw presented the 2013 **Achievement Day** report. 275 students were entered and 27 teachers participated. Special thanks to the following individuals:

- Scheduling: Yoko Ashcroft
- Certificates: Sheila Hamaker
- Theory room: Pam Simpson
- Games room: Linda Vogan
- Building and Pianos: Kaye Craig
- Food: Barb Galuzzi
- Forms: Dr. Stephen Fiess; Sheila Hamaker/website
- Performance Class: Gloria Ross
- Master Class: Vera Alder
- Projects: Ruth Wyeno

A follow-up meeting with Achievement Day co-chairs and heads of events will be scheduled to "iron out" scheduling issues related to Master Class, Performance Classes; and teachers unable to attend and fulfill their listener/evaluator obligations.

**ELECTION OF SSMTA OFFICERS**

Vera Alder announced that the slate of new officers for the 2013-2014 year will be emailed to the membership. Election of new officers will be held at the April SSMTA meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Tally sheets for SSMTA Performance Medals** are due immediately to Linda Vogan. Applications for the Excellence in Music Award are due at the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. All forms are available on the SSMTA website. Linda Vogan, Linda Cody, and Nicole Bullock will review the Excellence in Music Award applications, and select the winner.

**The CSMTA State Music Teachers Conference** is Wednesday, June 5 – Saturday, June 8 at Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Garner

**FROM OUR 2013/2014 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The nominating committee is pleased to announce the following nominees for the 2013-2014 SSMTA Board of Officers:

- |                    |                                  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| President-elect    | Gloria Ross                      |
| Treasurer          | Nicole Bullock                   |
| Secretary          | Penny Moeller and Marilyn Madsen |
| Membership         | Vera Alder                       |
| Programs           | Patricia Kershaw                 |
| Student Activities | Xiao Sui Zhang (Linda)           |

Election of officers will be held at our April meeting and installation will take place at our May meeting.

-- Vera Alder, Gloria Ross, Bonnie Kreutz

## **SSMTA MEETING DAY SCHEDULE**

**Tuesday, April 9, 2013**

9:00 -- 9:20 a.m. Board Meeting  
9:30 -- 10:30 a.m. SSMTA General Meeting  
10:30 -- 11:30 a.m. April 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 a.m. so we can begin the meeting on time.

Please plan to stay for the program.

### **AT OUR APRIL SSMTA MEETING**

Our April meeting program will feature a delightful program presented by guest speaker Linda Combellick, entitled "*The Musical Theater Audition.*" Please plan to join us for this wonderful and informative program!!

### **REFRESHMENTS FOR OUR APRIL MEETING**

Thank you to Erin Garner, Dorothy Lomme, and Robin Stewart, who are providing our refreshments for our April SSMTA meeting!!

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

