

SOUTH SUBURBAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

February 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

CALENDAR

- February 9: **SSMTA Student Recital**; Schmitt Music
- February 12: **SSMTA February Meeting**, Arapahoe Road Baptist Church, 780 E. Arapahoe Road, Centennial, CO 80122 (please see SSMTA Meeting Day Schedule herein)
- February 23: **SSMTA Achievement Day**, LDS church, 9800 S. Foothills Canyon Blvd., Highlands Ranch, CO 80129
- March 2: **SSMTA Masterworks Festival**; Living Way Fellowship Church, 345 E. Wildcat Reserve Pkwy., Highlands Ranch, Colorado 80126
- March 3: **SSMTA Masterworks Festival Honors Recital**; Skyview Presbyterian Church, 251 E. Sterne Blvd., Centennial, CO 80122
- March 9–13: **2013 MTNA National Conference** at the *Disneyland* Resort in Anaheim
- April 6: **SSMTA Student Recital**; Skyview Presbyterian Church; 251 E. Sterne Blvd. (near Broadway & Arapahoe)
- June 5-8: **CSMTA State Conference**, 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

Hi Everyone!!

It is hard to believe that it is getting close to the end of my term as SSMTA President, and time for the election of new officers. At the February meeting, we will elect a Nominating Committee of three members who will find a new slate of officers to present at the March meeting. The names will be published in the March newsletter, voted on at the April meeting, and installed at the May meeting. I think everyone has received the Job Descriptions for the SSMTA Board Positions that Linda Vogan compiled for us. Our organization is supported by all volunteers; and we thought that by letting you know what each officer clearly does, you may find that you can offer your skills and talents to the organization. So, I hope that each of you will come to the meeting with enthusiasm. The SSMTA President position is filled (Linda Vogan has graciously agreed to serve as President again), but all other officer positions need to be filled. We welcome all newer members to get involved.

At the February meeting we are also going over Achievement Day. The program will be about "Filling out Adjudication Forms," presented by Sara McDaniel. Sara is a very experienced and wonderful judge. I think it will be very beneficial for us to attend, especially those who will be evaluating at Achievement Day this month. We are excited that more teachers and more students are registered this year! Thank you to those who are involved in helping with the Achievement Day program!

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 JANUARY 8, 2013 SSMTA MEETING

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

The minutes of the December, 2012 meeting were approved as published.

Gloria Ross read the Treasurer's report: checking account balance is \$6,866.65; and the savings account balance is \$10,008.08.

MEMBERSHIP

A warm welcome was extended to new member Sohee Yoo. Welcome to SSMTA!

TEACHING MOMENT

Barb Galuzzi and Beverly Guth shared ideas that have proved to be successful in their studios.

A summary from Barb Galuzzi:

I shared various teaching tools that I use in my teaching. The first was **"Make your own flashcards"** on which I write a sequence of 3 notes that are close to one another. I want the students to recognize quickly the set of 3 by seeing steps, skips, and other intervals. I show them the card for about 3 seconds, take it away and ask them to play the 3 notes.

Another things that I like is the "Bea's Keys" as Beverly called them – very small 'flashcards' that fit on the keys. Each card has one note on it, and the student places the card on the coordinating key on the piano as quickly as possible. This could be timed, and repeated each week, or periodically to see if they can do it faster. I made my own but they can be purchased if you look up **Bea's Music Teaching Aids**.

I also like to sight-read duets with my students. Favorite books are the **Classical Piano Duets by Alfred (Kowalchyk/Lancaster)**. These are all in 5-finger positions and the hands play in unison. I stress not stopping, always counting, eyes on the music... all the necessary components of good sight-reading. With more advanced students, I just pull out other duets to sight-read. Playing together puts a little more pressure on the sight-reading process. I often refer to the experience of playing in a band or orchestra, which many of them will do at some time or already do now. Nobody waits for you!!

MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2013 SSMTA MEETING (Cont'd)

The last thing I shared was a little digital recorder that I recently bought. It's the H2 by Zoom. It's very easy to use and I am impressed by the quality of the recording.

A summary from Beverly Guth:

Many teachers have observed that although students may have learned their major and minor chords, they don't actually remember them. With young students, we typically teach the chords one or two at a time, and they forget the old ones as they learn new ones.

Review – constant review – is necessary to really implant these in the students' minds. Once beyond the beginning level, a student needs to know what chords he is playing to bolster his understanding of a piece. On every composition that is to be learned for a performance, take a few minutes of a lesson to label the chords in the score. Even from an early beginning level, show the student how most pieces start on a I, and end on a I; and how there's almost always a V or V7 chord right before the final I.

Students find this fascinating as they see it in piece after piece. As they memorize, have them observe what chord each section starts on. This will help the student not to "grab" notes that are not even in the key. Strengthening the understanding of harmony and structure will build stronger memory work and appreciation for the architecture of music. Students should also label the sections of a work, even from the first year of lessons.

At least a couple of times per year, have a chord review. This can be in the form of a game, an assignment, spelling sheets or oral and piano drill at the lesson.

PROGRAM

Kat Wagner announced that the January, 2013 program, entitled *"Let the Ease be With You"* would be presented by Dr. Elizabeth Blades-Skinner.

SSMTA STUDENT RECITALS

Pam Simpson announced that the next SSMTA Student Recital will be Saturday, February 9th, 1:30 p.m., at Schmitt Music. 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**.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2013 SSMTA MEETING (Cont'd)

2013 SSMTA ACHIEVEMENT DAY

Yoko Ashcroft discussed the 2013 Achievement Day scheduling. Please inform Yoko if there are any student cancellations. Also, more student volunteers are needed for Achievement Day.

Information and Achievement Day forms are available on the SSMTA Website. Direct any questions to Patty Kershaw, Kat Wagner, or Sheila Hamaker.

Pam Simpson announced that specific requirements for Achievement Day theory tests, practice tests, and symbols and terms are all available on the SSMTA website.

The 2013 Achievement Day is Saturday, February 23, 2013 at the LDS Church, 9800 S. Foothills Canyon, Blvd, Highlands Ranch.

2013 SSMTA MASTERWORKS FESTIVAL

Masterworks Festival is Saturday March 2, 2013, at Living Way Fellowship Church; and the Honors Recital will be Sunday, March 3, 2013, 2:15 p.m. at Skyview Presbyterian Church. Ardith Sloan shared details about the Festival, with several reminders:

- 1) Masterworks Festival forms and detailed information are available on the SSMTA website.
- 2) Entry forms and \$20.00/student fee must be turned in to Robert Stewart by Friday, January 18th
- 3) Voice teachers are encouraged to enter students as well!
- 4) **Before the end of the competition day, Ardith and/or Robin must know students' choices of pieces to be performed at the Honors Recital.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 2013 MTNA National Conference is March 9-13 at Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, California. SSMTA member Leila Viss will be a presenter in the Jazz & Popular Piano Track on March 9th!! Congratulations, Leila!!!!

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.
Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Garner



A Valentine from our dear friend Kathryn Wood

"Thank you for sending the card signed by SSMTA friends – I took a moment to weep just for the good memories... Achievement day, parties at Neal and Steve's... even listening to Für Elise too many times...

I am in good shape for ninety-two--except for the legs.

My love to all,
Kathryn"

Thanks to Ruth Wyeno for sharing this!

[Kathryn Wood's address is:](#)

Kathryn Wood
St. Katharine Drexel Retirement
301 W. Wade St., Apt # 413
El Reno, OK 73036-3682



SSMTA MEETING DAY SCHEDULE
Tuesday, February 12, 2013

9:00 -- 9:20 a.m. Board Meeting
9:30 -- 10:30 a.m. SSMTA General Meeting
10:30 -- 11:30 a.m. February 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 FEBRUARY SSMTA MEETING

Our February meeting program will feature a delightful program by well known guest presenter Sara McDaniel, entitled "***Filling Out Adjudication Forms***". Please plan to join us for this wonderful and informative program!!

REFRESHMENTS FOR OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

Thank you to Patty Kershaw, Ardith Sloan, and Neal Wegener, who are providing our refreshments for our February SSMTA meeting!!

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

