

## SOUTH SUBURBAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

January 2013 Newsletter

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

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

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

### CALENDAR

- January 8: **SSMTA January Meeting**, Arapahoe Road Baptist Church, 780 E. Arapahoe Road, Centennial, CO 80122 (please see SSMTA Meeting Day Schedule herein)
- January 18, 2013 **Deadline to submit Masterworks Festival** Registration form and fees to Robin Stewart
- February 9, 2013 **SSMTA Student Recital**; Schmitt Music
- February 23, 2013 **SSMTA Achievement Day 2013**
- March 2, 2013 **SSMTA Masterworks Festival**; Living Way Fellowship Church, 345 E. Wildcat Reserve Pkwy., Highlands Ranch, Colorado 80126
- March 3, 2013 **SSMTA Masterworks Festival Honors Recital**; Skyview Presbyterian Church, 251 E. Sterne Blvd., Centennial, CO 80122
- March 9–13, 2013 **2013 MTNA National Conference** at the *Disneyland* Resort in Anaheim
- April 6, 2013 **SSMTA Student Recital**; Skyview Presbyterian Church; 251 E. Sterne Blvd. (near Broadway & Arapahoe)
- June 5-8, 2013 **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*

**N**othing is better than teaching piano (or any musical instrument)

**E**veryday and

**W**orking with students throughout the

**Y**ear.

**E**ach one of our students is

**A**n opportunity to make a

**R**eal difference in the world.

**S**o, always give your very Best!!

Happy New Year!

Love to all!



### 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 DECEMBER 11, 2012 SSMTA MEETING

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

The minutes of the November, 2012 meeting were approved with the exception of one correction: SSMTA 2013 Masterworks Festival will be held Saturday, March 2, 2013, at Living Way Fellowship Church; and the recital(s) will be Sunday, March 3, 2013 at Skyview Presbyterian Church.

Gloria Ross read the Treasurer's report: checking account balance is \$6,806.65; and the savings account balance is \$10,000.43. \$250.00 was sent to MTNA's Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund from the SPARKS Fund and Liane Rockley's donation of her speaker fee.

### MEMBERSHIP

A warm welcome was extended to Guila Chavez from Rocky Mountain Recorders. Guila shared information about RMR, and invited teachers to use the facility as a venue for recitals. Recitals at the recording studio can be scheduled by appointment at no cost on evenings and weekends, and refreshments may be served.

A Yamaha grand piano is available for use, as well as seating for 50-75 people. Parents can purchase CD recordings of the recital at a nominal price if they so desire!

### TEACHING MOMENT

Marilyn Madsen and Vera Alder shared ideas that have proved to be successful in their studios.

#### **A summary from Vera Alder:**

Try adding a bit of technology to your studio. You don't have to have a lab.

There are a couple of websites that have excellent music-building skill games. Two that I use are [www.musiclearningcommunity.com](http://www.musiclearningcommunity.com) and tonicutor. MLC has free games. Or, for a small fee (\$19.95/mo.) you can have full access to learning games, quizzes, and challenges for an unlimited number of students. There are also midi-games for use directly with a keyboard. MLC has ways to set up contests for students,

and is correlated to the major methods by page. Even if you're not using a method, there are generic levels as well.

#### **MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2012 SSMTA MEETING (Cont'd)**

Tonic Tutor is a Canadian site that mainly uses Royal Conservatory of Music levels, which include more advanced levels. My high-schoolers actually prefer these, although the graphics are not as engaging. There is no charge for the first ten students enrolled. Above ten, there is a \$7 fee. Check them out for yourselves, and see how technology adds another dimension to learning music and theory.

### PROGRAM

Our December 2012 program is our traditional SSMTA Teacher Musicale, featuring performances by our SSMTA members.

### SSMTA STUDENT RECITALS

SSMTA 2013 Student Recitals will be held Saturday, February 9 at Schmitt Music; and Saturday, April 6th at Skyview Presbyterian Church. Entry forms (on the SSMTA website), and \$5.00/per student fee must be turned into Pam Simpson **two weeks prior to the recital date.**

### 2013 SSMTA ACHIEVEMENT DAY

Patty Kershaw reviewed registration materials for Achievement Day. Information and forms are available on the SSMTA website [www.ssmtamusicteachers.org](http://www.ssmtamusicteachers.org)

Completed forms and \$20.00 registration fee are due to Stephen Fiess no later than December 14, 2012. Kat Wagner reminded the group that all teachers entering students into Achievement Day must sign up for a committee. Pam Simpson and Sheila Hamaker will review Achievement Day practice tests to see if they accommodate preparation for 2013 Achievement Day tests.

## 2013 SSMTA MASTERWORKS FESTIVAL

Masterworks Festival is Saturday March 2, 2013, at Living Way Fellowship Church; and the Honors Recital is Sunday, March 3, 2013 at Skyview Presbyterian Church. Registration forms and \$20.00 fee **must be given to Robin Stewart no later than Friday, January 18, 2013.** Forms and details of Masterworks Festival are on the SSMTA website, and on Page 14 of the 2011-2012 Yearbook and Membership Directory. Questions can be directed to Ardith Sloan, Robin Stewart, or Pam Simpson.

## WEBSITE *(Reprinted from November)*

A **HUGE** round of applause goes to our website coordinator, Sheila Hamaker.

The website address is [www.ssmtamusicteachers.org](http://www.ssmtamusicteachers.org) and

On the website you will find information about our group, SSMTA events along with dates, entry forms and instructions for entering students. **Do take time to look at the new update.**

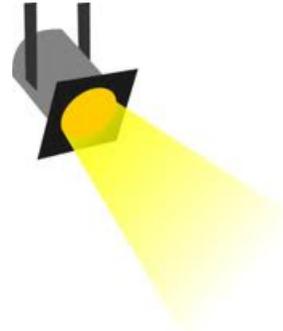
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 2013 MTNA National Conference is March 9-13 at Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, California. Registration after December 3, 2012, and **before February 1, 2013** is \$345.00. After February 1, 2013, the registration fee is \$395.00.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 A.M. followed by the December Musicale and potluck luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Garner



## SSMTA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

*Thanks to SSMTA Public Relations Chair Vera Alder for this excellent idea, our SSMTA newsletter will now feature a monthly "SSMTA Member Spotlight." This month's SSMTA Member Spotlight features SSMTA member Smita (Mary) Rodrigues...*

### Smita (Mary) Rodrigues

Smita (Mary) Rodrigues was born in Mumbai, India, and came to the United States when she married in 1998. She started studying piano at the age of 10 and never had to be told to practice because she always wanted to keep up with her elder sister. (No TV in the home must've been a help, too.) Her music teacher also offered group lessons and that kept her practicing as a teenager.

Her family was (and still is) heavily into Church music. Smita started accompanying the church choir at age 19 and graduated from the Trinity College of Music, London with a *Licentiate in Pianoforte* at age 24. She never had travelled to London, but was very grateful for the program offered by Trinity College in India.

Smita is now a homeschooling mom of 3, in Highlands Ranch. She is an accompanist for her parish's Children's Choir and limits her number of students as she tries to balance homeschool, Indian cooking and music. ☺

She continues to learn new music (especially Bach Inventions!) and continues to play accompaniments for her Dad (who plays violin) whenever she makes it to India.

**SSMTA MEETING DAY SCHEDULE  
Tuesday, January 8, 2013**

9:00 -- 9:20 a.m. Board Meeting  
 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 a.m. so we can begin the meeting on time.

Please plan to stay for the program.

**AT OUR JANUARY SSMTA MEETING**

Our January meeting program will feature a delightful program by Dr. Elizabeth Blades-Skinner, entitled ***“Let the Ease Be With You.”***

Please plan to join us for this wonderful and informative program!!

**REFRESHMENTS FOR OUR JANUARY MEETING**

Thank you to Vera Alder, Beverly Guth and Penny Moeller, who are providing our refreshments for our January SSMTA meeting!!

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

**SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE and EXPERIENCE ASSESSMENT**

South Suburban Music Teacher’s Association, in an effort to provide a more professional organization to enrich both teachers and students, would like all members to have the opportunity to participate in a skills, knowledge and experience assessment. As you know, our members are our biggest asset. Unless we know what members can do, we cannot be effective as an organization. Please note in the appropriate column or box if you have skills, knowledge, and/or experience in any of these areas. (Please use the reverse side of the form if you need more space.)

	Skills Programs	Knowledge & Training	Professional Experience
<b>Category</b>			
Nonprofit; i.e. grant-writing, Working w/volunteers, etc.			
Business; i.e. accounting, bookkeeping, etc.			
Legal (describe)			
Computers/Web; i.e. web and/or graphic design, social networking			
Marketing/PR; i.e. advertising Web mktg, sponsorships			
Multi-Media; i.e. photography Writing, painting, video			

SSMTA provides professional enrichment through its monthly programs. Please take a moment to provide us with topics you would like to see covered that will help provide information and/or training for our members to become the best teachers they can be.

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Thank you for your participation and for being an active part of SSMTA!

