

SOUTH SUBURBAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

October 2016 Newsletter

President: Gloria Ross (303) 290-0511

Membership Chair: Jean Lee-Baker (281) 705-1583

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

Website: www.ssmtamusicteachers.org

CALENDAR

October 11: October SSMTA Meeting (Arapahoe Road Baptist Church, 780 E. Arapahoe Road)

October 17: **Deadline for Ensemble Event entries**

October 29: SSMTA Hallowe'en Recital at Whole Food - **Entries and payment due by October 15th**

November 8: November SSMTA Meeting (Arapahoe Road Baptist Church, 780 E. Arapahoe Road)

November 12: SSMTA Ensemble Festival – Schmitt Music

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!



MEASURE FOR MEASURE

from Gloria Ross, President

I haven't seen you all yet this season, since I was gone last month, so I'm looking forward to next week's meeting! Thanks again to Linda Vogan for running the September meeting in my absence. Linda won't be at our October meeting, since she'll be having knee replacement surgery. Linda, we'll be praying for the success and safety on your procedure! Heal quickly!

How many students have you gotten excited about working toward a Performance Medal this year? I'm working on that right now, and hope most of my students will take advantage of SSMTA's excellent student activities. Our Hallowe'en recital is coming up soon, so conjure up those ghosts and goblins to perform for us! Ensemble Event is also just around the corner.

Cathy Motter has scheduled a wonderful program for us this month. Dr. Christelle Menth will discuss ways for us to teach our students to listen with a discerning ear to improve their musicianship. It's always nice to have a new element to try in our studios!

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!

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2016 SSMTA MEETING

The May SSMTA general meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m. by SSMTA Past President Linda Vogan.

MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to welcome two new members. Eric Jones is a native Coloradan who teaches in Littleton. Cheryl Sherer-Buettner has moved from Boulder to Highlands Ranch.

Two guests and potential members who also visited us are Pam McNamara, who lives in Evergreen and will travel to teach, and Kristen Carlson.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Sheila Hamaker discussed the Budget Review for the 2015-2016 year, as well as the approved budget for the 2016-2017 year.

As of September 13, 2016, there is a balance of \$4,514.00 in our checking account; and \$10,101.00 in our CD savings.

As of July 31, we had 44 members (36 regular and 8 seniors). We ended \$500 in the red for student events last year.

Sheila has asked for input on how to fund our scholarships. She is proposing using some of our savings for that purpose, and would like suggestions on a minimum for us to keep in savings.

WEBSITE

If you see a misspelling or inaccuracy on our website, especially regarding activities and due dates, please contact Sheila Hamaker as soon as possible.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES REPORT

by Vice President of Student Activities Pam Simpson

SSMTA Student Recitals

- October 29th Hallowe'en recital (registrations due October 15th)
- December 10th
- February 11th
- April 8th

SSMTA Ensemble Event

Yoko Ashcroft, Marilyn Madsen, and Smita Rodrigues are the chairs for this event. This year, Ensemble Event will be held at Schmitt Music on November 12th. There will be seven recital scheduled.

Please send your application by October 17 or bring it to our October Meeting. We need help in various areas in order to have a smoothly-run Festival. Please let Yoko know if you can help. Teachers are allowed to play two pieces with their students.

2017 Achievement Day

Kaye Craig is in charge of SSMTA Student Achievement Day. There will be some new games in the game room! Leila Viss will run a Junk Yard Rhythm Band to amuse and inspire. Achievement Day will be held on February 25. The due date for registrations and payment is December 27.

2017 Masterworks Festival

Cathy Motter is the chair, with Robin Stewart assisting.

The Festival is scheduled for March 11, with the *Honors Recital* following the next day.

Respectfully submitted,

Nazila Nekoerad, secretary

A COURTESY REMINDER

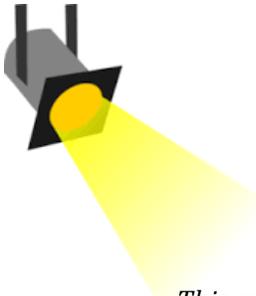
If any members have suggestions regarding SSMTA Student Activities or other aspects of the running of SSMTA, please contact the president, Gloria Ross, as opposed to bringing these items up at the meeting. Please remember to keep suggestions positive and keep in mind the hard work and great service our volunteers provide.

SSMTA OCTOBER MEETING PROGRAM

from Cathy Motter, program chair

Dr. Christelle Menth has shared some thoughts about her upcoming presentation on the subject of "*Listening: Some Thoughts on Teaching and Performing*":

This presentation is about helping our students (and each one of us) to really listen carefully as they practice and as they perform. What can we, as teachers, do to help pay attention to each sound at the piano? How can we present new music to them in such a way as to guide their listening? When they learn a new piece, can they learn to look at the score before playing and listen in their heads? This presentation is geared to teaching, but also aims to ask questions which might be helpful for any of us who perform.



SSMTA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

This month's SSMTA Member Spotlight features SSMTA member Eric Jones.

I grew up in a home where music was highly valued and was a constant companion. My grandmother had been a highly respected piano teacher for over 75 years; and my engineer father, who picked up the violin in his childhood, performed for many years in a number of ensembles. When I was a child, I enjoyed exploring the piano and experimenting with sounds. My journey with the piano began when my mother taught me to play some tunes by watching her fingers, seeing patterns, and listening. Starting in third grade, I began traditional piano lessons, which I continued on a weekly basis all the way through high school. During these years, I enjoyed improvising in various styles, as well as performing classical music, including piano-violin duets with my father. Later, I studied classical and jazz music at the Indiana University *Jacobs School of Music*, and for a short time had the privilege of being a student of the renowned classical pianist Leonard Hokanson.

After university, I was involved in the music business in Nashville, arranging and producing music for songwriters. At this time, I also began teaching piano lessons.

Later, my career path took a different turn, and after finishing graduate school with a Masters' degree in Linguistics, I (together with my wife, Gwyn) moved to Russia in 1994 and immersed myself in the world of translation, cultural documentation and ethnomusicology. During this season of our lives, as a family of

four (now with a daughter and son), we experienced the richness of diverse cultures, histories and traditions, including an amazing variety of musical traditions.

After returning to Littleton, Colorado, in 2007, my career consisted of a combination of piano teaching, photography and filmmaking (I was making expeditions back to Russia and other countries, including Azerbaijan, to produce a documentary film *Yikbi*, and create a collection of cultural photographs).

When it comes to the piano, I love to teach the essence of good technique, the knowledge of the 'why' behind music (i.e. theory), ear training, rhythm and reading skills, memorization of a wide repertoire from the great composers, and efficient practice time. But most importantly, the goal of my approach is to make sure that students are thoroughly enjoying the piano!

In addition to teaching, I enjoy performing and composing music. I also continue to take delight in photography and videography. But there is something special about teaching, and it is truly an honor for me to be able to pass on my knowledge and skills to others, who can then share their own talents with the world.



SSMTA MEETING DAY SCHEDULE

October 11, 2016

<i>9:10 -- 9:30 a.m.</i>	<i>Arrival/Social Time/Browse SPARKS music</i>
<i>9:30 -- 10:20 a.m.</i>	<i>SSMTA General Meeting and</i>
<i>10:20 -- 10:35 a.m.</i>	<i>Break/Browse</i>
<i>10:35 -- 11:40 a.m.</i>	<i>Program</i>

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 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. Let's please make a special effort this year 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 OCTOBER SSMTA PROGRAM

The October meeting program will be presented by Colorado Christian University Professor Dr. Christelle Menth, on the subject of *Listening: Some Thoughts on Teaching and Performing*. Please plan to attend this interesting and informative program!

REFRESHMENTS FOR OUR OCTOBER MEETING

Thank you to Linda Cody, Sheila Connolly-McKin and a mysterious third party for bringing refreshments for this month's meeting!! Ongoing thanks to Barb Galuzzi for taking such good care of hospitality at all our meetings and student events!