

SOUTH SUBURBAN MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

April 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: ssmtamusicteachers.org

CALENDAR

- April 12: April SSMTA Meeting;
Arapahoe Road Baptist Church,
780 E. Arapahoe Road
- May 10: May SSMTA Meeting/Potluck Luncheon;
Arapahoe Road Baptist Church,
780 E. Arapahoe Road
- June 2-4: CSMTA State Conference, Pueblo
comusicteachers.net
Early Conference Registration Discount ends May 1st

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!

♪ ON A PERSONAL NOTE ♪

Warmest congratulations to Columbine MTA on the occasion of their 25th Anniversary as a local association!!!! Columbine MTA recently celebrated their 25th Anniversary with a wonderful, very nostalgic gathering, including 2- and 3-generation student/teacher performances!!!

Many happy returns, CMTA!!!!

MEASURE FOR MEASURE

from Gloria Ross, President

We've just wrapped up our last official SSMTA student event for the school year! I hope you and your students found the activities enriching and instructive! It's rewarding to watch our protégés blossom! We can even find satisfaction in those students whose musical careers get nipped in the bud, because we know we've given them good basic training that may flower later!

I just returned from the MTNA National Conference in San Antonio last week. I'll share a little of that experience with you at the meeting, but will go into more detail in May when we have more time.

At this month's meeting we'll be discussing implementing a fee for non-members to participate in our events. To maintain our 501(c)(3) status, we are required to be open to the community; however, since our members pay substantial dues, we are within our rights to charge a non-member fee to compensate. Ardith gave us background information at the February meeting, so we'll use that to begin the conversation. Based on another local group's policy, we're proposing the following as an amendment to our By-Laws:

Non-member teachers (non-MTNA/CSMTA – [or non-SSMTA]) will pay \$25 per event to enter students in SSMTA student activities. Their students will pay one and one-half times the SSMTA member student entry fee. They must contact the event Chair for instructions and guidelines and will be required to work during the event.

Please give this issue serious thought and share your ideas with us. See you Tuesday!

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 MARCH 8, 2016 SSMTA MEETING

The March SSMTA general meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m. by SSMTA President Gloria Ross.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Sheila Hamaker filed the Treasurer's Report. Our checking account balance is \$8,749.00 and our CD balance is \$10,091.00. The SPARKS music sale at Achievement Day brought in \$110.00 for SPARKS.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

2016 SSMTA Achievement Day

We had a very successful Achievement Day. The new Performance Class format brought up suggestions of having a maximum of six students per session, and having a round table for student discussion. Kaye Craig mentioned possibly having Leila Viss offer a session on jazz improvisation next year for a change of pace.

SSMTA Student Recitals

April 9, 2016 will be the last SSMTA student recital for the 2015-2016 season.

2016 SSMTA Masterworks Festival

Auditions will be on Saturday, March 12 at Christ Lutheran Church, Highlands Ranch. The Honors Recital will take place the following day at Skyview Presbyterian Church, Centennial.

Members will consider voting about the non-member fees to participate our festivals and activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Nazila Nekoerad, SSMTA Secretary



IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

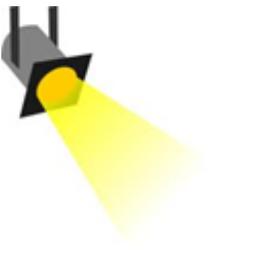
Our love and sincere sympathy is extended to Dr. Stephen Fiess in the loss of his mother. His mom was also an excellent pianist, and served as a church organist at the church where his father was pastor. □



PIANO FOR SALE

Kawai Baby Grand Piano for sale. Model GE - IE Vintage is 1997. Excellent condition. Appraised at \$12,000.

Please contact Nic Thomson
720-323-0955
nicscotland2002@msn.com



SSMTA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

*This month's SSMTA Member Spotlight features SSMTA
Member Michelle Lauritzen*

Michelle Lauritzen

Some of my earliest memories are of my Father playing the piano every night to put me and my 3 siblings to sleep. My favorite piece of his at the time was *Rustle of Spring* by Christian Sinding. My favorite-list of his soon grew to include Beethoven's *Sonata Pathetique*, Chopin's *Military Polonaise* and others. I was mesmerized by hearing the music and watching my Father's hands move so powerfully and quickly over the keys. Luckily for me, my father was an accomplished pianist and soloist, and I grew up with a baby grand piano in the house. My mother played the piano as well. At the age of five I began asking for a piano lesson

almost every day and I would practice on my own in addition to this. Music brought me a way to express myself and I found a lot of comfort and joy in it.

When I was eight, we moved to Kenner, Louisiana, right outside of New Orleans and my parents started me with piano lessons from a teacher that I became very fond of and stayed with until I went to college. My Father and I continued to connect a lot over music and he would spend hours with me singing melodies as I played. He'd also dance around the room, waving his arms, conducting to help me play with a lot of dynamic expression. This was my favorite part of music. He'd also spend countless time with me with the metronome helping me master difficult passages one tick at a time. I began entering a lot of piano competitions and did quite well. By the time I was 13, I auditioned for the Jr. Philharmonic for the State of Louisiana and was chosen as 1 of 5 winners for the state. Two years later, I was able to audition again and won again.

By the time I was 17, I received a fully paid 5-year scholarship to Loyola University, but at that time I wasn't sure I wanted to major in music, so I chose to go to Principia College in Illinois instead. It was a small liberal arts college. I chose to Major in Russian Studies, but kept taking music lessons and took so many music classes that I ended up easily double majoring in Music Performance.

My whole growing up, I always said that I didn't want to be a music teacher. Haha!! Well, my love of kids and my love of music changed that as I got older and I learned what a joy it is to give to others something that came so easily to me growing up. I've taught piano since I left college, although I have also held several other jobs such working as a mental health counselor and a working as a graphic design artist.

I now have two beautiful daughters ages 10 and 12. They are the joy of my life, and to my surprise, they both LOVE to play the piano! Many of you have met them because they are growing up with SSMTA. They dance and do other things as well, but it so much fun to have the connection of music again that I had with my Father. For the past two years, I have begun to unschool them as well. Unschooling is a form of homeschooling. They still are schooling, but they get to choose what they would like to study and for how long. They both play the piano 45 minutes to an hour every day by choice...sometimes longer....and I am realizing that at this rate they will pass me up at some point. That is a wonderful problem to have!

For now, this is a glimpse of where life has taken me. Life is wonderful and I am happy getting to interact with so many wonderful people through piano!

