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Outreach Recitals:  
Ellen Nixon  
Kathy Ranus  
Rockin' the Keys:  
Maxine Berghoff  
Teacher of the Year:  
Margarete Thomsen  
Teacher Referrals:  
Debra Cox  
Website/Newsletter:  
Margarete Thomsen

## LAPTF Newsletter

### December 2015

#### *General Meeting December 2nd*

#### From the President's desk

*Dear colleagues:*

Beginning with this edition I have taken over the responsibility of editing and publishing the newsletter, a task normally performed by the president until as past president, Nancy Whitaker offered to continue. For many years she did an unparalleled and efficient job. Her departure left a considerable void, not only for her contributions to this organization but also the absence of a wonderful human being in our musical surrounding. The preparation of the newsletter was one of the many activities she performed.

When she left, Margarete Thomsen graciously stepped in offering to take over the task thereby adding a new activity to her already overloaded agenda. We thank you Margarete, for the generous contribution of your time and expertise to our group.

I would also like to thank Maria Holian for her excellent job as Chair of the Certification committee. Many of us who went through the arduous process to obtain our teacher's certificate experienced her kind, encouraging and always helpful guidance. Janice Derian will now take over that position.

We highly recommend our member teachers to take this wonderful journey. Janice will not only have the right answers to your questions but will be ready to give all the help needed.

Committee Chairpersons and all members who have news or information to share should address these to me.

Have a great Thanksgiving celebration with a happy heart, grateful stomach and the company of all the people you love.

Sincerely,

Alicia Operti

**Guest Speaker:** Dr. Tian Tian

**Topic:** Chopin and the Development of Technique

Dr. Tian's presentation "Chopin and The Development of Technique" will start with a performance of four Chopin Etudes (Op 10, #4, #2, and Op. 27 #7 and #11). She will give a brief outline on how to prepare students to successfully play advanced repertoire from the earliest years of piano studies. Dr. Tian will provide clear examples demonstrating technical and musical development, using a progression of exercises, etudes and repertoire. Q&A following.

LAPTF is very fortunate to have Dr. Tian as our speaker. Recently appointed Assistant Professor of Piano at Oakland University, she started her studies in China, continued with Logan Skelton, obtained her B.M. and M.M. from Julliard and finished at Eastman with a D.M.A.

**Location:** Steinway Piano Gallery, Commerce Township

Please don't miss this inspiring opportunity while mingling around and enjoying your colleague's company.

## **Upcoming Events:** "Rockin' the Keys"

***December 12, 2015***

Reminder from Maxine Berghoff for the teachers whose students are participating in this charity event.

You can prepare your students information for performance on paper if it's easier for you than index cards. Please be sure to indicate their age and the amount of money they raised.

Please spell the names **phonetically** if they are a bit difficult to pronounce. It is also fine if you prefer to announce your students yourself. Let me know when you arrive. Please try to have everyone there at least 20 minutes before performance.

If you are not sure of the location please contact Maxine.

All participants are requested to remain at the site until all their fellow performers have played and support them

### **Outreach Recital *Sunday, Dec. 6 at 2pm***

The holidays are around the corner, and if you are looking for a place for your students to display their talents, consider having them participate in the Community Outreach Recital, which will be held at the Evergreen Health and Living Center (located at Evergreen Rd. and 13 mile).

It will be a relaxed atmosphere. Please contact Ellen Nixon to register your students. Contact info 734-427-7496 or [ellelounixon@gmail.com](mailto:ellelounixon@gmail.com)

The next Outreach Recital is scheduled on **February 14** at Waldenwood. More information will follow.

## Award for Piano Performance Excellence

Please save these dates:

Audition date: **April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016** – Judges for the Audition: Eric Van Der Vort and Derek Polischuk

Recital date: **April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

### INVITATIONS FROM OTHER VENUES

WMU is excited to launch "Piano Day" a new, *\*free\** event for piano students ages 12 and up, to be held on December 6th at WMU's Dalton Center. See attached fliers for information



WMU Piano Day.pdf



WMU Piano Day BW  
Flyer.pdf

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**The Oakland Piano Teacher's Forum** is pleased to announce the upcoming appearance of Randall Faber. Mr. Faber's lecture is entitled "Developing Musical Minds, Hearts and Communities". The event takes place on **Friday, January 29, 2016 at 10:30 AM** at the Farmington Community Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI.

**Steinway Piano Gallery** is announcing their "Holiday Piano Magic" Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> where Reception and Dinner at 6:30 will be followed by Concert at 8:00 where two of our own talented and active members (the Mack Sisters), will join their pianistic ability to other great musicians.

For tickets and more information, Contact Cathy Loudon at 248-560-92—or e-mail [cloudon@steinwaydetroit.com](mailto:cloudon@steinwaydetroit.com) before November 25<sup>th</sup>.

**2026 MTNA National Conference** – To be held in San Antonio, Texas, April 2 to 6. Registration before December 2<sup>nd</sup> gets a special rate of \$325

### MTNA SURVEYS

Dear MTNA Member:

MTNA is a participating organization for an important new study in music teaching. *We are inviting you to complete a music teacher survey and to engage your students and their parents in completing special surveys for them.* In doing so, you will be contributing to our learning more about the experiences of students, parents, and teachers in music studios around the world.

The research is being conducted by Dr. Rena Upitis, principal investigator at Queen's University in Canada. It is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, and Queen's and Concordia Universities.

**Why participate?** By gaining a better understanding of challenges and successes in music teaching and learning we will be able to develop better tools and programs. In fact, there is a digital tool you may like to try at [www.dreammusictool.ca](http://www.dreammusictool.ca).

The link to the **Teacher Survey** is here:

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2179593/Music-Teacher-Survey>

The link to the **Parent Survey** is here:

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2179027/Parent-Survey>

The link to the **Student Survey** is here:

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2179469/Music-Student-Survey>

If you have any questions regarding the survey or the research being conducted, please email:

[jane.willms@queensu.ca](mailto:jane.willms@queensu.ca).

**2015 Technology Survey for Piano Teachers.** To fill it out, visit:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/16L9W-zTDg-578sgYRrfUXDfU5McFIMHHmpeUEoH-Yg8/viewform?c=0&w=1&usp=mail\\_form\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/16L9W-zTDg-578sgYRrfUXDfU5McFIMHHmpeUEoH-Yg8/viewform?c=0&w=1&usp=mail_form_link)

### **Student Referrals**

Contact Debbie Cox. She will direct students to teachers in the area who have available lesson spots. Contact her at [dcgomsu@yahoo.com](mailto:dcgomsu@yahoo.com) or 248-210-6036 include city and nearest cross streets.

### **Member Updates & Changes**

Please add this information to your directory page

#### **New member.**

Deborah Anne Szeliga  
40867 Rehse Dr.  
Clinton Township MI 48038  
(586) 477-9408  
[dszeliga@gmail.com](mailto:dszeliga@gmail.com)

**New phone number:** Christina Smith: (734)524-9027

**New Certification Chair:** Janice Derian

## **Classifieds**

Baldwin Acrosonic. 36" spinet. Modern mahogany case with bench.  
Built 1956. Well maintained. Solid starter. \$425.00 or best offer

Ivers and Pond 5'10" grand. New mahogany finish in year 2000. Ivory keys.  
Built 1917. Solid quality family piano. \$1500.00 or best offer

Young Chang 5'2" grand. Gloss ebony with bench. Model G157 Built 1983. Tuned since new by Greg. Estate sale. Priced to sell. \$3000.00 or best offer

Contact: [pond.gregpond@gmail.com](mailto:pond.gregpond@gmail.com) 248-885-0103