



January Meeting

Wednesday, January 6th 2016

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| <u>Guest Speaker:</u> | Linette-Popoff-Parks – Madonna University |
| <u>Location:</u> | Evola Music of Canton |
| <u>Topic:</u> | “How to teach Theory to Teach Improvisation”. The following repertoire will be used in this presentation: Knech Rupert by Schumann; Sonata in C Hob. XVI: 50 3rd movement by Haydn and Prelude in E minor by Chopin. |

From the President’s Desk:

Dear Colleagues:

Let me begin this letter noting what a wonderful and special end of the year meeting we had with the presentation of Dr. Tian Tian on “Chopin and the Development of Technique”. She started with a flawless and inspired performance of four of Chopin Etudes, followed by a very clear explanation on the diverse perspectives to be considered in the application of technique, such as aspects related to sound, body and hand movement, and the steps to take from the very beginning to achieve the desired results. Ample examples and demonstrations sustained her concepts. She finished with a very educational question and answer session.

On December 6th, we had the Outreach Recital at the Evergreen Health and Living Center. Students from Christina Dragone, Maria Holian and Ellen Nixon Participated. The Center shared an ice-cream social which was enjoyed by students and teachers alike.

For the second consecutive year, “Rockin’ the Keys” was a very successful event. We want to acknowledge and congratulate Maxine Berghoff who worked with the director of the Sand Castles program to organize and perform the tremendous task of bringing this venture to function. As one of the teachers whose students participated, I was very proud of LAPTF’s role in helping Sandcastles achieve its mission.

A very important event is approaching with SAT around the corner, adding an extra chore to our already loaded ‘dance card’ of teaching endeavors. I would like to remind all the teachers whose students participate, that its execution rests on our shoulders and that it benefits our own students. Please don’t hesitate to generously volunteer your time and work for this important purpose. We want to recognize and thank Doris Edwards who, with Diana Munch, have for many years been carrying the enormous task of planning and setting up this complex program.



As we come to the end of 2015 I want to stress the benefits that LPTF's monthly meetings provide to all its members and entice you to attend each and every one of them. Thanks to our Programs Chair, Christina Dragone, and her diligent selection of speakers, we are able to enjoy and profit from the knowledge, experience and artistry of the guest speakers she has chosen.

With the Holiday Season in full gear, I would like to offer my best wishes to you and your family for a happy, smooth and meaningful celebration.

Sincerely,
Alicia Operti

Upcoming LPTF Events:

Outreach Recital

February 14:

2016 at Waltenwoods, 42600 Cherry Hill, Canton

SAT

Sunday, March 6, 2016 – Levels 1-3:

Schoolcraft Community College in Livonia

Friday, March 11, 2016 – Levels 8-10:

Steinway Piano Gallery of Detroit, Commerce Township
late afternoon/evening

Sunday, March 13, 2016 – Levels 4-7:

Steinway Piano Gallery of Detroit, Commerce Township
all day

Reminder: January 8th is the deadline to submit the following:

- 1) Registration sheet; with correct information on level, years and whether the student receive trophies
- 2) Repertoire Sheets (no performance)
- 3) Workers Sheets and your commitment day.

Changes will not be made after applications were presented.

Eastern District Semi-Finals: April 16, 2016

Steinway Piano Gallery of Detroit, Commerce Township

State Finals: Saturday, May 7, 2016

Michigan State University, College of Music, East Lansing



Honors recital:

Sunday, April 10, 2 PM at Steinway Gallery

Award for Piano Performance Excellence:

Audition Date: April 23, 2016

Recital Date: April 30, 2016

Invitations for other Events:

The Oakland Piano Teachers Forum:

Friday, January 29, 2016 at 10:30 AM - Farmington Community Library

Piano Day at Oakland University:

Sunday, January 31, 2016. Noon to 6:00 PM. For students age 10 to 18. (Registration Fee: \$35.00) Contact Deneen V. Stapleton, stapleto@oakland.edu for more information.

Piano Day at Grand Valley State University

February 19, 2016 (Snow date: Friday, February 26, 2016. Registration must be received by Friday, February 26) Contact Dr. Helen Marlais (marlaish@gvsu.edu) or Dr. Sookkyung Cho choso@gvsu.edu

International Piano Competition:

(Beginners to 25 years old) in Volski, Russia, February 20-22. Winners have opportunity to perform with the Volski Symphony Orchestra. Flyer attached.

2016 MTNA National Conference:

April 2 – 6 in San Antonio, Texas

2016 State Conference:

October 9 – 11 in Midland, Michigan

Other Notes of Interest:

Maria Holian, one of our very active and supportive members, was a presenter at this year's MMTA Conference at Grand Rapids on a subject she called: "I See..., I Feel.... , I Hear. A Multi-Sensory Approach to Piano Teaching". I am conveying her words reflecting the essence of her dissertation.

"In order to instruct my student on how to listen to their body to acquire a balanced piano technique I developed "I See...I Feel... I Hear". This is an educational hands-on course of study that integrates the visual, sensory, and auditory components of performance. In the "I See" component, the participant observes physical positions. The sensory or "I Feel" component teaches the participant to sense muscular activity through the fingertips and to correlate the sensations with the visual presentation. The "I Hear"



component combines listening to tone quality produced and correlating the tone quality with the physical position seen, and the muscular activity sensed. The teachers found it very interesting to learn how the hand was constructed and asked how to resolve unwanted movements.

I would be happy to work with teachers to explain this approach. Also, if they would like a presentation to the students of their studio, please contact Maria Holian at mholian@netzero.net."

A Thank you Note

Doris Edward wishes to express her appreciation for the beautiful flower arrangement she received from LPTF members during the time she spent at the hospital do to a minor health problem.

Classifieds:

Yamaha "Portable Grand" digital piano/ DGX-505, like new. \$500 or best offer. Call Matthias Meyer at 248-515-0652.

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| BOARD MEMBERS |
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| STANDING COMMITTEES |
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| <i>Awards (APPE):</i> | Sonia Geoffrey | <i>Membership:</i> | Irina Semenova | <i>Recital Chair:</i> | Ellen Nixon |
| <i>Certification:</i> | Janice Derian | <i>MMTA/SAT:</i> | Doris Edwards | <i>Rockin' the Keys</i> | Maxine Berghoff |
| <i>Historian:</i> | Sue Schlabach | <i>Newsletter:</i> | Alicia Operti | <i>Teacher of the Year:</i> | Margarete Thomsen |
| <i>Honors Recitals:</i> | Ellen Nixon | <i>Outreach Recitals:</i> | Ellen Nixon/ Kathy Ranus | <i>Teacher Referrals:</i> | Debra Cox |
| <i>Hospitality:</i> | Maria Holian / Mijung M. Lee | | | <i>Website:</i> | Margarete Thomsen |