

STACCATO NOTES

The official newsletter of the Seattle Music Teachers Association
seattlemta.org

JUNE/JULY 2023

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

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|--------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| * June 1 | Deadline to request WSMTA conference grant |
| * June 3 | End of Year Party |
| * June 20 | CIG: Masterclass Discussion Group |
| * June 26-28 | WSMTA State Conference |
| * June 30 | Last day to pay MTNA dues for yearbook inclusion |

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Will you look at that, we made it!

Another year in the books, another successful collection of educational and inspirational offerings in all shapes and sizes. From the most formal to the most casual, we are a vibrant chapter thanks to the tireless and talented work of our many committed members. It's cool, we're cool, and you're cool; congrats!

On that topic, I want to celebrate and extend my gratitude to a late addition to our 2023/2024 board, as Colleen Kennedy has been gracious enough to step in as our Secretary for the coming season with a vote set for September. An important role with well defined expectations, the Secretary's efforts are the institutional memory that keeps us on track when we're in the midst of everything, and an excellent way to get involved and acquainted without getting overwhelmed. Thank you very much Colleen, we're all looking forward to seeing you soon!

Meanwhile I hope those of you that joined us for our meetings this year enjoyed yourselves half as much as I did, and for those that didn't make it this time around I hope you'll manage it next year. Between socializing with snacks, exquisite performances, and visiting presenters on all sorts of fascinating topics, they're an apex way to start a day. And for those of you, like me, that are not natural morning people, the online meetings have been a pajama and coffee laden treat I highly recommend.

Otherwise I look forward to seeing you all (or at least many of you) Saturday, June 3rd at Bonnie Blanchard's house for our summer celebration. To quote 'we'll be starting around cocktail hour', aka 5 PM, and if you've never been to Bonnie's you're in for a blissful treat. After that there's the state conference at the end of June, and then before you know it we'll be back at it with the Bite of SMTA in September.

Good luck with your summer recitals, enjoy whatever break you take, and I can't wait to see you next year for a fresh round of engagements and opportunities for us and our students.

Make music and musicians,

Ryan

SMTA END OF YEAR PARTY: JUNE 3, 2023

SMTA's end of the year party will be at Bonnie's house on the lake! There will be swimming, games, wine, and it will be fun!

Saturday June 3rd, 5-10pm

Bonnie Blanchard's home: 12212 Densmore Ave N, Seattle, 98133

RSVP: Sophia @ 206-310-3769

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES: MAY 2023

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES Friday, May 19th, 2023 Music Center of the Northwest

Attendance

SMTA requires 10 members present for a quorum. A quorum was present. Attendance for the meeting was taken, and the minutes were recorded by Katie Levine.

Today's music was a steamy rendition of Barber's Hesitation Tango played by Tom Lee.

The meeting was called to order at 9:35am by Ryan Worswick, President.

No corrections to the April Minutes.

RoseMarie Tamburri MOVES to Approve April Minutes, Kathy Mortensen SECONDS, Motion APPROVED.

Business Meeting and Announcements

Kathy Mortensen and RoseMarie Tamburri:

- Planning an SMTA Basket for auction at WSMTA conference in June. Theme for our basket is: "Socks in the City". Accepting donations of socks or money.
- SMTA has conference grants available for ½ off the early bird registration. The application is on the SMTA website

Peter Mack:

- Peter is teaching at the Northern Lights Music Festival this summer. It is a 3 week camp from 7/1-7/21.

Bonnie Blanchard:

- SMTA's end of the year party will be at Bonnie's house on the lake! There will be swimming, games, wine, and it will be fun!

2023/2024 Budget (Ann Simonson)

We are planning to take more income out of Dorothy Woodcock to cover rising post-pandemic costs of venues, hotels, flights, etc.

MOTION to approve the Budget for 2023-2024

Kathy Mortensen moved. RoseMarie Tamburri Seconded. Motion Carried.

Board of Directors Election

Immediate Past President Katie Levine announced the nominations for the SMTA Board of Directors for the 2023-2024 term. The nominees are:

Ryan Worswick – President

Josie Zocco - President Elect

TBD – Secretary

Ann Simonson – Treasurer

Sophia Pereyra-Johnston – Board Member At Large

Eric Branner – Board Member At Large

Peter Mack moved to elect the Slate of Officers as announced. RoseMarie Tamburri Seconded. Motion Carried.

Presentation:

Ross Salvosa presented “Breaking Free of Debussy’s Shackles: A Survey of Southeast-Asian Piano Music”. The presentation illustrated how Debussy’s appropriation of the Gamelan sonority impacted the reception of music by other Southeast-Asian composers such as Antonio Molina, Ramon Tapales and Lucio San Pedro.

11:00 am meeting adjourned.

SOCKS IN THE CITY: SMTA BASKET AT STATE CONFERENCE

Contributions Accepted at the May General Meeting

‘Socks in the City’ is the theme for this year’s SMTA Basket to be auctioned at the WSMTA Conference in June. The Conference dates are June 26 – 28 at Sun Mountain Lodge in Winthrop. (Please go to the WSMTA website – wsmta.org - for information and to register.)

One of the most fun activities at the Conference is the Basket Auction. Please consider donating a new pair of socks for the basket. Socks can be music-themed or feature fuzzy creatures. How about warm and cozy slipper socks? Or brighten up your footwear with the colors of the rainbow or stars and stripes? If you prefer, you may donate cash or check made payable to SMTA, and let us do the shopping. We will collect items and cash donations at the April 21 and May 19 general meetings.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support of WSMTA’s grants and student and teacher enrichment funds. Contact Kathy Mortensen: kmortensenpiano@gmail.com or RoseMarie Tamburri: ronyc714@aol.com

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE GRANTS

Plan for the WSMTA Conference June 26-28, 2023

The annual WSMTA Conference will take place June 26 - June 28 at the Sun Mountain Lodge in Winthrop, WA. This resort, positioned in the beautiful Methow Valley, will offer an amazing conference experience with engaging professional development sessions, recitals, honors performances, opportunities for fun social events, and more.

To encourage participation, the SMTA Board approved \$1,500 to help defray the cost of early-bird registration for members who attend. Grant requests must be made no later than June 1

(for this conference) and will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Once registration is verified, a check request will be issued for one-half of the early-bird registration fee until the \$1,500 is exhausted.

You can register for the conference at the WSMTA website - <https://wsmta.org/2023-conference-registration/> and apply for the SMTA Conference Attendance Grant at: <https://www.seattlemta.org/stipends-grants>

Thank you and hope to see you at the WSMTA Conference in June!

RoseMarie Tamburri & Kathy Mortensen

Co-chairs, Dorothy Woodcock Oversight Committee

SAFE AND SOUND GRANTS 2022 - 2023

Recommended by the Dorothy Woodcock Oversight Committee, the Board approved another round of Safe and Sound Grants for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Ten grants of \$100 each will be available starting on December 1, 2022. Last year, six teachers received the Safe and Sound grant to help with pandemic related supplies and tools. Teachers purchased microphones, tripods, lights, headphones, masks, sanitizer, air filters, and more!

Application Guidelines:

- This grant may be used for any purchase made after July 1, 2022
- Applicants who have never received a Safe and Sound Grant may apply starting Dec. 1
- Applicants who received a grant last year may apply starting Feb. 1
- Please apply online at www.seattlemta.org/stipends-grants

DOROTHY WOODCOCK MUSICLINK TEACHERS STIPEND

The MusicLink Foundation (musiclinkfoundation.org) is a national non-profit organization linking music teachers with low-income students who are not able to afford music lessons. MusicLink teachers volunteer to teach these students at up to half of their normal fee, while MusicLink handles the process of determining a student's financial eligibility and provides support and discounts for participating teachers.

MusicLink has adjusted income eligibility to help families who might be struggling financially due to the Covid-19 pandemic. If you have students you are already teaching in your studio who are struggling financially, MusicLink could be a great option for you!

SMTA teachers who are registered through MusicLink and are actively teaching students registered through MusicLink for at least 3 months are eligible for a \$600 Dorothy Woodcock MusicLink Teachers Stipend. More information is available on the SMTA website under "Stipends and Grants."

Please consider signing up to be a MusicLink teacher! Not only does it make you eligible for a teaching stipend, but it supports the SMTA values of access and widespread availability of music instruction. It's

free and easy to register whether you are already teaching a student at a discounted rate, or whether you are looking to begin teaching a new student waiting to be linked. To become a MusicLink Teacher, contact Washington State Coordinator Amanda Snell (amandacs87@gmail.com).

COMMON INTEREST GROUP: MASTERCLASS DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday, June 20, 2023
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Did you know that MTNA offers webinars for members on varied topics of interest, and that they are recorded so you can watch any time? And that is more motivating, more fun, and you come away with richer understanding when you discuss with others? This will be a CIG (Common Interest Group) similar to a book club, except discussing webinars instead of books. Join any or all of the sessions! Watch this recorded webinar before the meeting date:

The Eight Directions of Arm Movement

https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/JoinandRenew/Membership/Members_Only/MTNA_Webinars/Webinars_7.aspx#direction

Join the Zoom meeting to discuss with fellow SMTA teachers on June 20th. Email smtaoffice@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

SIMON-FISET COMPOSITION 2023 RESULTS

Thank you to all the composers and teachers who participated in the Simon-Fiset Composition Contest this year. In all, we had 16 entries. Congratulations to all of the composers on a job well done! Our adjudicator Dr. Benjamin Krause commented, "This (ranking the pieces) was very difficult to do, because each piece had so much going for it."

Our winners include:

Myrtle Nobel Division

FIRST PLACE: "Magic Bird Lovela Saves the Day" by Vivian Luo, student of Sharon Van Valin

SECOND PLACE: "Shadows" by Griffin Waliczek, student of Christopher Valauri

Vie Husted Division

FIRST PLACE: "Dawning Sun" by Nathaniel Hart, student of Katie O'Rourke

SECOND PLACE: "World Unraveling" by Sage Waliczek, student of Christopher Valauri

THIRD PLACE: "Spring" by Xianglin Liu, (No teacher)

Laura Jensen Division

FIRST PLACE: "Dirge from an Imagined World" by Brannon Warn-Johnston, student of Sharon Van Valin

SECOND PLACE: "Forest Fantasia" by Eli Antony, student of Sharon Van Valin

THIRD PLACE: "Tidepools/Moods of the Sea" by Brannon-Warn-Johnston, student of Sharon Van Valin

HONORABLE MENTION: "Twelve Tone Taxi Cab" by Viv Tynes, student of Janet Anderson

Lockrem Johnson Division

FIRST PLACE: "Emerging Life" by Zesheng Huang, student of Sharon Van Valin

SECOND PLACE: "Faint Alpenglow" by Mia Chen, student of Sharon Van Valin

THIRD PLACE: "Return of Spring" by Carson Ling-Efird, student of Sharon Van Valid

HONORABLE MENTION: "Ethereal Peak" by Rachel Kim, student of Sharon Van Valin

Results submitted by Laura Dean

MUSIC LITERACY PROGRAM 2023 RESULTS

SMTA held another successful Music Literacy Program ("MLP") event on May 6th and May 7th at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle. Eight Seattle-area teachers registered sixty-nine students for the two-day event. I am running out of adjectives to describe our SMTA volunteers. If it weren't for you, big programs like this would not be a reality for our young musicians. Thank you to our facilitators and hosts: GraceAnn Cummings, Kathy Mortensen, Naomi Elsing, Sophia Pereyra-Johnston, Abigail Habegger, RoseMarie Tamburri, Kris Iverson, Ericka Thielke, Katie Levine, Ryan Worswick

And a special thank you to my outstanding 2023 co-chair, Mona Elsing. This was Mona's first year as co-chair and facilitator and SMTA is more than excited for Mona to be with us on Team MLP! Thank you, Mona.

Below, listed with their teachers, are students who earned honors (94% or higher on written portion) and highest honors (98% or higher on written portion) at this year's MLP. The highest honors students' names, along with their teachers' names, will also be published in an upcoming edition of the Washington State Music Teachers Association's newsletter. Please watch for the August or September editions of The Clarion online.

ANDREWS, JESSICA

Highest Honors: Michael Bendickson, Caleb Byam

Honors: Lily Solvang, Annie Walker, Sabriya Welton, Zara Welton

CHUVAN, JUDAY

Highest Honors: Emma Moore, Kite Robinson, Owen Saunders, Jinhan Xue, Steven Yin

Honors: Connor Nergaard, Ben Williams

ELSING, MONA

Highest Honors: Emily Carr, Lucy Gilroy, Megan Gross, Thea John, Ria Keeney, Kenny Lewis, Jordan Sletteback, Roshni Tulsyan

Honors: Benjamin Bird, Andy Chin, Ethan Chin, Odin Sweers, Rishi Tulsyan

HABEGGER, ABIGAIL

Highest Honors: Cecily Dobry

Honors: Alyse Habegger, Eleanor Hamel, Henry Hill

LEVINE, KATIE

Highest Honors: Beatrice Gould

STUART, THOM

Highest Honors: Albert Keng, Haiyi Li, Grady Moore, Emily Sehn, Melini Sehn, Pia Sheth, Ruimin Su, Larry Zhang

Honors: Cammy Blankenburg, Sean Blankenburg, Gonzo Kelly, Yunshu Li, Beatrice Liu, Sneha Manivel, Jeremy Sehn

TAMBURRI, ROSEMARIE

Highest Honors: Iris Kaufman, Alan Xu, Karson Xu

TZUANG, GLORIA

Highest Honors: Danielle Kao, Madeleine Kao, Evan Lan

Congratulations to all the hard-working students and teachers who participated in this year's MLP. We hope you will all participate again in next year's Music Literacy Program!

See you on the road to literacy . . .

Mona Elsing and Thom Stuart

MLP 2023 Co-Chairs

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Come Visit the SMTA Lending Library!

The SMTA has a library of fabulous resources for use by all members. The SMTA Library is located in a detached building in back of 8342 20th Avenue Northwest, Seattle 98117. There is plenty of free, on-street parking, and the Library is just four doors south of a city bus stop on Northwest 85th Street between 19th and 20th Avenues Northwest. If you need to avoid stairs, access is available through the alley between 19th and 20th Avenues Northwest. The library has a CD player and an electronic keyboard for patrons to use while visiting.

[Here is the link](#) to the shared Google drive card catalog. Almost all the materials can be checked out.

You can contact our Chapter Librarian, Karin McCullough, with any questions or, to arrange a visit, just text, phone, or email Karin at (206) 789-6059 or karin.mccullough@gmail.com (in emails, make your Subject Line: Library, please).

Look for more Library News in future issues of Staccato Notes, on our website, and at the General Meetings. Your reviews of materials are most welcome!

Donations to the library may be arranged by contacting Karin. In particular, the Library is looking for some back issues of various pedagogic periodicals.

Sheet Music Available

SMTA has received boxes of music from retiring teachers, and from the estates of teachers. Normally Kathy Mortensen sets up the boxes at our general meetings, and many of you have made generous donations to the SMTA education programs. The boxes are organized to some extent: piano duets; 2

piano works; technique; theory; composer by last name; method materials; jazz; popular; vocal; string, flute and other instruments.

If you would like to look through the materials, please make an appointment with Kathy (kmortensenpiano@gmail.com) and she will set boxes out on her front porch bench.

Looking for amateur chamber players

Hello. My name is Talman Welle, and I teach piano in Magnolia. I have a very talented adult piano student with many years of classical training, who is interested in exploring chamber music with amateur string players in the Ballard, Magnolia, and Queen Anne areas. Thank you! My email is Talmanmusicman@aol.com and my phone number is 206-850-8530

Madison Valley Studio sublet available

I am looking for another music teacher who is interested in sharing some studio space 1-3 days a week in the Madison Valley beginning next fall. I have a 285sf studio at the back of a residential property (a finished garage) that is available in the daylight hours before 6pm on weekdays. It's not a fancy space, but is equipped with a desk, a couch for parents to sit at while waiting, and a new upright piano (2021 Brodman professional model). Flexible terms, either by the day or hour on a monthly basis. For more information please contact me (Gloria Tzuang) at madisonparkpiano@gmail.com.

More Than Wrists and Fingers

A participatory workshop for Piano Teachers offering a coordinated exploration of:
What Every Pianist Needs to Know About the Body by Thomas Marks
Strategies for teaching efficient, expressive, pain free piano playing
Applications of the whole-person principles of the Alexander Technique

Each session will explore sections of What Every Pianist Needs to Know About the Body and introduce principles of the Alexander Technique. The remainder of the time will be structured in an emergent design format, allowing the interests of the participants to guide the choice of learning activities. We will experiment with playing and teaching based on how our bodies are actually designed and on how Alexander Principles can ease and enhance both our own music making and our music teaching.

Six Thursday Mornings, 9:30 to noon, September 28 through November 2 in Shoreline
Enrollment limit of five to allow ample individual participation
Tuition: \$300, a deposit of \$100 guarantees a place, refundable until August 15
Registration deadline: September 15

For further information or to enroll visit www.rickasher.com or contact Rick Asher at asher.rick@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Staccato Notes is the official Newsletter of the Seattle Music Teachers Association. The Newsletter is distributed monthly and **submissions are due by the 20th of each month.**

Please e-mail information for the Newsletter to smtanewsletter@gmail.com. The editor prefers to receive articles in the body of the email, as all submissions have to be reformatted to fit the constraints of the newsletter.

Staccato Notes welcomes articles on topics of interest to members. Please consider writing an article on a relevant subject. The more interesting articles we receive, the better! SMTA prefers writers to stay in the 3rd person when possible. Examples include:

- How to teach duets to siblings
- How you prepare your students for the Music Artistry Program
- Studio Policy Options