

# DUET

newsletter

January 2022

**ROCHESTER PIANO TEACHERS GUILD, INC. &  
GREATER ROCHESTER MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOC.**

## **Piano Pedagogy Workshop with Dennis Alexander Save the Date: Monday/Tuesday, June 27/28, 2022**

We are excited to share with you that Dennis Alexander will be with us to share his wisdom and beautiful music for this June's Pedagogy Workshop. The titles of his presentation topics include:

"Why Didn't I Think of That?";  
"Pedagogical Tips for Teaching  
Dennis Alexander's 24 Character

Preludes"; "Question and Answer Session"; "Developing Artistry Through Color"; "Practical, Purposeful and Plentiful"—the music of Dennis Alexander "Breaking Barriers with Teenagers"—"Alternative Teaching Strategies to Help Motivate and Inspire!"  
Masterclass with various levels of students.

"Question and Answer Session"

The registration information will be on the Nazareth website in a month or two. We are looking forward to seeing you all in June if not before!

Mary Reiff and the Workshop Team

## **Gold Cup Festival Saturday, January 29, 2022**

The Gold Cup Festival committee is pleased to report that 38 RPTG teachers submitted 393 applications for their students to participate in the festival on Saturday, January 29. Students are scheduled to play their two pieces at the Nazareth College School of Music. Any students who are selected by the judges to be on an Honors Recital will be invited to perform in Naza-

reth's beautiful Linehan Chapel on the afternoon of Saturday, February 5.

Teachers who have registered students are required to help on Festival day for either the morning, afternoon, or all day. There are many jobs that need to be filled to make the event run smoothly for the students and their family members who bring

them. Teachers will be sent an email requesting their personal choices of time blocks to assist at the festival.

Planning for this event since last May, the committee is looking forward to another successful and rewarding festival for our students!

Jeanne Strong  
Festival Committee Chair

## **American Composer Series with Timothy Brown Saturday, April 9, 2022**

Teachers are welcome to come and see all the music I have of Tim Brown. Tuesday mornings in January will be the best time to

come to my house and peruse the music. Call me after the New Year to make a time. Looking forward to another great ACS.

Teddy Carr  
264-0065

### **Inside this issue:**

from Teddy Carr	2
Student Achievement Program	2
Lecture/Recital with Dr. Benjamin Hopkins	2
Name that Song	3
Calendar for Jan. & Feb. 2022	4

### **Special points of interest:**

Gold Cup Festival on January 29
American Composers Series on April 9
Student Achievement Program
Pedagogy Workshop on June 27 & 28



Kevin Costley

### from Teddy Carr

A wonderful surprise to all the teachers and students who performed for Kevin Costley on April 13, 2019 for the American Composer Series at Nazareth College. Kevin has just published an Elementary/Late Elementary collection of 12 delightful pieces.

The entire book is dedicated to the "Rochester Piano Teacher's Guild, Inc." I think this is a huge honor and we should be proud of the lasting impression teachers and students had on Kevin. Briefly, the twelve pieces are each 32

measures long. Happily, none have thumbs crashing. The titles are all neutral gender and one of my favorites is "Last Minute Piano Practice". Kevin Costley's new book "My Moving World", FJH2360 is a great book for our young students.

## Student Achievement Program

### General information

No organization to join—  
No teacher fee—  
Examination fee is \$28 per student—

Flexible program: Students can elect the full program of Technique, Theory and Performance OR only part of the program, such as only the Performance OR only the Theory and Performance—

For Performance: Students can elect to perform 2 or 3 pieces for 2 adjudicators—

Trophies (composer busts of Bach, Mozart, Chopin etc.) will be awarded for each student every two to three years based on examination scores—

Advanced students can win special plaques and recognition—

Examination takes place at Nazareth College where there is ample parking—

More Information, as well as an online registration form, can be found at:

<https://nysmtadistrict12.wixsite.com/website>

Technique Exam	Sunday, March 8, 2022 at Nazareth College	Exam. schedule will be sent in February
Theory Exam	Postmark: Wednesday, April 1, 2022	Send completed Exam to: Kym Schifino 19 Farm Field Lane Pittsford, NY 14534
Repertoire Exam (in-person/zoom/video)	Saturday & Sunday, May 21-22, 2022 at Nazareth College	Exam schedule will be sent by April 15

## Lecture/Recital on Sunday afternoon, February 20 at 2 o'clock with Dr. Benjamin Hopkins

Sunday, February 20th, 2 pm at Nazareth College's Wilnot Hall: Clara, On Her Own Terms. In our present societal moment, many musicians and scholars are highlighting composers whose work has been historically overlooked in part due to systemic racism and misogyny. Among these composers is Clara Schumann. Although she enjoyed great renown in her

lifetime, contemporary references to her legacy have tended to position her in relationship to men, namely Robert Schumann and Johannes Brahms. Schumann's compositions, particularly her early Piano Concerto and Piano Trio, are currently experiencing a revival in concert halls and recordings (though often paired with music by Robert and Brahms). In this lecture-

recital, Dr. Benjamin Hopkins will perform Schumann's Sonata in G minor and Variations on a Theme by Robert Schumann, and discuss and evaluate them in the context of the 19th century composer-performer.

Dr. Hopkins will also play Clara Schumann's cadenzas to Mozart's Concerto No. 20 in d minor, K. 466 in a performance with

conductor S. Shade Zajac and the Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra. The concert is on Saturday, February 19th at 7 pm at the Fort Hill Performing Arts Center in Canandaigua. Tickets will be available at <https://fhpac.org/> and more information can be found at <https://www.flso.org/> and [www.benjaminhopkinspiano.com/](http://www.benjaminhopkinspiano.com/).

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

# Name that Song



Can you identify these familiar Christmas tunes by no more than their first few notes?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_
15. \_\_\_\_\_
16. \_\_\_\_\_
17. \_\_\_\_\_
18. \_\_\_\_\_

**ROCHESTER PIANO TEACHERS GUILD,  
INC. & GREATER ROCHESTER MUSIC  
TEACHERS ASSOC.**

Elier Suárez, Editor  
158 Highland Parkway  
Rochester, NY 14620

Phone: (585) 461-5359  
E-mail: [elier@elier.com](mailto:elier@elier.com)

**DUET is also on the Web at:  
[rochesterpianoteachers.org](http://rochesterpianoteachers.org)**

## **Calendar for January & February 2022**

### **JANUARY**

January 3, Monday  
Deadline for January 15  
Student Recital Applica-  
tions

January 4, Tuesday  
Deadline for Howard  
Hanson Audition pro-  
gram approval

January 7, Friday,  
10:00 am RPTG Board  
meeting, Pittsford Com-  
munity Center

January 15, Saturday,  
2:00 pm Student Recital  
**Bethlehem Lutheran**  
**48 Perrin Street**  
**Fairport, NY 14450**

January 17, Monday  
Deadline for Howard  
Hanson Audition pro-  
gram changes

January 29, Saturday  
Gold Cup Festival  
Nazareth College

### **FEBRUARY**

February 5, Saturday  
Deadline for Spring  
Semester Scholarship  
Application

February 5, Saturday  
Gold Cup Festival Hon-  
ors Recitals  
1:00 pm, 2:30 pm and  
4:00 pm  
Nazareth College,  
Linehan Chapel

February 13, Sunday  
Howard Hanson Audi-  
tions, Nazareth College  
February 15, Monday  
Deadline for March Du-  
et Newsletter