

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

### RPTG Co-Presidents' Letter

Dear Members,

Our teaching year is rapidly coming to a close. As Co-Presidents, we want to thank each of you for your support throughout this year. For the Guild, it's been a year of many successful accomplishments, from 127 students playing for Catherine Rollin at the American Composer Series, a well-run Gold Cup Festival, a beautiful Hanson Recital, to edifying programs and regular student recitals.

In any organization, its success or failure is due as much to the body of its members as to its leadership. That certainly is true of the Guild. Once again, so many of you have done yeoman's duty throughout the year, not just to make these events happen, but to make them happen with so much success. Your Co-Presidents want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You folks are the heartbeat of this organization!

We also want to thank Nazareth University for allowing us to use their beautiful facilities for a number of our activities. Our programs would be far more difficult to provide without their venue. We're deeply appreciative of this partnership.

And as we bring this year to an end, we encourage you to prepare for next year's students by attending the Pedagogy Seminar at Nazareth University in June. Invite a teacher friend to join you. You

don't have to be a member of the Guild to attend. Please see the article elsewhere in the Duet and note the early registration deadline for financial savings.

With gratitude and well wishes for your end-of-year activities,

Teddy Carr and Kathy Whitlock, Co-Presidents

### RPTG Program on May 16

Join us for our last presentation of the year: Alexander Technique and Body Mapping with Katie Fittipaldi. The presentation begins at 11am at Bocaccini's Italian Bistro, 6720 Pittsford Palmyra Rd. Learn the basics of Alexander Technique and Body Mapping to increase

ease of playing and reduce the chance of injury. Useful for both teachers and students! Meeting will be followed by a casual luncheon. Join us for this lovely educational and social event. RSVP to Sarah Barford [barfordpiano@gmail.com](mailto:barfordpiano@gmail.com) or (716) 353-1575



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#### Special points of interest:

- RPTG Program "Alexander Technique and Body Mapping" presented by Katie Fittipaldi on Friday morning, May 16 starting at 11 o'clock in Bocaccini's Italian Bistro, 6720 Pittsford Palmyra Road in Fairport. Meeting and casual lunch to follow. RSVP to Sarah Barford: (716) 353-1575 or [Barfordpiano@gmail.com](mailto:Barfordpiano@gmail.com)
- 2025 Junior All-Stars Piano Competition Saturday, May 31st, and the Winners' Recital on Sunday, June 1st at 3:30 PM (**New Time!**) Nazareth University School of Music
- Pedagogy Workshop with Nancy O'Neill Breth, clinician Monday & Tuesday, June 23-24, 2025 Nazareth University School of Music

## Pedagogy Workshop 2025

### Nancy O'Neill Breth, featured clinician

#### **Nancy O'Neill Breth**

##### **Dates:**

Monday & Tuesday  
June 23-24, 2025

##### **Early Bird Registration (ends June 1)**

In-Person/Virtual: \$109  
Virtual Only: \$99  
Student: \$25  
Lunch: \$17

##### **Regular Registration (June 2-June 16)**

In-Person/Virtual: \$129  
Virtual Only: \$119  
Student: \$25  
Lunch: \$17

#### **Online Registration**

(To register after the deadline, please contact Dr. Jacob Ertl, [jertl2@naz.edu](mailto:jertl2@naz.edu))

##### **Call for Masterclass Participants:**

- Deadline: June 15, 2025
- Ages 5-18, all levels and repertoire accepted
- Participating students must be in-person
- Nancy O'Neill Breth (and/or outside panel) will select participants based on variety of levels/ages and repertoire

**Piano Pedagogy  
Workshop  
with  
Nancy O'Neill Breth**

**June 23-24, 2025**

**Nazareth University  
School of Music**



## RPTG Election Ballot

Hello Members,

This is a reminder that the election of next year's officers is still ongoing via our Website. Go to [Slate of Officers](#) in the upper bar to see the ballot and cast your vote.

The deadline is May 3rd. Ballots not received will be counted as an affirmative vote for all candidates.

Thank you all.

The Nominations Committee

## *from Stephanie Mercer*

Some of you may remember the RPTG commissioned Melody Bober to compose a piece after she came to Rochester last year. I am excited to let you know that the piece, titled "Stargazing over Genesee Valley" is now available for purchase here for \$4.99 + tax: <https://kjos.com/stargazing-over-genesee-valley.html>

Shipping is quite high at \$12.99 / order. Stacey from Akron music has offered to do a bulk order for us saving us the shipping cost. If you are interested in taking advantage

of the free shipping, let me know how many copies you want before May 1st. I will be collecting the funds via check or Venmo. We will distribute the copies at the Potluck dinner or they will be available for pick up at Teddy's house.

Some clarification:

- ◆ Each copy is \$4.99. Kjos doesn't appear to be collecting sales tax on this publication. It will be up to you to account for that when you do your own state taxes next year.

◆ If you write a check, please make it out to "RPTG" and send it to me at 4769 Hogback Hill Rd, Palmyra, NY 14522

◆ If you choose to Venmo, please use @stephaniemercer and I will write one check to RPTG

Any questions, please let me know,  
Stephanie

#### **RPTG Commission:**

**Melody Bober's  
"Stargazing over  
Genesee Valley"**

**Is now available.**



Pictured from left to right at Third Presbyterian Church for the Senior Recital on April 6th are: Nicholas Dollinger, Joanna Kneezel, Sarah Chumurski, Austin Hall, and Shane Carney.



Pictured from left to right in celebration of the 2025 American Composer Series on March 29th are: Brian Preston, Catherine Rollin (guest composer), Diane Habeeb, Elier Suárez, and Teddy Carr.

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

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

## **Junior All-Stars Piano Competition Update**

**Application deadline:**  
Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

**Winners' Recital:**  
Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>  
3:30 PM **(New Time!)**  
Wilmot Recital Hall  
Nazareth University

Parking in the main lot may be limited because of a graduation taking place in Beston Hall across from Wilmot. In the event that extra parking is necessary, enter by the main driveway from the East Avenue stoplight, as usual, and then make the first lefthand turn into the lot up the hill.