

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

A Note from the RPTG President

Dear RPTG Members,

Welcome to the fall season! It was wonderful to see such a strong turnout at our first membership meeting and to enjoy the outstanding recital by Xiaoliang Qian. We have an exciting season ahead with many meaningful events planned, and I hope you'll be able to join us.

This past month I had the privilege of performing the Grieg Piano Concerto with both the Nazareth Symphony Orchestra and the Genesee Symphony Orchestra. I was deeply moved by the presence and encouragement of so many RPTG members. Your support truly exemplifies the sense of community and camaraderie that make this organization so special.

Let's continue that spirit of encouragement and engagement as we look ahead. On Friday, October 17, Margaret Coote's presentation, "Hearing More Voices: How Our Expectations Influence and Shape Our Students," exemplifies the insightful and thought-provoking programs that define the RPTG.

Here's to a season filled with growth, connection, and the shared passion that unites us through music.

Sincerely,

Sarah Rhee

President, Rochester Piano Teachers Guild



Marina Lomazov, Sarah Rhee & Joseph Rackers

In Memoriam *from* Teddy Carr

The RPTG lost a very special piano teacher that very few teachers really knew. Joan A. Chapman passed away in September after a six-year battle with cancer. Joan was passionate just about everything. RPTG's Marjorie Johnson was her piano

teacher. It was Marjorie who got Joan to join the guild when she was only 16 years old. Joan graduated from Nazareth with a BA and an MA. She taught for over thirty years for the New York State Developmental Disabilities Services Office and the

city schools. She was a violinist, avid gardener, super-efficient as a ham operator and played with New Horizons Orchestra, HochStrings and Green Strings.

Inside this issue:

Calendar for November and December	2
GRMTA Student Achievement Program	2
American Composer Festival	2
Howard Hanson Award	3
2025 GRMTA Junior All-Stars Winners	3
Gold Cup Festival 2026	3
<i>from</i> Sarah Barford	3
Upcoming Events and Performances	4

Special points of interest:

- RPTG Program with Jacob Ertl "Unlock the Artistry: Core Techniques for Freedom and Fluency"
Friday, November 14 at 10 AM
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
28 Lincoln Ave., Pittsford 14534
- Gold Cup Festival deadline to apply online
Sunday, December 7
- Student Holiday Recitals
Saturday afternoon, December 13 at 1:30 & 3:00
Resurrection Lutheran Church
3736 St. Paul Blvd., 14617

Calendar for November and December



November

Nov. 1, Saturday
National Guild of Piano Teachers Auditions – to participate in Spring 2026 Auditions you must contact: Wendy O'Brien at brucelegacystudios@gmail.com

Nov. 8, Saturday
Deadline for Howard Hanson Audition applications. Send to Beth Fischer. More information on Handbook pages 23-24.

Nov. 14, Friday, 10:00 am
Program & Membership Meeting at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church with Jacob Ertl **Unlock the Artistry: Core Techniques for Freedom and Fluency.**

RSVP to Sarah Barford:
Barfordpiano@gmail.com

December

Dec. 5, Friday
Deadline for December 13th Holiday Student Recital Applications. Application at www.rochesterpianoteachers.org. For more information contact Beth Fischer: beth@bethfischerpiano.com

Dec. 7, Sunday
Deadline to submit Gold Cup Festival applications Application at www.rochesterpianoteachers.org

Dec. 13, Saturday
1:30 & 3:00 pm Student Holiday Recitals at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 3736 St. Paul Blvd. Rochester, NY 14617

Dec. 15, Monday
Deadline for January Duet Newsletter. Email submissions to Elier Suarez: elier@elier.com

GRMTA Student Achievement Program

Students can choose Repertoire Exam only or up to all 3 events.



Technique Exam
(in person/zoom)

Saturday, March 14, 2026
Nazareth University

Exam schedule will be sent in February

Theory Exam

Postmark: April 1, 2026

Send completed Exam to:
Kym Schifino
[19 Farm Field Lane
Pittsford, NY 14534](mailto:19FarmFieldLanePittsfordNY14534)

Repertoire Exam
(in person/zoom/video)

Sunday, May 17, 2026
Nazareth University

Exam schedule will be sent by April 15

American Composer Festival



Dennis Alexander

The American Composer Festival is proud to announce that Dennis Alexander will be our next visiting composer in April 2026. Save the date at Nazareth University for Saturday April 18, 2026.

The scope of his compositions ranges from Rote, Early Elementary through Late Intermediate and Early Advanced. There is something for every student that will inspire them to stay in music.

I have a thought for an ambitious project that may be almost impossible to come to fruition. If you are familiar with his 24 Character Preludes, my thought was to see if we could get enough students to perform ALL 24 Preludes in one recital as a surprise to Mr. Alexander. In the forward of the Prelude book, Dennis says the compositions prepare students with sounds of Bach, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Debussy, Rachmaninoff, Prokofieff and Copland.

Dennis deliberately made them short. Preludes range from 8,10,12, 22, measures to the longest 44 that takes only 35 seconds to perform. Most are one page. If you think you have students who might be interested, please let me know. I will be available in December for anyone wanting to look at his music. Please feel free to call me. Diane Habeeb and I look forward to another great ACF.

Teddy Carr

Howard Hanson Award

The deadline for Howard Hanson Applications is Nov. 8, 2025. Please send the application fee of \$30 to:

[Beth Quimby Fischer](#)
Phone/text:
(585) 203-6030
[Online application](#)
[Application by Mail](#)

The Hanson Auditions are Sun., 3/8/26 and the Winners Recital is on Sun., 3/22/25 at 7 PM in Wilmot Recital Hall.

2025 GRMTA Junior All-Stars Winners

LEVEL 1

Mia Guo, 1st
Sarah Rhee, teacher

Jimmy Liu, 2nd
Elier Suárez, teacher

Winston Chen, 3rd
Brian Preston, teacher

Honorable Mentions:
Grace Hubbard
Elizabeth Kinney, teacher

William Han
Elier Suárez, teacher

Ella Lee-Dank
Sarah Rhee, teacher

LEVEL 2

Alex Chang, 1st
Elier Suárez, teacher

Alan Wu, 2nd
Elier Suárez, teacher

Ella Yu, 3rd
Brian Preston, teacher

Classical Style Prize
Ella Yu
Brian Preston, teacher

Honorable Mentions:
Noah Lee-Dank
Sarah Rhee, teacher

Max Wang
Brian Preston, teacher

LEVEL 3

Thea Constanzo, 1st
Brian Preston, teacher

Hanwen Li, 2nd
Elier Suárez, teacher

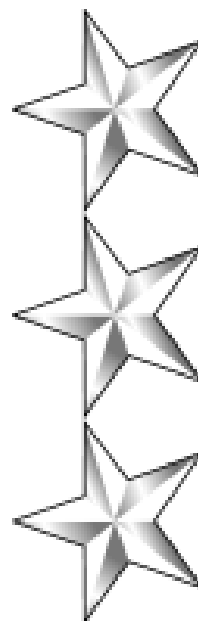
Jane Xue, 3rd
Brian Preston, teacher

Classical Style Prize
Emma Yu
Brian Preston, teacher

Honorable Mentions:
Evan Chu
Brian Preston, teacher

LEVEL 4

Max Thiele, 1st
Kym Schifino, teacher



Gold Cup Festival 2026

Online student festival applications will be accepted beginning Saturday, October 18, 2025 through Sunday, December 7, 2025. The application is available on the Gold Cup Festival page of the RPTG website.

If this is the first year you have students participat-

ing in the festival, you will need a new teacher ID, assigned by the chairperson, Jeanne Strong. Send her an email at strongjeanne630@gmail.com requesting a teacher ID. For all continuing teachers, use the same teacher ID you had in previous years. Please number your students

consecutively, without skipping any numbers. (B1, B2, B3, etc.) Gentle reminder: At the end of each application, be sure to click on the "Submit" button to complete the registration!



from Sarah Barford

Please join us for our next presentation and membership meeting on Friday, November 14th at 10am at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Jacob Ertl presents **Unlock the Artistry: Core Techniques for Freedom and Fluency.**

From Jacob: This is a technique based presentation where I introduce 3 essential techniques/movements at the piano that I find crucial in helping students play with ease. Applicable to all ages/levels of students, I teach these techniques to my

young beginners through collegiate age performance majors. In the presentation, I introduce the techniques, and then apply them to skills/repertoire to demonstrate their use. I will also give examples of my own warm-up/technical regime I

use with my students to help develop these skills.

Stay after the program for our second membership meeting of the year. RSVP to Sarah Barford barfordpiano@gmail.com

**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

**DUET is also on the Web at:
rochesterpianoteachers.org**

Upcoming Events and Performances

Sunday, November 9 at 1 PM
Young Musicians' Concert
presented by Golec Music Studio
Our Mother of Sorrows Church
5000 Mount Read Blvd. 14612

Saturday, December 13 at
1:30 PM and 3:00 PM
RPTG Holiday Recitals
Resurrection Lutheran Church
3736 St. Paul Blvd. 14617

Deadline: December 5
Please contact Beth Fischer with
any questions:
beth@bethfischerpiano.com



**ECMS is excited to announce the seventh annual
[Vincent Lenti Piano Competition](#) sponsored by the
Eastman Community Music School.**

- Performers aged 9 - 18 can enter in one of three categories, Young Performer, Junior, and Senior.
- The Competition will be held on March 14, 2026, with a Winners Recital on the same day in Eastman's Hatch Recital Hall.
- Registration and rules can be found on the [competition page](#). Registration is due by March 1, 2026.