

DUET

Newsletter

September 2022

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

***from* Tasha George-Hinnant, RPTG President and GRMTA Chair (aka NYSMTA—District 12)**

Dear RPTG and NYSMTA District 12,

I hope you all have enjoyed relaxing and productive summers! As always, I am looking forward to the excitement of new beginnings and experiences that fall brings. Today, one of my students looked at me strangely when I tried to explain why autumn is my favorite season, so I decided to simplify by telling him I liked wearing sweaters. It could be that reason, too!

Thank you for your tremendous support over the last year as I learned the ropes as Guild president. In every interaction, each of you has made the job pleasant, has given me things to think about, and has helped me reflect on how I might serve our community better. An even larger expression of gratitude goes to our outstanding board. Each person is diligent, creative, and dedicated to the work they do to serve this community. I could not

imagine the Guild without their presence! Over the last year, I have found that leading the Guild has also helped me understand how best to represent District 12, even though I have held that position longer. I ask for your continued support and patience as I continue to learn how best to lead our two organizations, and I am sincerely looking forward to an upcoming school year that promises joyful music-making.

I've been pleased to see our students and teachers thriving this year, with the successful completion of many recitals (both students and teachers!) Gold Cup and Student Achievement Program auditions, Howard Hanson and Junior All-Stars Competitions, and visits from guest composers and pedagogues Timothy Brown and Dennis Alexander, just to name a few events from the last year! It is staggering to look at the year in review and realize all that we do! We are a

very lucky (and hardworking!) community, and I am honored to play a part in it.

Our first meeting will take place in a few short weeks on **Friday, September 16th**, at the home of Barbara Noval at 43 Parker Drive, Pittsford, NY 14534. We will enjoy a recital presented by Matthew Figel, who is currently studying at the Eastman School of Music with Marina Lomazov and Joseph Rackers for a Doctoral degree. He will perform works by Bach, Scarlatti, Chopin, and Currier. **We will gather at 9:45am with the recital at 10:00am.** A reception and members meeting will follow. If you have ideas to bring to the Guild, please attend this meeting! Part of the role of the board is to best serve our member teachers, and we can do that best if we know what our members need. Please RSVP to this event at Barbara Noval's email: billnoval@aol.com.
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- 2022 NYSMTA State Conference
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**New
York
State
Music
Teachers
Association**

from Stephanie Mercer, NYSMTA—VP of Membership

On behalf of NYSMTA, I would like to thank you for joining or renewing your membership with New York State Music Teachers Association (founded in 1961) and Music Teachers National Association (founded in 1876). NYSMTA is a non-profit organization consisting of over 300 music teachers throughout the great state of NY.

The primary purpose of NYSMTA is the advancement of musical knowledge and education through discussion, investigation, performance, publication, and the promotion of the general welfare of music teachers in the state of New York. We are a group of professional teachers who work together to provide our students the best opportunities to further their music education and enrich their experience. We are excited to offer many education opportunities and performance outlets throughout the year for both students and teachers, sponsored by both NYSMTA and MTNA. We offer the Hedy Kilian Empire State Competition, MTNA New

York State Competition, and MTNA eFestival to list a few. More information is on our website, NYSMTA.org.

As a member, you are the most important part of our high-quality programs, which enjoy a strong reputation in the larger music community. There are many ways to get involved in our community and meet other music teachers who teach to the highest standards in NY. If you are on Facebook, please join our private group, New York State Music Teachers Association. In this forum, members are able to engage with other teachers in regard to online teaching, exams, where to find music, and more. Another way to become involved is to volunteer with NYSMTA. With such a robust organization, there are volunteer roles that will suit any member's interest and time constraints.

Be sure to take advantage of the benefits offered to you through your MTNA membership. As part of MTNA, teachers are offered a professional certification pro-

gram (Nationally Certified Teacher of Music, or NCTM). This certification helps identify exceptional music teachers within the community and provides them with prestige, recognition, and the potential for student recruitment and increased earning power. And now, NYSMTA would like to help its members achieve this certification. NYSMTA is offering a \$100 grant to any member of the organization if the grant is applied for within 6 months of successful completion of the NCTM certification. Please contact me for more information.

If you are just starting out or have business questions, be sure to browse through the MTNA.org website for helpful information on running a studio, teaching tips, and other professional support including a new section dedicated to the business side of running a studio.

We are happy you have decided to be a member of MTNA and NYSMTA and we look forward to working together to spread the joy of making music.

from Tasha George-Hinnant (continued)

Following the meeting, our next teachers' program will take place on **Friday, October 14th** at the Pittsford Community Center. Yours truly, along with our Recital Chair, Beth Fischer, will be presenting on performance preparation strategies for our students. The

same weekend, the NYSMTA State Conference will take place **Saturday, October 15th** at Onondaga Community College. Our first recital will be our annual Halloween recital on **Saturday, October 29th**, where our students will be welcomed back to

perform at Denton Cottier & Daniels. As you can see, we are hitting the ground running! I hope to see familiar faces and welcome new ones as we begin another year together!

Sincerely,
Tasha George-Hinnant

First RPTG Program

"With a tone and approach entrancing from the onset," (New York Concert Review, Inc.) Matthew Figel currently studies at the Eastman School of Music as a doctoral student in the studios of Marina Lomazov and Joseph Rackers. The first musician in his family, Matthew began his piano studies at age ten in Midland, Texas, making his recital debut that same year. Since then, he has performed extensively throughout North America and Europe, in venues such as Weill Recital Hall of Carnegie Hall.

Eager to specialize in 18th and early 19th-century repertoire, Matthew was recently named one of six finalists in the 2022 Leipzig International J.S. Bach Competition. Further successes in competitions have included top prizes in the Rosalyn Tureck International Bach Competition and the Harold Protsman Classical Period Competition. He has studied harpsichord and fortepiano

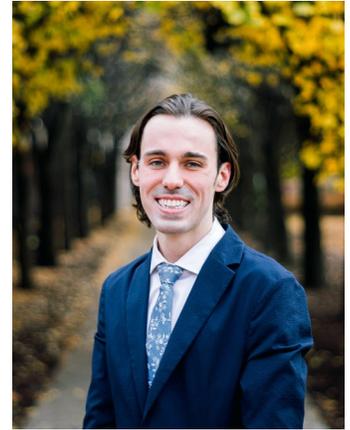
with Eduardo Bellotti in addition to historical performance practice under Paul O'Dette.

Matthew was recently named a fellow at this year's Gilmore Piano Festival and has also taken part in summer fellowships at PianoFest in the Hamptons and PianoTexas International Festival and Academy. His performances in solo masterclasses have been instructed by Richard Goode, Simone Dinnerstein, Paul Lewis, Pascal Rogé, Hung-Kuan Chen, and Emanuel Ax. He is also an avid collaborative pianist, receiving the John Celentano Award for Excellence in Chamber Music and the Verdehr Trio Award from Eastman while also performing in collaborative masterclasses for artists such as Jon Nakamatsu and Renée Fleming.

Matthew received both his Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Applied Music and Musical Arts from Eastman, previously studying with Nelita True.

Here, Matthew was admitted into the music honor society, Pi Kappa Lambda, in addition to graduating with Highest Distinction. While in his sophomore year, Matthew was named winner of the Eastman Concerto Competition, becoming one of the youngest students to solo with the Eastman Philharmonia in the school's 100-year history.

An alumnus of Interlochen Arts Academy, he was chosen as the school's first-ever Senior Performer, an honor given to a student to represent the graduating class with a solo performance at the final Commencement ceremony. An enthusiastic teacher, Matthew currently teaches secondary lessons at Eastman and has received the Teaching Assistant Prize for Excellence in Teaching. Matthew currently serves as the Artist-in-Residence at Valley Manor Living Center, where he performs monthly recitals for the community of Rochester, New York.



Matthew Figel
Guest Artist

**Friday, Sept. 16,
Gather at 9:45 AM
at the home of
Barbara Noval
43 Parker Drive
(Pittsford) for 10 AM
Piano Recital by
Matthew Figel**

Student Recital Information for 2022—2023

Greetings from your Recital Coordinator! Please carefully peruse the following information. As always, events are subject to change, so be on the lookout for emails from me throughout the year announcing applications, deadlines, venues, etc.

Saturday, October 29rd
@ Denton Cottier and

Daniels - Halloween Recital (2:00)
Application Deadline -
Monday, October 17th

Saturday, December 10th
@ Valley Manor Assisted
Living - Holiday Recital
(2:00)
Application Deadline -
Monday, November 28th

Sunday, January 15th @
Piano & Organ Center -

Student Recital (2:00)
Application Deadline -
Tuesday, January 3rd

Saturday, February 11th
@ Asbury First United
Methodist Church - Senior
Recital (1:30)
Application Deadline -
Wednesday, February 1st

Sunday, May 7th @ Third
Presbyterian Church -
End of Year Student Re-

citals (1:00, 2:00, 3:00)
and Teachers' Recital
(4:00)
Application Deadline -
Monday, April 24th

Gold Cup Honors Recitals
and Howard Hanson Win-
ners' Recitals follow dif-
ferent procedures and
therefore are not included
on this list.

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Junior All-Stars Update

Huge thanks to Sheri Neilsen who chaired the event in '21 and '22 after not having it in '20 due to COVID. Thanks to both the 75 Stutson Street venue ('21) and Nazareth College ('22) for hosting the event. Support from these participating teachers has been invaluable:

Bonnie Choi
Tamari Gurevich
Patricia Hanson
Elizabeth Kinney
Alla Kuznetsov
Brian Preston
Jeanne Strong
Elier Suárez
Marico Tomate
Oleksandra Yurchenko

- Indicates winners of the Classical Style Prize for Levels II and III

2021 Winners

Level I
 HM, Edwin Xu – Suárez
 HM, Jane Xue – Preston
 HM, Emma Yu – Preston
 3rd, Charlotte Anderson – Suárez
 2nd, Hanwen Li – Suárez
 1st, Thea Costanzo – Preston

Level II

HM, Nick Stancampiano – Kinney
 • 2nd, Jasmine Wu – Suárez
 1st, Tianze Qiu – Suárez

Level III

HM, Evan Dai – Suárez
 HM, Surya Man – Preston
 3rd, Matthew Xie – Suárez
 • 2nd, Milo Anderson – Suárez
 1st, Emily Yu – Preston

Level IV

HM, Melis Sahin – Preston
 HM, Shaila Man – Preston
 HM, Daniel Kinney – Preston
 3rd, Lilah Costanzo – Preston
 2nd, Julian Chumacero – Suárez
 1st, Jeffrey Xue – Preston

2022 Winners

Level I
 HM, Edwin Xu – Suárez
 HM, Jayden Yang – Choi
 HM, Jane Xue – Preston

HM, Alan Wu – Suárez
 3rd, Oliver Kulshrestha – Choi
 2nd, Alex Chang – Suárez
 1st, Ella Yu – Preston

Level II

3rd, Ian Dorrer – Yurchenko
 2nd, Jasmine Wu – Suárez
 • 1st, Hanwen Li – Suárez

Level III

3rd, Milo Anderson – Suárez
 2nd, David Yang – Suárez
 • 1st, Lindsey Shen – Gurevich

Level IV

HM, Lilah Costanzo – Preston
 HM, Emma Hu – Tamate
 HM, Shaila Man – Preston
 3rd, Matthew Barry – Hanson
 2nd, Weijun Wang – Kuznetsov
 1st, Julian Chumacero – Suárez



October Program with Beth Fischer & Tasha George-Hinnant

“Performing with Joy - Strategies for Successful Recitals”

Our October program will take place on **Friday the 14th at 10:00 am at the Pittsford Community Center, Activity Room 18** at 35 Lincoln Ave, Pittsford.

Beth and Tasha will share their secret strategies for guiding successful and consistent performers. Topics such as how to handle expectations and anxiety, as well as tools and games for bringing joy and fun into performance will be covered. With a year of recital and

audition opportunities ahead, help your students lay a solid foundation for their preparations! Please RSVP to our Program Chair, Sarah Barford: barfordpiano@gmail.com.

Gold Cup Festival 2023

The next Gold Cup Festival on January 28, 2023 will be at the Nazareth College School of Music. To register your students, the online student Application form will open on October 15 and close on December 4. The student fee remains at \$26 per event (solo, duet, or hymn).

To access the application, open

www.rochesterpianoteachers.org, click on "Gold Cup Festival" and then click on the "Application" tab. When filling out the form, you might find it useful to refer to your printed 2022 Teacher Report that was provided with your student certificates and gold cups.

The online "Guidelines" page includes information and instructions for

choosing repertoire, earning points and gold cups, and much more. You can print the complete Guidelines to keep the information for your convenient reference.

There were 381 students who participated in the January 2022 Gold Cup Festival. Start planning who your performers will be in January 2023!

2022 NYSMTA State Conference

Save the Date! The 2022 NYSMTA State Conference will be held Saturday, October 15 at Onondaga Community College in Syracuse, NY. We are delighted to return to an in-person conference experience that features a wide range of member presentations, guest clinician sessions, musical concerts, and opportunities to interact with colleagues.

Our guest artist and featured clinician is pianist-composer [Jeremy Siskind](#), a renowned educa-

tor and virtuosic pianist. Mr. Siskind's sessions about fostering creativity and artistry in all students are sure to inspire; he will also share easy-to-implement tips and tricks for teaching jazz style. Additionally, the conference will provide ample opportunities for us to learn from each other through member workshops, lightning talks, poster presentations, the Commissioned Composer premiere, and informal venues for sharing. Our conference day will end with a concert of Mr. Sis-

kind's *Perpetual Motion Etudes for Piano*, a ground-breaking suite of piano etudes incorporating improvisation.

Please join us Saturday, October 15th for an exciting day of music, learning, and reconnecting. You can find more conference details on the [NYSMTA website](#).

Sincerely,

Laura Amoriello & Kathryn Sherman
VPs for Conferences—
NYSMTA

**2022 NYSMTA
State Conference**

**Saturday,
October 15**

**Details at
nysmta.org**

Student Recital Information (*continued*)

You have two options to complete recital applications -

1) Traditional snail mail - print an online application (available on our RPTG website) and send a paper check. Recital fees are \$5 per student, checks made out to RPTG, Inc.

Mail paper applications to:

Beth Fischer
333 Ayrault Road
Fairport, NY 14450
Attn: RPTG Recitals

2) Online applications are available on our website. Please complete one application per student. Recital fees can be paid using our PayPal account - @rptguild - you must include a processing fee, and use the "Goods and Services" option. Total amount per student is \$5.65.

There is a limit of 4 students per studio for each recital, please (other than the senior recital). If the number of applicants is low, I may accept additional students.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me! I look forward to a wonderful year of performances with our students.

Beth Fischer
585-203-6030 (phone/
text)
beth@bethfischerpiano.com

DUET: A Joint Newsletter

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