

DUET

Newsletter

November 2023

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

from RPTG President & GRMTA Chair

Dear RPTG and NYSMTA District 12 members,

As we head into this busy season of performing, teaching, coaching, adjudicating, etc, I'd like to take a moment to express gratitude for this wonderful community. I am blessed to be surrounded by so many teachers who are not only incredibly accomplished, but who value learning so highly; not just their students' learning, but their own continued growth as teachers, musicians, and people. It is a joy to collaborate with you all, to

listen to you all play, present, and discuss. Most of all, I am honored to lead this community. Thank you to every one of you for what you do with your students and in this community every day.

It was lovely to see many of you Saturday at the NYSMTA Virtual Symposium, Sarah Barford's presentation Friday morning, and Angela Hewitt's scintillating and imaginative performance Friday evening. I hope many of you are able to attend Elier Suarez' performance this afternoon!

(October 15th). Looking ahead, I'm looking forward many more of you at the Halloween Student Recital on October 28th, and on November 17th, Elinor Freer's presentation, *Music and the Brain*. A membership meeting will follow that presentation; please bring your thoughts and ideas for how the Guild and District 12 might serve us and our students, both in the present and in the future.

Sincerely,
Tasha George-Hinnant

Upcoming Student Recitals

Halloween/Fall Recital
Saturday, October 28 at 2:00 PM

Legacy at Clover Blossom
100 McAuley Drive, 14610

Costumes are welcome; please come and support our students! The recital will be live-streamed.

Holiday Recitals
Saturday afternoon, December 9 at 1:30 and 3:00

Resurrection Lutheran Church
3736 St. Paul Blvd., 14617

Holiday repertoire as well as standard repertoire welcome. Please refer to the handbook for specifications. Applications close on Monday, November 27.

Online and mail-in applications are both available on our website. Recital fees per student are

\$5.65 (PayPal - @rptguild) or \$5 (check made out to RPTG, Inc.)

Thank you for your involvement and support! Please reach out if you have any questions.

Beth Fischer, Recital Coordinator
585-203-6030 (phone/text)

beth@bethfischerpiano.com

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Special points of interest:

- RPTG Program with Elinor Freer
Friday, November 17 at 10 AM
ESM Ciminelli Lounge
- Gold Cup Festival deadline to apply online is on Sunday, December 10
- Student Holiday Recital—Sunday afternoon, December 9 at 1:30 & 3:00
Resurrection Lutheran Church
3736 St. Paul Blvd., 14617

Calendar for November and December



November

Nov. 1, Wednesday
Deadline for Howard Hanson Audition applications. Send to Jean Sandquist Watson. More information on pages 22-24.

Nov. 1, Wednesday
National Guild of Piano Teachers Audition estimates are due.
Contact: Wendy O'Brien at brucelegacystudios@gmail.com

Nov. 3, Friday, 9:30 am
RPTG Board meeting at the home of Kathy Whitlock

November 17, Friday,
10:00 am

Program & Membership Meeting at Eastman Ciminelli Formal Lounge, ESM Student Living Center, 100 Gibbs St. Music and the Brain, presented by Elinor Freer. Membership meeting to follow.

RSVP to Sarah Barford: Barfordpiano@gmail.com

Nov. 27, Monday
Deadline for December 9 Holiday Student Recital Applications.

Application at www.rockesterpianoteachers.org. For more info, contact Beth Fischer: beth@bethfischerpiano.com

December

Dec. 9, Saturday
1:30 & 3:00 pm Student Holiday Recitals at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 3736 St. Paul Blvd., 14617

Dec. 10, Sunday
Deadline to submit Gold Cup Festival applications. Application on RPTG website: www.rockesterpianoteachers.org

Dec. 15, Friday
Deadline for January Duet Newsletter. Email submissions to Elier Suárez elier@elier.com

GRMTA Student Achievement Program

SAP Exam Info.

[Website](#)

Technique Exam:

Saturday, March 16, 2024
Nazareth University

Theory Exam:

Monday, April 1, 2024

Repertoire Exam:

Sunday, May 19, 2024

(In-person, Zoom or Video submission), Nazareth University

Fee: \$30

[To register online](#)

[Download Registration Form](#)

Registration Deadlines:

Full program or
Repertoire & Technique or
Repertoire & Theory
January 15, 2024

Repertoire only deadline
March 15, 2024

Send completed Theory Exam to:

Kym Schifino
19 Farm Field Lane
Pittsford, NY 14534

[Website](#)

[Register Online](#)

[Download Registration Form](#)



Melody Bober

American Composer Series

Save the date for an outstanding guest composer for the next American Composer Series. Melody Bober will be here to inspire not only our students but all of us. With over 400 publications, her compositions never cease to inspire.

Melody is so excited to come back and will love the Linehan Chapel at Nazareth University. Look for Application forms in January. The ACS will take place April 20, 2024. Akron Music store has put together a list of most books and compositions

at a discount for teachers. Co-Chairs, Teddy Carr and Diane Habeeb will send the list to RPTG email, so look for it. An order date deadline and more information will be in that email.

Howard Hanson Award

The deadline for Howard Hanson Applications is Nov. 1, 2023. Please send the application fee of \$30 to:

Jean Sandquist Watson
247 Watson Rd.
Fairport, NY 14450
The Hanson Auditions are

Sunday, March 5, 2024 in
Wilmot Recital Hall.

RPTG Program with Elinor Freer

Friday morning at 10 o'clock on November 17, 2023 at the Eastman School of Music Ciminelli Lounge: "Music As Medicine" with Elinor Freer.

Music As Medicine: Using Piano Lessons as a Way to Preserve Cognitive Function in Older Adults"

By 2025, the number of U. S. adults age 65 or older with Alzheimer's dementia is expected to reach 7.2 million. Alzheimer's is now the 6th leading cause of death in the U. S. and is the most expensive disease in this country. Adults who develop Alzheimer's often

first receive a diagnosis of "Mild Cognitive Impairment" (MCI). These adults can usually still take care of their daily lives and activities, although friends or family might notice that their memory or mental function is not as sharp as it used to be. They often have many of the physical changes in the brain that accompany Alzheimer's, although to a lesser degree.

Can these adults with MCI be taught how to play the piano? And if so, would regular piano lessons and home practice give their brains the boost

they need to preserve cognitive function and stave off dementia as long as possible?

This presentation will describe a recent research project (conducted jointly by the Eastman School of Music Performing Arts Medicine Division and the University of Rochester Medical Center) which was designed to answer those questions.

We're looking forward to seeing you there! Contact Sarah Barford with questions at: barfordpiano@gmail.com or call (716) 353-1575



Elinor Freer

2024 Gold Cup Festival

The 2024 Gold Cup Festival online student application form is **now open through Sunday, December 10**. To access the application, open [RPTG website](#), click on "Gold Cup Festival" and then click on the "Application" tab. After filling in all the information and clicking on "Submit," you will automatically

receive an email response from "Google Forms" for each application. This serves as a confirmation of all the information you entered, which includes your name and email, the student's name, the title and composer of each piece, repertoire level, and other categories. All the levels are displayed in a drop-

down list from which you select the correct one for each student. See the "Guidelines" page on the festival website for assistance as needed.

Thank you from the Festival Committee: Jeanne Strong, Ria Senobroto, Sigrid Britton, Sarah Rhee-Tirre and Beth Fischer



from Sarah Barford

Thank you to everyone who came to the program. As promised, here is the link to my presentation: ["Who's On Your Program?"](#)

You can view it and all the hyperlinks to outside resources should work.

Even if you couldn't make it to the presentation, I invite you to take a look.

There's lots of great composers and resources there.

DUET: A Joint Newsletter

**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**