

DUET

newsletter

March 2024

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

President's Message

Dear RPTG & NYSMTA District 12 members,

Happy Valentine's week! May you all have at least one student who brings you a loving token of their appreciation this week, whether that shows up as a cookie, a card, or just a week of good practice. The longer I act as a leader for this community, the more I fall in love with our common commitment to high-quality teaching, music-making, our atten-

tion to detail, and our tireless devotion to this vocation. Thank you all for your inspiration!

We have fully entered our busy season. The Gold Cup Festival was a wonderful weekend full of auditions, and the following weekend held three marvelous honors recitals. We then hosted a Winter Student Recital and our annual High School Seniors Recital. It is truly an honor to be

part of all of these students' musical journeys.

Looking ahead, the month of March promises some marvelous Howard Hanson auditions. Be sure to attend the Winners' Recital on March 17th at **7:00pm**. (Please note that your handbook lists an incorrect time, my apologies for this). Some of us are attending the MTNA conference during this time as well; safe travels to Atlanta! We also have a

program coming up on March 22nd on pedagogical Brazilian music by Anna Ahlquist.

Finally, applications for the American Composers Series are due on March 25th. This year, we welcome the ever-popular Melody Bober back to Rochester! Your students will love playing this repertoire, and you will love teaching it! Her music never gets old for me, and (*continued on page 3*)

American Composer Series

Melody Bober is excited to be back in Rochester at Nazareth University for the American Composer Series. For those teachers who are new or have not participated in this annual event, our students walk away inspired by meeting an actual living composer. The composer autographs the student's music and has individual pictures taken

with them by their parents. A group picture is taken at the end of each recital. The day long event is in the Golisano Academic Center.

All teachers are welcome to bring a bag lunch and meet Melody in the Community Room opposite the Linehan Chapel. Her presentation to teachers will follow in the Chapel from 1:00 to 2:00.

The schedule for Saturday, April 20 is as follows:

Morning Recitals at 10:00 & 11:00

Lunch at Noon with Melody Bober

Teacher Presentation at 1:00 PM

Afternoon Recitals at 2:30, 3:30 & 4:30



Melody Bober

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Special points of interest:

- ACS: Melody Bober on Saturday, April 20 at Linehan Chapel
- RPTG Program with Josh Massicot: "Musicians as Entrepreneurs", 10 AM on Friday, April 21 at the Piano and Organ Center
- Jr. All-Stars Piano Competition, June 1-2 at Nazareth University
- Piano Pedagogy Workshop: Dr. Theresa Bogard June 27-28 at Nazareth University

Pedagogy Workshop: Dr. Theresa Bogard June 27-28, 2024 at Nazareth University



Dr. Theresa Bogard

The Pedagogy Committee is looking forward to a very exciting workshop this summer! We will be hosting Dr. Theresa Bogard of the University of Wyoming as our primary presenter, and Howard Spindler, who serves on the faculty of the Eastman Community Music School, as our secondary presenter.

An important change to note from years past is that our dates have shifted. The workshop will take place on a **Thursday-Friday, June 27th-28th, 2024**. Mark your calendars, as we have some exciting sessions planned, including the intersection

of technique and musicality, Brazilian music, eurhythmics, and more!

Dr. Theresa Bogard's biography:

American pianist Theresa Bogard is a dynamic, versatile performer dedicated to expanding the canon of traditional piano repertoire. Her early career focused on performances of music by women composers, and she continues to include works by other lesser known composers in her varied programs. As a recipient of a coveted Fulbright grant, Bogard was able to explore her interest in historical performance practice and

fortepiano studying at the Royal Conservatory of the Hague in the Netherlands. That same year she was a top-prize winner in the International Mozart Fortepiano Competition in Bruges, Belgium. Bogard has performed on five continents and throughout the United States. Her extensive discography includes a wide variety of recordings ranging from solo piano to chamber music collaborations. She has served on the faculty of the InterHarmony International Music Festival in Italy and the Sulzbach-Rosenberg International Music Festival in Germany and has performed at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital (*continued on page 2*)

Nominations for the RPTG Slate of Officers

Following is the slate of Officers which the Board has approved for the 2024/2025 year.

Co-Presidents: Teddy Carr & Kathy Whitlock

Vice President: Diane Habeeb

Recording Secretary: Kathie Ross

Corresponding Secretary: Elier Suárez

Co-Treasurers: Stephanie Mercer & Brian Preston

You can access the ballot by going to our website (Rochester Piano Teachers Guild, Inc.), clicking on [Slate of Officers](#), and respond with your vote there. Or if you prefer, you can vote via email kvwhitlock76@gmail.com or post office (76 Corning Pk.; Webster, NY 14580).

Please respond no later than **Friday, May 3rd**. Ballots not received will be counted as an affirmative vote for all candidates.

Thank you for your response as well as your continued support of the Guild.

Kathy Whitlock, Chair—
Nominating Committee

RPTG Program "Brazilian Music"

with
Anna Dunbar
(Ahlquist)

March 22, 2024
10:00 AM

Piano & Organ
Center

Upcoming Program on March 22, 2024

Please join us for our next program on Friday, March 22nd at 10 AM for an excellent presentation on Brazilian music by Anna Dunbar (Ahlquist). We'll learn a bit about Brazilian music, including the interesting rhythms and grooves.

Anna will also introduce us to pedagogical works for the piano that we can incorporate into our studios.

The program will be held at the:

Piano & Organ Center
3450 Winton Place

in Brighton and also livestreamed in the RPTG Facebook group.

Gold Cup Festival Report

Thank you to the 37 piano teachers who had their 360 students participate in the 2024 Gold Cup Festival at the Nazareth University School of Music. Kudos to all the students who performed and to the teachers who selected and taught the music to their students. The festival was a huge success!

At the three Honors Recitals on February 3 in Nazareth's beautiful Linehan

Chapel, 47 students performed their solos that had been selected by the judges. Each student received a beautifully personalized certificate.

The festival committee sincerely appreciates all the teachers who volunteered on festival day as room monitors, registrars, scorers, runners, and for setup and cleanup.

We are also extremely grateful to Nazareth for

providing ten rooms and foyer space in the School of Music all day for the festival, and for the all-day use of Linehan Chapel in the Golisano Academic Center to hold makeups and the Honors Recitals. We extend a special thank-you to Jacob Ertl and Sarah Rhee-Tirre for coordinating our space usage at Nazareth.

When we have all the certificates and Stadt Stars ready, individual

teacher reports printed, and gold cups and NAA trophies sorted, teachers will be notified by email when their materials are ready for them to pick up.

From the 2024 Festival Committee:

Jeanne Strong, Ria Senobroto, Sarah Rhee-Tirre, Sigrid Britton, and Beth Fischer

President's Message *(continued)*

I'm truly looking forward to hearing those recitals on April 20th. Please talk to your students about participating. Performances must be polished, but students of all levels are encouraged to participate!

This president's message runs long, but I hope you've enjoyed it. I have just a few more words. Our board is looking for volunteers. Many opportunities are available; most jobs are very small

and have almost no time commitment. If you'd like to become more involved, we welcome you with open arms! Please contact me at tnghinnant@gmail.com if you're interested.

Sincerely,

Tasha George-Hinnant
RPTG President
NYSMTA District 12
(GRMTA) Chair

Pedagogy Workshop *(continued)*

Hall and at the Ravinia Steans Institute with cellist Misha Quint. Since her first concert tour in Brazil in 2007, she has become obsessed with the music of Brazilian composers. Returning to Brazil whenever possible, she has given masterclasses and performances at universities in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Cuiaba, Curitiba, Florianopolis, Goiania and Porto Alegre.

Internationally known as a pedagogue, she has been honored with numerous teaching awards. She attracts students from around the world as professor of piano at the University of Wyoming, where she also served as chair of the music depart-

ment from 2010 to 2016. In 2008, she was chosen as the Wyoming Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation. Her students have distinguished themselves in numerous piano competitions and been accepted into the top graduate and undergraduate programs in the country including: The Julliard School, Eastman School of Music, Cleveland Institute of Music, Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, Manhattan School of Music and Peabody Conservatory of Music among others. She has also served as an adjudicator at numerous regional, national and international piano competitions. Dr. Bogard is a Steinway Artist.

Howard Spindler's biography:

Howard Spindler is a Rochester NY native, and a graduate of the Eastman Preparatory Department. He earned the BA from Oberlin College, majoring in Music and German; he returned to Eastman and completed the MA degree in Musicology; then pursued post-graduate work at the Folkwang Hochschule in Essen, Germany, earning the Artist Diploma in Solo Piano and Accompanying. He returned to Rochester and joined the faculty of the Eastman Preparatory Department, later renamed Eastman Community Music School (ECMS). His piano teachers include Paul Badura-

Skoda, Cecile Genhart, and Maria Luisa Faini; he studied chamber music with John Celentano.

Spindler's performing career has been diverse; he is active as a chamber musician and accompanist. His teaching career at Eastman has included piano teaching, chamber music coaching, and classroom teaching, both in the Community School and Collegiate Division. The Rochester Alumni Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon honored Spindler as Musician of the Year in 2011. He was awarded the Jack L. Frank Award for outstanding teaching at ECMS. He also served as Interim Director of

(continued on page 5)

Pedagogy Workshop (continued)

ECMS for 2½ years (2000-2003); in 2016-17, he has been tapped once more to serve as Interim Associate Dean of ECMS.

Howard has a special interest in the study of rhythmic movement: he was fortunate to study Dalcroze Eurhythmics at Oberlin Conservatory with the eminent Ina Howland, who herself had been a disciple of Emile Jaques-Dalcroze in Swit-

zerland. He has continued to study Dalcroze teaching techniques, earning Advanced Certification from the Institute for Jacques-Dalcroze Education in Bethlehem, PA. He teaches Dalcroze classes at ECMS, he is active as a guest clinician in the collegiate division of Eastman, and he is also a frequent guest teacher at the Hochstein School in Rochester.



Howard Spindler

RPTG Student Recitals

Two recitals were held on Saturday, February 10th at Asbury First United Methodist Church, 1050 East Avenue. The 1:30 recital had fifteen students, and four seniors performed for the Senior Recital. The seniors and their families enjoyed a reception afterwards and were presented with certificates commemorating their dedication and commitment to piano study.

Congratulations to everyone who performed!

Looking ahead...

Sunday, May 5th - Student Recitals at 1:00, 2:00 & 3:00 PM

Followed by a 4 o'clock Teachers' Recital—Start planning your repertoire! Ensembles/solos/duets are welcome. Third Presbyterian Church

4 Meigs St., 14607
Application Deadline -
Monday, April 22nd

Apply two ways:

- 1) Online application, electronic payments via PayPal @rptguild \$5.65 per student to cover processing fee
- 2) Paper application and check for \$5 per student, mail to:

Beth Fischer
333 Ayrault Rd.,
Fairport, NY 14450
ATTN: RPTG Recitals

QUESTIONS?

Phone/text
(585) 203-6030
or email
beth@bethfischerpiano.com



Asbury First United Methodist Church - 1:30 recital



Congratulations to our Seniors, Class of 2024!

Performance Preparation

Dear RPTG & GRMTA members,

As spring approaches, performance opportunities abound for our students. Preparing students adequately for performing can be a challenge! While Beth Fischer and I gave a presentation on the topic in October of 2022 that can be viewed on YouTube, I thought it may be helpful to include a summary here again.

Be clear on the difference between Polished Performance vs. Playing Through

Polished performances include:

- Memorization at some level (while the score may be used, the music has been practiced to so much it is memorized to some extent)
- Accuracy of rhythms, notes, and dynamics, and all other markings
- Consistently repeatable in a variety of contexts

A Playthrough of the piece might include:

- Ability to get from beginning to end of piece
- Not all markings may be observed
- The score is necessary and "practiced sight-reading" may be happening
- Inconsistent results, may be dependent on context and environment

Performance standards must be communicated to parents!

Achieving Standards
Practice with your students how they should practice at home.

Practice strategies must be communicated to parents!

The Elephant in the Room: Performance Anxiety

Be sure to address performance anxiety with your students. It won't go away if you don't mention it.

There are many different strategies for managing (and even harnessing) anxiety. These strategies include visualization, body work, meditation, and more. Address these issues and help your students learn to use these strategies regularly well before (at least several weeks) a performance.

Conclusion

Remember to communicate with your students and their parents about the benefits of performing. Remember also that there are different levels of knowing one's music:

- Sight-reading level (able to play notes and rhythms at first sight or within 1-3 playthroughs, not all markings may be observed.)
- Lesson book level (able to play correctly, observing markings, within 1-2 weeks. May not be a musical interpretation, but markings on the page

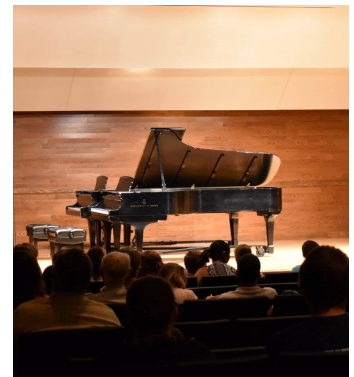
are observed. May be of variable consistency depending on the environment the student is playing in.)

- Performance level (has been studied for at least a month. All markings are observed, musicality is present. Has been played in a variety of settings so that it may be consistent in a performance setting.)

While we might include more levels of "knowing" than this, this short list gives a general outline. Remind students that in order to perform successfully, they have to be able to play a piece successfully at home, at their lesson, and in front of a casual audience before they will be able to perform it successfully in a more formal performance setting. When a student says, "But it went great at home!" validate them:

"This is a first success! Now, this piece needs to have more levels of success for it to be ready for (Gold Cup, Recital, American Composers Series, competition, etc.) Additionally, performing takes practice! Encourage students to take advantage of performance opportunities. The more performing one does, the better one gets at it. Performing, in and of itself, is a skill! I hope to hear your students at the next event!

Tasha George-Hinnant
RPTG President
GRMTA Chair



**GRMTA presents
The Junior All-Stars Competition for Piano
June 1st & 2nd, 2024**

About the competition...

This event will provide a forum to represent the very highest level of achievement of Rochester Area piano students. The auditions will be Saturday, June 1st at Nazareth University's Wilmot Recital Hall. Contestants will receive brief written comments from the judges. A Winners Recital will be held on Sunday, June 2nd at 3 PM also at Nazareth University's Wilmot Recital Hall. Previous Level IV "First Prize" winners who have not yet entered their senior year of high school are invited to perform no more than 8 minutes in the winners' recital.

Eligibility...

Open to all young pianists who have not yet entered their senior year in high school and are residing or studying in Monroe, Genesee, Livingston, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, or Yates Counties. Previous "First Prize" winners may not compete until eligible for the next level.

Repertoire requirements...

Each contestant will perform three memorized pieces of contrasting styles. Concertos are not permitted. There is no time limit on a contestant's program, but the length of each audition will be strictly limited. Students playing longer pieces must expect to be stopped partway through.

Please remember that Photocopied Music not in the public domain is illegal!

Levels..... Time Allowed

I.....born 2014 and after.....	5 minutes	
II.....born 2012-2013.....	7 minutes	
III.....born 2010-2011.....	8 minutes	
IV.....born before 2010*.....	10 minutes	*(but not yet a high school senior)

Prizes...

1 st Prize.....	\$60
2 nd Prize.....	\$45
3 rd Prize.....	\$30
Classical Prize for Levels II & III.....	\$25 Sonatina/Sonata movement or shorter work by: Beethoven, Clementi, Diabelli, Dussek, Haydn, Kuhlau, Lichner, Mozart, Reinecke or Spindler.

Prizes are awarded at the discretion of the judges who do sometimes withhold prizes.

Prizewinners and Honorable Mentions must perform at the Winners Recital or forfeit their prize and certificate.

Judging...

Two distinguished judges will evaluate each level based on polished performances regardless of the pieces' difficulty.

Fee: \$28.00 per student – make check payable to NYSMTA (fee is non-refundable except in the event of COVID-19 cancellation)

Postmark Deadline: April 30th, 2024 late and/or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Each application **MUST** include: 2 self-addressed, **stamped**, white, business size envelopes, your signed check and completed application form.

Mail to: Sheri Neilsen—JASC Chair, 481 Nadine Drive, Webster, NY 14580

Contact info: sheri.neilsen@gmail.com 585-747-9885

**GRMTA presents the Junior All-Stars Competition for Piano
June 1st & 2nd, 2024**

APPLICATION

STUDENT INFORMATION:

Level Number and Date of Birth

Name

How to pronounce it

Telephone

I acknowledge receipt and review of all rules and regulations of the competition. I certify that the information provided is correct and will accept the decision of the judges as final. I understand prizes might not be awarded and that refusal to accept the judges' decision will exclude me from further participation.

Student's Signature and Date

TEACHER INFORMATION:

Name

Telephone/Email

Teacher's Signature and Date

Mail to: Sheri Neilsen—JASC Chair, 481 Nadine Drive, Webster, NY 14580

Include: 2 self-addressed, stamped, white, business size envelopes, signed check payable to NYSMTA and completed application form

**ROCHESTER PIANO TEACHERS GUILD,
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**DUET is also on the Web at:
rochesterpianoteachers.org**



Eastman Community Music School is excited to announce the fifth annual Vincent [Lenti Piano Competition!](#)

Performers aged 9 - 18 can enter in one of three categories, Young Performer, Junior, and Senior.

The Competition will be held in full on March 16, 2024 with a Winners Recital in Eastman's Hatch Recital Hall.

Registration, schedules, and rules can be found on the competition page. Registration is due by March 1, 2024.