

DUET

Newsletter

September 2023

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

Dear RPTG and NYSMTA District 12 Members

As I sit on my front porch composing a “welcome to fall and the start of another academic year” message to you all, I reflect that it doesn’t feel like fall at all. I’m savoring all the hallmarks of late summer; the cicadas chirping, the warm days and cool(er) nights, and a more relaxed schedule that allows for beach days and camping on the weekends. However, if I make myself look ahead, I realize that, while the more relaxed pace of summer always holds an appeal, I’m inspired to begin the school year. That inspiration comes directly from all the tremendous successes and opportunities we as a community experienced last year. Valerie Roth Roubos’ passion for storytelling through music brought music alive for our students at the American Composers Series in April. At the Piano Pedagogy Workshop in June, Peter Mack’s wonderful and insightful lectures, in which he demonstrated teaching concepts of musicality and technique applicable to every level student, filled me with new ideas for my studio. Many of our members gave marvelous presentations

over the course of the year that have continued to inform not just how I teach, but also how I practice. And each year, the overall quality of our student performances in the Gold Cup Festival, Student Achievement Program, Junior All-Stars, and recitals grows.

This year promises just as much musical inspiration. Our board has been hard at work scheduling our events for the coming school year. Our calendar looks full of opportunities for teachers and students; it promises to be an exciting year! The RPTG 2023-2024 handbook is in progress and will be distributed to guild members in September.

I hope you’ll join us for our first program and membership meeting of the year on Friday, September 15th at the home of Barbara Noval:
43 Parker Drive
Pittsford, NY 14534.

This year, our featured artist is Veniamin Blokh. We will gather at 9:45 AM with the recital at 10:00 AM. A reception will follow, and we will close the morning

with our RPTG membership meeting.

Please RSVP this event to Barbara Noval's email:
billnoval@aol.com

Looking further ahead into October, our biennial NYSMTA Virtual Symposium will take place on Saturday, October 14th. The committee is currently accepting proposals for Lightning Talks. The deadline to submit a proposal is 11:59pm EST on Sunday, September 10, 2023. If you are interested in giving a Lightning Talk, you may find more information and submit your proposal by visiting: <https://www.nysmta.org/call-for-proposals-2023>.

I am looking forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new ones this year as we work together to bring music into the lives of our students and our community!

Sincerely,
Tasha George-Hinnant
RPTG Board President
NYSMTA District 12, GRMTA-Chair

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Special points of interest:

- Organ Rebuild Benefit Concert
Elier Suárez, Pianist
- First RPTG Program
Veniamin Blokh, Guest Artist
- Student Recital Information
- 2024 Gold Cup Festival

Organ Rebuild Benefit Concert

"Organ Rebuild
Benefit Concert"

for the

Newark First United
Methodist Church

301 South Main Street
Newark, NY 14513

Sunday, October 15,
2023 at 3 PM

PROGRAM

Elier Suárez, Pianist



Elier Suárez
Pianist

Domenico Scarlatti
Sonata in b minor, L. 33
Sonata in G Major, L. 286

Ludwig van Beethoven
Rondo in C Major,
Op. 51, No. 1

Sergei Rachmaninoff
Prelude in c minor,
Op. 23, No. 7
Prelude in G-flat Major,
Op. 23, No. 10

Moment musical in
e-flat minor, Op. 16, No. 2

Frédéric Chopin
Nocturne in b-flat minor,
Op. 9, No. 1
Nocturne in F Major,
Op. 15, No. 1

Franz Liszt
Liebestraum No. 3 in
A-flat Major, S. 541

Alberto Ginastera
Danzas argentinas, Op. 2

For his professional debut
at the age of 23, James
Roos of The Miami Her-

ald wrote of Elier Suárez:
"...What he plays is
an invitation to listen...he
has a wide sense of style,
an ear for music, and a
feeling for its poetry, both
lyric and dramatic...his
performance (Liszt b mi-
nor Sonata) was remarka-
ble for penetration and
blazing technique..."

Mr. Suárez is a prizewin-
ning pianist of the Teach-
ers Congress International
in NYC, the Dealy
Awards in Dallas, the
Teresa Carreño in Cara-
cas, and the Chopin
Competition in Miami. He
holds a Bachelor of Music
from the University of
Miami with Ivan Davis, a
Master of Music from The
Juilliard School with Adele
Marcus, and the Perform-
er's Certificate from the
Eastman School of Music
with Robert Spillman.

Having settled in Roches-
ter, NY, he taught at East-
man, and served as Pres-
ident for both the New
York State Music Teach-
ers Association and the
Rochester Piano Teach-
ers' Guild. An ambassa-
dor as Cultural Specialist
for the "Arts America Pro-
gram", he has performed
concertos and recitals
throughout the US, Cana-
da, Latin America, Eu-
rope, and Asia. In addi-

tion, Mr. Suárez is a fre-
quent adjudicator, giving
master classes as well as
lecture-demonstration
recitals while maintaining
an independent piano
studio. His star pupils
have garnered local,
state, national and inter-
national accolades, in-
cluding lauded perfor-
mances with orchestras
throughout the United
States and Europe, as
well as being featured in
"From the Top" and se-
lected into Lang Lang's
"Young Scholars" pro-
gram.

Steven Brown of the Sun-
Sentinel wrote of Mr.
Suárez: "...His Rachma-
ninoff was often down-
right luxurious. In the
more spacious of the six
Moments Musicaux, Op.
16...his masterful coloring
and caressing of every
tune, chord and back-
ground swirl made for
pianism that was deli-
cious in its expansiveness
and poise. His sweeping,
fearless playing of the
more muscular numbers
made an exuberantly
virtuosic contrast, yet his
unfailing sense of pol-
ished contour ensured
that nothing deteriorated
into a mere keyboard
rampage..."

Upcoming RPTG Programs for 2023

Welcome back to all our
members, old and new,
as we begin our fall se-
mester. Mark your calen-
dars for these upcoming
presentations and check
out the handbook for
more details:

Friday, Oct. 13 at 10 AM
Pittsford Community Cen-
ter Room 18. "Who's On
Your Program? Expand-
ing Your Studio's Reper-
toire" with Sarah Barford.

Friday, Nov. 17 at 10 AM
Eastman School of Music

Ciminelli Lounge. "Music
As Medicine" with Elinor
Freer.

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

First RPTG Program

On Friday, Sept. 15, 2023 we will gather at 9:45 AM at the home of Barbara Noval, 43 Parker Drive in Pittsford for a Piano Recital by Veniamin Blokh at 10 o'clock.

Veniamin Blokh is a DMA full scholarship student of Alan Chow at the Eastman School of Music. He earned a Bachelor's degree with honors from the prestigious St. Petersburg

Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in 2017.

Continuing his education in the United States, he received the Master's degree with honors and graduated from an artist diploma program. In addition to his career as a solo pianist, he has also pursued a passion for vocal and instrumental chamber music.

Veniamin is a laureate of many international piano competitions and festivals. He has participated in numerous piano masterclasses with many great artists and actively gives concerts as a soloist plus collaborates with smaller ensembles.



Veniamin Blokh
Guest Artist

RPTG 2023—2024 Student Recitals

Saturday, October 28th
Halloween Recital (2:00)
Legacy at Clover Blossom, 100 McAuley Dr., 14610 Application Deadline - Monday, October 16th

Saturday, December 9th
Holiday Recitals (1:30 & 3:00) Resurrection Lutheran Church, 3736 St. Paul Blvd., 14617 Application Deadline - Monday, November 27th

Saturday, February 10th
Student Recital (1:30) and Senior Recital (3:00) Asbury First United Methodist Church, 1050 East Ave., 14607 Application Deadline - Thursday, February 1st

Sunday, May 5th
Student Recitals (1:00, 2:00, 3:00) and Teachers' Recital (4:00) 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 14450 ATTN: RPTG Recitals

QUESTIONS?

Phone/text
(585) 203-6030

Student Recital Information for 2023—2024

I hope everyone has had the chance to savor this beautiful summer in Rochester! Below you will find information about this year's recital programming. I try to keep email communications to a minimum; however, I always send a reminder regarding application deadlines.

In response to feedback from last year's recital experiences, a few changes have been made for the upcoming year.

These changes will be reflected in the handbook as well, but to highlight a couple of points that have always remained steadfast:

- Performances must be polished
- Please coach students to bow at the conclusion of their performance
- Students should dress appropriately for a special occasion

Additionally, please take

note:

- Students may perform one solo piece, or one solo piece and one duet
- Beginning students should not use the Guild recitals as their first recital experience
- Memorized performances are preferred

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.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns. I'm looking forward to a fantastic year!

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

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

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

Gold Cup Festival January 27, 2024

The next Gold Cup Festival on Saturday, January 27, 2024 will be at the Nazareth University School of Music. To register your students, **the online student Application form will open on Saturday, October 14 and close on Monday, December 5.** The student fee is **\$30** per event (solo, duet, or hymn). The materials that are used to make the gold cups has increased substantially.

To access the application, open www.rochesterpianoteach

[ers.org/](http://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 2023 Teacher Report that was provided with your student certificates.

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 con-

venient reference.

Important: Spell each student's name exactly the same way every year on the application form. Auditions are scheduled for a total of 10 minutes for each student. Both of their pieces combined must fit into that allotted time.

There were 374 students who participated in the January 2023 Gold Cup Festival. Start planning who your performers will be in January 2024!