

DUET

Newsletter

November 2022

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

Teachers' Column Inaugural Entry

Hello Teachers! This is the inaugural entry in the Teachers' Column of the Duet Newsletter. You can submit a new and exciting piece you have discovered, an old favorite piece that has become a trusted recital crowd pleaser, apps that you just can't live without, tips and tricks that you have encountered, or even a book that has given indispensable advice. The Duet is looking for well written and thoughtful contributions from its members for this column going forward.



A Collection of Florence Price's Piano Teaching Music Vol 1 & Vol 2 Beginning Pieces By Stephanie Mercer

In my studio, I like to introduce students to a wide variety of composers and their pieces from the onset of piano study. While not every serious composer has written music for the beginning piano student, composer Florence B. Price has produced some great gems for the youngest of piano students.

First, a little background on Florence B. Price. Born in 1887, Price received degrees in piano teaching and organ from the New England Conservatory where she studied with George Chadwick. Chadwick encouraged Price to incorporate African-American materials into her music and her style became something of a stylistic mix of Romantic European and African-American spirituals, focusing on rhythms associated with African tradition. She

became one of the first African Americans to have works performed by major U.S. orchestras and opera companies.

During her career as a composer and performer, Price also taught students from the beginner level to the collegiate level. While she never produced a traditional beginning piano method, Price did write pedagogy pieces for the youngest student to convey specific concepts. Her pedagogy pieces have been compiled into two volumes each entitled "A Collection of Florence Price's Piano Teaching Music" available on www.classicalvocalrep.com. According to editor Lia Jensen-Abbott, Price's music for the youngest student has "imaginative vision, a solid pedagogical foundation, and stands as a unique ethno-pedagogical collection" (Jensen-Abbott, 2015, p. i). Pieces in these two volumes range from pieces that only use the black keys to pieces that introduce polyphonic playing.

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Special points of interest:

- RPTG Program with Brian Preston
Friday morning, November 18 at 10 o'clock Denton, Cottier & Daniels
- Gold Cup Festival deadline to apply online is on Sunday, December 4
- Student Holiday Recital—Sunday, December 10 2 PM at Valley Manor
1570 East Avenue, Rochester 14610

Calendar for November and December



November 2022

November 1, Tuesday
Deadline for Howard Hanson Audition applications. Send to Jean Sandquist Watson. More information on pages 22-23

November 1, Tuesday
National Guild of Piano Teachers Audition estimates are due. Contact: Wendy O'Brien (Henrickson) at brucelegacystudios@gmail.com

November 4, Friday, 9:30 am—RPTG Board meeting at Denton Cottier & Daniels

November 18, Friday, 10:00 am—Program & Membership Meeting at Denton Cottier & Daniels

Top 100 Teaching Tips and Tricks! (Well, maybe not quite 100) Part 2! presented by Brian Preston. RSVP to Sarah Barford: Barfordpiano@gmail.com

November 28, Monday
Deadline for December 10 Holiday Student Recital Applications. Application at www.rochesterpianoteachers.org. For more info, contact Beth Fischer: beth@bethfischerpiano.com

December 2022

December 4, Sunday
Deadline for Gold Cup Festival online applications. Application on

RPTG website:

www.rochesterpianoteachers.org

December 10, Saturday 2 pm Student Holiday Recital at Valley Manor, 1570 East Ave, Rochester, NY 14610

December 15, Thursday
Deadline for January Duet Newsletter. Email submissions to Elier Suárez: elier@elier.com

December 15, Thursday
Deadline for NYSMTA Student Achievement Program. Application at: <https://nysmtadistrict12.wixsite.com/website>. For more information contact Bonnie Choi: bchoi6@naz.edu

[Website](#)

&

[Register Online](#)

GRMTA Student Achievement Program

Technique Exam

Sunday,
March 12, 2023

Schedule will be sent in February

Theory Exam

Postmark: Saturday,
April 1, 2023

Send completed exam to:
Kym Schifino
19 Farm Field Lane
Pittsford, NY 14534

Repertoire Exam

Saturday,
May 27, 2023

Schedule will be sent by April 15

American Composer Series



Valerie Roth Roubos

Valerie Roth Roubos is our guest visiting composer April 15, 2023. Once again it will be held at Linehan Chapel, Nazareth College. The Nazareth College School of Music is our biggest supporter.

Valerie Roth Roubos maintains a studio in Spokane, Washington. She

teaches flute, piano and composition. Her delightful compositions are for all levels from Elementary to Early Advanced. We have arranged with Akron Music Studios for an easy way to order her music if you choose. Music will be discounted and must be ordered by November 18 and will be delivered to both of us. An order form

will arrive via email. Feel free to peruse the many books Teddy has. Your students will love her music.

Co-chairs: Teddy Carr and Diane Habeeb

Howard Hanson Award

A reminder that applications for the Howard Hanson Award are due Nov. 1, 2022. All the information and the applica-

tion is on the RPTG website at rochesterpiano-teachers.org. If you need assistance or have any questions, call:

Jean Sandquist Watson at 627-1596 or Roberta Honadle at 749-3231.

RPTG Program with Brian Preston

Our next member program is on Friday, November 18th at 10 am at Denton, Cottier & Daniels. Brian Preston will be con-

tinuing his presentation on the "Top 100 Teaching Tips and Tricks! (Well, maybe not quite 100.)"

Please RSVP to Sarah Barford at barford-piano@gmail.com so that we know how many handouts to print.

2023 Gold Cup Festival

The 2023 Gold Cup Festival Online Application opened on October 15 on the RPTG website: www.rochesterpianoteach

ers.org. Be sure to spell each of your students' names exactly the same way

every year. Your unique teacher ID is the same as last year (refer to your 2022 teacher report for your ID letter).



Gossamer Edge

Paula Rodney Bobb, piano
Rita George-Simmons, flute
&
Allyn Van Dusen, voice

Thursday, November 17th at 7:00 PM in the Hochstein Performance Hall—\$10

Presenting a program entitled "Songs We Forgot To Remember".

It's an eclectic program of music about Love and Nature, including 2 piano solos by women composers.

<https://GossamerEdge.com>

ECMS Lenti Competition 2023

The competition will be in early March, and as more information is announced, we encourage all teachers and students to visit

online at <https://www.esm.rochester.edu/community/vincent-lenti-piano-competition/>

for the most up to date information (and links to view last years winners).

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

**Teachers' Column Inaugural Entry
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While the names of the pieces are whimsical, Price does not always supply much guidance in the way of musical notation. This allows for teachers to supply articulation, dynamics, and tempos to supplement lesson concepts. Students can also use their imagination to come up with their own articulations and dynamics. These two volumes serve as stepping stones to some of Price's intermediate

pieces such as "Ticklin Toes" and "The Goblin and the Mosquito"

I hope I have inspired you to delve a little deeper into this underperformed composer. Beginner students' recital pieces don't all have to come from the method books, and with a little digging, gems like these can grace recitals everywhere.

Bibliography
[Jensen-Abbott, L. \(2015\). *A Collection of Florence Price's piano teaching music*\(Vol 1\). ClarNan Editions.](#)