
The Score

Susan Atkins, Editor

The Newsletter of the NSMTA

April 2006

APRIL 24 PROGRAM

"The young beginner: approaching the piano playfully"

Teaching young beginners can be both challenging and inspiring! In this program, Jennifer Merry will talk about the young beginner at the piano from both a theoretical and practical point of view, with a general overview of early childhood music and how it relates to getting kids started at the piano. She will show a few videotapes of class and private teaching, and will also bring ideas for games and playful activities to teach beginning concepts in a fun and imaginative way.

There will be time for brainstorming and idea sharing at the end of the presentation: if you have specific games or activities that you use with beginners, please consider bringing them to share with the group! Please call or e-mail Jennifer to let her know what you will be bringing/sharing! (this will help to allow enough time and to avoid duplication of games.) Phone: (847) 486-1368 e-mail: JMerry2@sbcglobal.net

Karen Tobias, Vice President, Programs

Jennifer Merry teaches private piano lessons and pre-piano classes in Northwestern University's Music Academy, where she has been on the staff since 1989. She currently coordinates pre-piano classes for 5 and 6 year old beginners, and teaches private students of all ages. She is also the director of Music Together of Glenview, a center offering music classes for parents and children from birth through age 4. She holds a Master of Music degree from Northwestern University in piano performance and pedagogy, and an undergraduate degree from Eastern Washington University in piano performance. Her classical studies were with Carmen Or, David Rostkoski, James Edmonds and Mary Jane Clarke. She has also studied jazz piano with Alan Swain, and piano pedagogy with Frances Larimer and Elvina Pearce. She remains active locally as a soloist and accompanist. Ms. Merry was an early recipient of the D.H. Baldwin Fellowship Award for Excellence in Teaching, a national award which helps young teachers to establish private studios. Ms. Merry has also reviewed new music for

Clavier magazine, and has contributed articles and reviews to Keyboard Companion magazine and American Music Teacher. She holds professional certifications from MTNA, The Center for Music and Young Children and the Early Childhood Music and Movement Association.

From the President ...

The MTNA Conference was wonderful! Susan Atkins and I did arrive in Austin in time to see Frances Larimer become a member of the Legacy Society and be honored as a 2006 Foundation Fellow. We are so proud of you Frances! Illinois had a large group attending the conference and NSMTA had at least 6 members in attendance. Two of the three new NCTM's from Illinois are members of NSMTA: Jennifer Cohen, and Thomas Purnell. I really believe that NSMTA can become the outstanding chapter in the nation. More on this in my next letter.

It is recital time. Will you be doing the same thing this year that you have done for the last 10, 15, 20 years? Do you go to your computer and type this year's program over last year. The only changes being the date and the names of the participants. Why not be adventurous this year and include some changes in the program. Be creative, use your imagination. We are all creative but sometimes we are lazy and always too busy to make some changes in what has worked in the past. Try at least one thing new this year. I know you can do it.

Mark your calendars now for the next MTNA Conference in Toronto, Canada, March 23-27, 2007. Be careful of the dates. This conference begins on Friday and ends on Tuesday. The theme of the conference is Exploring Pedagogical Diversity. Get a head start by having a creative spring recital.

Lynd Corley



The Independent Music Teacher Program on March 27th presented Dr. Theodore Edel in a lecture-recital on the "Music of Franz Liszt". He gave a superb performance both as being very informative about the literature and historical facts of special interest to the piano teacher, and as a great performer of several of Liszt's compositions to an enthusiastic audience.

To the people who inquired about his teaching, the answer is positive. He does do coaching for pianists. But he does not teach Piano Literature Classes at the moment, which some other people were interested to know about.

FORUM: Svetlana Belsky

April 24th, at 9:30 am, is our last presentation this academic year. The pianist will be **Svetlana Belsky**. She will perform Schubert's Wanderer Fantasy. We are looking forward to hearing her again. I hope to see many of you there.

Livia Ayal

*Born in the former Soviet Union, **Svetlana Belsky** began piano lessons at the age of seven, and was soon performing in the major concert halls of her native Kiev. Her playing has been critically acclaimed as "passionate," "impressive," "hypnotic" and ". . . (possessing) a high degree of musical maturity and sensitivity."*

Ms. Belsky received her Bachelor of Music Summa cum Laude and Master Degrees from the Peabody Conservatory of Music, where she studied with Ann Schein, a student of the legendary Arthur Rubinstein. Later, she earned her Doctorate in Performance at the Manhattan School of Music, while working under Mme. Nina Svetlanova, an heir to the tradition of Heinrich Neuhaus.

Although she trained mainly in the United States, Svetlana Belsky has an unmistakably Russian temperament and tonal gift, with which she combines her stylistic versatility and love for a wide variety of music. She has played early music with original instrument ensembles, and received awards for her interpretation of new American works, performing the New York premiere of 3 Evocations by Jay Weigel in Weill Recital Hall as a result Ms. Belsky has been active as a recitalist and chamber performer throughout the United States, in concert and on the radio. Dr. Belsky resides in the Chicago area, where she also teaches, writes, lectures, and adjudicates piano competitions. She has written numerous CD liner notes for Russian Disc, as well as her Doctoral dissertation, an annotated translation of Busoni as a Pianist by the renowned Russian musicologist Grigori Kogan.

Ms. Belsky's busy teaching schedule includes students of all ages, many of whom are competition winners, professional musicians and performers themselves. Her students have gone on to pursue musical careers, win scholarships to music conservatories, and, most

importantly, become music lovers.

She is on the faculty of the North Shore School for the Arts, and has recently been named Coordinator of Piano Studies at the University of Chicago. In this capacity, besides teaching individual lessons and coaching chamber ensembles, she organizes student performances and master classes.

FRANCES LARIMER HONORED AT MTNA CONFERENCE

Frances Larimer, Piano Professor Emerita of the Northwestern University School of Music, was honored as a Foundation Fellow at the MTNA Conference in Austin, Texas on March 27, 2006. Frances also became a member of the Legacy Society. Both of these honors ensure that she will continue making valuable contributions to piano teachers and their students for years to come.

"A most important highlight was the receiving of a Foundation Fellow Award at the Gala dinner. This was a special thrill, and I am truly grateful to ISMTA and NSMTA for the nomination and the contributions made toward this fellowship. I understand that contributions also were made from many former students and other friends. I shall treasure the framed certificate, the program book, and the small pin which I can wear on my badge at future conferences," said Frances of her recognition at the conference.

The conference lasted five days and featured many highlights, including valuable workshops, master classes, and concerts/recitals. Another special event was watching the taping of the radio show "From the Top" at the Paramount Theater, which was sponsored by MTNA.

But perhaps the best part was the reunions of old friends and meeting new friends. Says Frances Larimer, "For me the highlight each year (and the reason I continue to go) is the opportunity to see and visit with many of my former students from my numerous years of teaching at NU School of Music. It is always exciting to hear of their professional activities and witness their successes."

MTNA Conference - Toronto 2007

Welcome New Members

Tomoko Kashiwagi
1121 Church Street #403
Evanston, IL 60201
847-425-8795
tmkkashiwagi@yahoo.com

Philip Sabransky
838 Park Avenue
Wilmette, IL 60091

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE STATE AND LOCAL PRESIDENTS

*I am only one
But still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
But still I can do something.
And because I cannot do everything
I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.*

***Edward Everett Hale**

AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE MTNA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

During the month of March, arts advocacy takes center stage as myriad arts organizations converge in Washington D.C. to encourage governmental support of the arts. In fact, MTNA is a national co-sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day in our nation's capital on March 14, 2006. MTNA joins with Americans for the Arts and dozens of other national organizations to ensure that funding and arts-friendly public policies are adopted at the federal, state, and local levels.

As an independent or collegiate music teacher, you may sometimes question the effect on your day-to-day professional life of these public advocacy efforts. But be assured there is a dynamic connection between, for example, public music instruction, which is directly impacted, and your private studios. In fact, our futures are intimately connected, for if music and the arts are just "frills" in the public sector, then music instruction in the private sector will be adversely impacted. MTNA will remain a staunch supporter at the national level. But our resolve is not sufficient. You must be personally involved and advocating for music and the arts in your sphere of influence.

Here are some ideas and resources you may find helpful in your advocacy efforts:

1. Every conversation about your work is an opportunity to change the way your work is perceived. Be passionate, be informed and be unapologetic.
2. The MTNA publication Community Outreach and Education for the Arts Handbook. A handbook for promoting music and the other arts in our schools and communities. Includes updated information sources as well as a fill-in-the-blank template designed to help IMTs accumulate and organize information about various community resources.
3. Websites devoted to advocacy:

www.supportmusic.com

A public service of the Music Education Coalition. MTNA is a supporting organization. Up-to-date information on music and learning, help from experts and how to start a coalition.

www.amc-music.org

AMC's goal is to build credibility for music and music education, especially at an early age, and to expand that portion of the population that enjoys and makes its own music. Website contains articles, music advocacy resources and latest research.

www.artslynx.org

Artslynx is designed as a portal to the best information on the arts available on the web. Material is specifically optimized for educators, students, and professionals working in the arts. Also features "Arts on the Line" – tools for arts advocates, including articles and extensive list of "links," and speeches

www.artsusa.org

Americans for the Arts is a leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America. With more than 40 years of service, it is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts.

www.artsmarketing.org

ArtsMarketing.org is a resource for teachers and students in arts administration/arts management programs and for all members of the arts community, across all artistic disciplines. Through ArtsMarketing.org, artistic peers and marketing professionals address daily marketing needs and longer-term marketing issues for those working in the area of arts advocacy and music education.

www.cac.ca.gov

The California Arts Council works for a broad public understanding of, and appreciation for, the positive impact the arts play in enriching cultural, economic, and intellectual life in their communities and schools. Website includes usable information for any state, not just California.

4. Build a coalition in your community with other arts advocates – teachers, church musicians, etc.

I promise you our total commitment. But it will amount to little without your personal involvement. While you are only one, your efforts, interest, and work in the area of arts advocacy are crucial to our successes at all levels.

As we work together, personally and in partnership with other arts organizations, we will fulfill our mission "to advance the value of music study and music making " to everyone in our country.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Ingle
Executive Director
Music Teachers National Association
441 Vine St Ste 505
Cincinnati, OH 45202-2811
888.512.5278 (toll free)
513.421.1420
www.mtna.org
gingle@mtna.org

PIANO PEDAGOGY GUEST SERIES

Northwestern University

Jane Magrath, internationally recognized pedagogue and beloved NU alum, will be part of a Piano Pedagogy Guest Series this year and next at Northwestern. NSMTA teachers are invited to attend the session described below and it will be FREE. Her topic is:

"Choosing Literature to Peak Student Interest"

A fundamental issue facing all teachers is the pacing and building of pianistic and musical skills in students. This session will focus on using perception, foresight, and insight to choose motivational literature for student performances.

Thursday, April 27th
1 to 3 pm
Lutkin Hall on the NU campus

*Jane Magrath is well known as an author, clinician, and pianist. Her book *The Pianist's Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance Literature* has become a classic reference work for pianists throughout the country, and Magrath's work in the area of the standard classical teaching literature has been central to the current revival of interest in this music throughout the U.S. She currently has more than thirty five volumes published with Alfred Publishing, and her music editions are used widely throughout the U.S. and abroad.*

*Dr. Magrath is frequently in demand as a clinician and teacher, and during the last twenty years has performed and given presentations in over forty states including Alaska, and on three continents. Her workshops and master classes have drawn international acclaim. Magrath has served as Piano Coordinator for National Conventions of Music Teachers National Association and given presentations at MTNA National Conventions, the European Piano Teachers Association Conference, the National Conference on Piano Pedagogy, the World Piano Pedagogy Conference and at many state MTNA conventions. Her articles have appeared in the major piano journals. She was named the first recipient of the MTNA/Frances Clark Keyboard Pedagogy Award for the Outstanding Contribution to Piano Pedagogy. For many years she contributed *New Music Reviews* to *Clavier* and she currently serves as an editor for the *Piano Pedagogy Forum*. Magrath's regular column *Polyphony* can be found in *The American Music**

Teacher. She is most at home working in the studio and classroom with students, and collaborating with faculty colleagues and area teachers.

A native of South Carolina, Magrath received her education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and at Wesleyan College, and was the first person to receive the D.M. in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from Northwestern University. The University of Oklahoma presented her with the Regents' Award for Superior Teaching as well as the Associates' Distinguished Lectureship Award on two occasions and the Rinsland Award for Excellence in Educational Research. Currently, Magrath holds the Grant Endowed Chair in Piano Pedagogy at the University of Oklahoma, where she was named Rothbaum Presidential Professor of Excellence in the Arts and serves as Director of Piano Pedagogy. Her students have won numerous prizes and competitions.

For More information contact Marcia Bosits at:
m-bosits@northwestern.edu



Samuel and Elinor Thaviu Spring Scholarship Competition

Sunday, April 9, 2006, 3:00 pm
Lutkin Hall
Northwestern University, Evanston Campus

Thaviu/Isaak Piano Scholarship Competition

Saturday, April 22, 2006, 2:00 pm
Lutkin Hall

Finalists in both competitions will be performing and competing for scholarship funds, which will be awarded at the conclusion of the program

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Students who study with members of NSMTA are eligible to apply for scholarship awards. The Merle Hanson Scholarship Award is open to graduating high school seniors who are enrolling in a university, college or music school in a program that will prepare them for careers in music. The scholarship of \$300 is payable in two checks of \$150 each with the first check being presented at the NSMTA Contest Winners Recital in May where the winner will perform.

Students in grades 8 and 9 who are studying with members of NSMTA (dues must be paid by October 31st to qualify) are eligible to apply for a summer piano scholarship. One scholarship of \$150 will be awarded at the NSMTA Contest Winners Recital where the winner will perform. The same person may not win more than once. Scholarship funds are provided by interest earned from the Otilie Bauer estate gift.

Applications may be found in this issue. Please see the Directory for details or call Rachel Snyder (847-566-1862). **Applications and all materials must be postmarked by April 15th.**

Rachel Snyder
Scholarship Chair

CAMTA

Liszt Transcriptions of Schubert Songs:

Narratives in Sound By Joel Schoenhals

Friday, April 7, 2006
11:00 am

9th Floor, Marks Hall
Roosevelt University
430 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago

For more information call:
Diane Aitken, Publicity Chairman (773) 878-7513

NSMTA BOARD ELECTION

Summer 2006 will see three positions on the NSMTA board vacated. Lynd Corley will give up her position as president after two years of service, as will Susan Atkins, corresponding secretary, and Karen Tobias, VP Programs.

The nominating committee, led by chairperson Susan Atkins continues to search for candidates to fill these positions. The slate of nominees will be announced at the April 24 meeting. At that time, the floor will be opened for any additional nominations. A vote will be taken at the April meeting and the new officers will take charge of their positions in June.

Any questions or comments about the nominations process may be directed to Susan Atkins. Her e-mail address is theatkins@sbcglobal.net and her phone number is 847-473-4701.

Music Institute of Chicago

Presents:

Adult Piano Camp

June 15-18, 2006

Evanston & Winnetka Campuses

Why should kids have all the fun?

Faculty: Mary Drews, Elaine Felder, Matthew Hagle,
Sung Hoon Mo, Milana Pavchinskaya, Abraham
Stokman, Frank Winkler

The Chicago Duo-Piano Festival

July 16-25, 2006

Evanston Campus

Featuring concerts by Claire Aebersold and
Ralph Neiweem, Mona and Rica Bard, and
members of the Music Institute faculty

For more information, contact:

Music Institute of Chicago

1490 Chicago Avenue 300 Green Bay Road
Evanston, IL 60201 Winnetka, IL 60093
847-905-1500 847-446-3822

www.musicinst.org

PianoForte presents Jazz Salon Concerts and More...

Dear Piano Friends,

Here is a reminder of upcoming JAZZ SALON concerts. You will find the concerts listed at the bottom of this message and tickets can be purchased online or by e-mail or telephone reservation. All concerts take place on Saturdays at 3 pm at PianoForte's showroom.

But we also have MORE events:

April 8 at 3 pm: Ingrid MARSONER will perform a recital at PianoForte Chicago
 April 8 at 7:30 pm: Ani GOGOVA will perform a recital at Ganz Hall / Roosevelt University (7th floor) / \$10 donation at the door.
 April 20 at 7:30 pm: Ronan O'HARA is playing at Ganz Hall / \$10 donation at the door.
 April 22 at 3 pm: Jamie SHAAK and friends at PianoForte Chicago

The May concerts will be announced later.

For more information please visit our website at www.pianofortechicago.com/currentevents.

Please also note that the **Fazioli Salon Series**, a weekly live broadcast on WFMT FM 98.7 from the PianoForte Chicago showroom is FREE and open to the public to attend. The concerts are from 12:15 to 1 pm. For more information, please visit www.FazioliSalonSeries.org.

All these concerts are brought to you by the PianoForte Foundation, NFP, a not-for-profit organization approved under the 501 (c) 3 regulation of the IRS. If you wish to support our organization, please call us or send us your donation by check at 410 S. Michigan Ave, Suite 825, Chicago, IL 60605. We will send you an official receipt and acknowledge you in our programs, if you wish.

Thank you for your attention,

Thomas Zoells
 President
 PianoForte Foundation, NFP
 info@pianofortechicago.com
 Fine Arts Building, Suite 825
 410 South Michigan Ave, Chicago
 (312) 291-0000

PIANO TEACHING OPPORTUNITY

Piano lessons are currently being offered at the Great Lakes Naval Base Youth Center one afternoon a week. They will need a new teacher beginning fall 2006. This is a ready-made studio with eager students and opportunity for expansion to other days or another studio to open at Glenview Navy Housing Youth Center in Glenview. Fees are negotiable.

Please call Susan Atkins at 847-473-4701.

NSMTA Member Recital & Luncheon

Monday, June 12, 2006
 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
 2328 Central Road
 Glenview

Recital at 11:00 a.m.
 Salad Buffet at 12:15 p.m. at
 "The Café"
 Of the Glenview Park Golf Club
 800 Shermer Road
 Glenview

CALL FOR PERFORMERS

Piano solo or 4-hand, chamber music, vocal music, jazz, organ: 5-7 minutes
 Call Barbara Kudirka (847-657-7886) by May 31 with repertoire selection

The luncheon is \$15. Make check out to NSMTA and mail to
 Barbara Kudirka
 3219 W. Lake - #3B
 Glenview, IL 60025-1256

The luncheon deadline is Friday, June 2.

Treat yourself to a memorable event!

University of Chicago

Friday, April 28

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESENTS

CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES: Julian Rachlin, Violin/Viola & Itamar Golan, Piano

Rachlin won Eurovision's Young Musician of the Year at age 14 and went on to become the youngest soloist ever to debut with the Vienna Philharmonic. At home on both violin and viola, he plays the Shostakovich *Preludes*, Op. 34, the Brahms Sonata for Viola and Piano in F Minor, the Chausson *Poème*, and the Franck Sonata.

Mandel Hall, 8 pm, \$30 Adults, \$11 Students

Saturday, April 29

UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

"Springtime Jubilee" – Barbara Schubert conducts this program of seasonal delight featuring the exotic sounds of Ravel's *Un Barque sur l'Océan* and Piano Concerto in G Major, with 2006 Concerto Competition winner Natalia Kogan as soloist. Schumann's energetic Symphony No. 1 in B-flat Major, subtitled "Spring," follows.

Mandel Hall, 8 pm, Donations requested

Thursday, May 4

NOONTIME CONCERT SERIES

Flutist Shannon Kirwin, violinist Diana Zhou, and pianist Jim Marrone play the Trio Sonata from Bach's *Musical Offering*, the felicitous "Spring" Sonata by Beethoven, and Dutilleux's *Sonatine*, influenced by Debussy and Ravel.

Fulton Recital Hall, 12:15 pm, Free

Saturday, May 6

CHAMBER MUSIC SHOWCASE

Outstanding students in the Chamber Music Program offer an evening of musical camaraderie in the intimate setting of Fulton Recital Hall.

Fulton Recital Hall, 8 pm, Free

Tuesday, May 16

MASTER CLASS: NICHOLAS ROTH, PIANO

Hailed by the Indianapolis News as "a world of talent," Roth has appeared as soloist with the St. Louis Symphony. He is currently Assistant Professor of Piano at Drake University.

Fulton Recital Hall, 6 pm, Free



Thursday, May 25

NOONTIME CONCERT SERIES

USO concertmaster John Frederiksen and the Music Department's Jennifer Maxwell perform works for violin and piano, ranging from the sparkling Mozart Sonata in C Major, K. 296, to Brahms' impassioned Sonata No. 3 in D Minor, and closing with Kreisler's *Tambourin chinois*.
Fulton Recital Hall, 12:15 pm, Free

Thursday, May 25

JAZZ X-TET

"Still Pushing the Boundaries of Swing" – Director Mwata Bowden and the X-tet carry on with a modern approach to the music of influential pianist, bandleader, composer, and talent scout Fletcher Hamilton (1897-1952).
Fulton Recital Hall, 8 pm, Free

Thursday, June 1

NOONTIME CONCERT SERIES

Clarinetist Piotr Behr and pianist Jillian Marshall perform Weber's virtuosic *Clarinet Concertino*, Debussy's lush *Première Rhapsodie*, and a series by Béla Kovacs: *Hommages pour clarinette seule*, *Hommage à C.M. von Weber*, *Hommage à Richard Strauss*, and *Hommage à Claude Debussy*.

Fulton Recital Hall, 12:15 pm, Free

Board Meeting

All Executive Board members, Committee Chairs and Committee members (present and new)

Monday, May 22, 2006

9:30 am

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
2328 Central Road (Sherman and
Central)
Glenview, IL 60025

Please bring dates for the 2006-07 calendar
New program ideas
Estimated Budgets for the coming year

Direct your questions to Lynd Corley

The Score

The Newsletter of the NSMTA

www.nsmta.org

Susan Atkins
2545 Perry Street
Great Lakes, IL 60088