



Connecticut State Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

Fall 2007

<http://www.csmta.org/>

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Musicianship Achievement Program Report

Three chapters, 28 teachers, and 223 students participated in MAP in the spring of 2007. Chairs for the events, Joyce Baxter, Christine Brodzik, and Felicia Feng Zhang, kept everything running smoothly with their outstanding organizing skills. Many thanks to them and to the teachers who assisted them at each chapter!

5-Year Honorees

Eleven students from around the state received special plaques in honor of five years' of successful participation in the program. Congratulations to the following students and their teachers!

Alyssa Baranski (Patricia Baranski), Joshua Baranski

(Patricia Baranski), Adriana DePalma (Joyce Baxter), Rachel Fricke (Irina Zayaruzny), Brooke Husic (Anne Cassarino), Lesley Knaack (Donna Murphy), Michelle Nogas (Anne Cassarino), Peggy O'Neill (Anne Cassarino), Rebecca Paquette (Lean-Cheng Tan), Nicole Pierpont (Joyce Baxter), Stephanie Weldon (Sharon Girard). Many hours of preparation over a significant period of time went into earning these awards.



Participating Teachers

Hartford chapter: Patricia Baranski, Christine Brodzik, Anne Cassarino, Susan DeWolf, MaryAnn Ganz, Sharon Girard, Patricia Gronback, Mia Kang, Linda MacGougan, Donna Murphy, Allison Platt, Colette Switaj, Lean-Cheng Tan, Irina Zayaruzny

Middlesex/New London chapter: Joyce Baxter, Jane Bugbee, Arlene Cardoso, Carolyn Halsted, Adele Huffman, Sabrina Lee, Irene Listorti, John Metz, Gina Nedderman, Rose Marie Tamburri

Western chapter: Diane Cooke, Nancy McMillan, Beate Neblett, Felicia Feng Zhang.

MAP Plans for 2007-08

April 5 - Congregational Church, Clinton
Joyce Baxter, Chair
Postmarked registration deadline: Feb. 19

April 12 - Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford
Christine Brodzik, Chair
Postmarked registration deadline: Feb. 25

May 31 - St. James' Church, Southbury
Felicia Feng Zhang, Chair
Postmarked registration deadline: April 14

Teachers from any chapter may register students for any of these dates. Just be sure to send the registration form to the appropriate local chair.

Registration forms, guidelines and rules, and an order form for materials are available at www.csmta.org/, from Linda MacGougan (state chair) or in the fall Hartford chapter member newsletter.

Please contact Linda MacGougan or the local chairs if you have any questions about the program.



New Haven Chapter News

Michelle C. Zingale, Coordinator, Renée B. Fisher Piano Competition & Composer Awards

Auditions for the 30th annual Renée B. Fisher Piano Competition took place on April 15, 2007, at the Neighborhood Music School in New Haven. The judges were Christine Diwyk, Lisa Moore and Peter Miyamoto

The winners in the Elementary/Middle School division were:

Honorable Mentions – Eric Jiang (student of Qi Liu), Daniel Snyder (student of Istvan B'Racz) and for the performance of the commissioned work Thomas Kelly (student of Barbara Mills);

Third Prize – Chihiro Tsukamoto (student of Erika Schroth)

Second Prize – Alexander Beyer (student of Yoshie Akimoto)

First Prize -- Sophia Chua-Rubinfeld (student of Michelle Zingale)

In the High School Division:

Second Prize – Mark Tondi (student of Natalie Maynard*)

First Prize – Jeffrey Li (student of Marilyn Roth)

Prize for the best performance of the commissioned work for the Elementary/Middle School Division, *Fairy Tales* by Aaron Alon, was awarded to Alexander Beyer. The best performance of the commissioned work for the High School Division, *Etchings IV* by Paolo Longo, was awarded to Jeffrey Li.

All the winners performed in a gala anniversary concert on May 12 at the Neighborhood Music School in New Haven, which also featured performances by three past winners, Jeb Dennis, Michael Maronich and Alexis Zingale .

Awards were presented by Shelley Fisher Fishkin, daughter of the late Renée B. Fisher in whose memory the competition was established.

Application materials for the 2008 Piano Competition will be available in October 2007; application deadline will be January 26, 2008. The live auditions will be held on April 13, 2008, at the Neighborhood Music School in New Haven as will the Winner's Concert on May 3.

Honors Chamber Music Program

Maggie Francis

Hart's Honors Chamber Music program, Performance 20/20, performs approximately 15 to 20 concerts per school year, FREE OF CHARGE!

Known for its innovative programming, Performance 20/20 performs both new music for unusual instrument combinations, as well as, the traditional chestnuts of the chamber music repertoire.

Join us for our "Opening Night," Sunday, October 14 at 7:30 pm in Millard Auditorium at the Hartt School, University of Hartford campus. You'll be treated to everything from Brahms' "Hungarian Dances" for piano 4-hands, to the beautiful Mendelssohn "String Octet" and the exciting Stravinsky "Octet for Winds." In addition, you will hear music featuring harp, accordion, percussion and many more instruments.

Hartford Chapter News

Edith Sullivan's 16-year-old student Bianca Yuh was the winner of the Danbury Music Centre's Annual Concerto Competition. Yuh performed the first movement of Mendelssohn's "G Minor Piano Concerto" with the Danbury Symphony Orchestra in their Young People's Concert on Feb. 4, at Ives Hall at Western Connecticut State University.

Yuh also won first prize in the Senior Level of the Chopin Special Award Competition sponsored by the Schubert Club of Fairfield County. She was also featured in the Winners Concert at the First Congregational Church in Greenwich, where she received the trophy and cash award.

Another Sullivan student, 17-year-old Remy Zhang,

performed the MacDowell "Concerto No. 2 in D minor" with the Farmington Valley Symphony Orchestra under the direction of John Eells on March 31 at the Lincoln Theater at the University of Hartford. Zhang was also the second prize winner of the Hartford Symphony's Young Artist Competition and was invited to perform with the Connecticut Valley Chamber Orchestra in 2008. Zhang will present a recital on Nov. 4 at Edmond Town Hall in Newtown as part of the Newtown Friends of Music Concert Series in a program of works by Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Rachmaninoff and Ravel. For more information on this concert series, visit the website www.newtownfriendsofmusic.org.

Upcoming Hartford Events

Friday, September 28, 2007, 7 pm

Plainville Public Library, 56 East Main St.

Free admission. Refreshments served.

Maryjane Peluso, piano, will perform JS Bach "Tocatta and Fugue in G Major," Liszt "Hungarian Rhapsody No.6 in D Major"

Also on the program: Peter Peluso, classical accordion, will perform works by Volpe, Khatchaturian and original works for piano and accordion.

Sunday, Dec. 16, 2007, 6 pm

Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 79 New Park Avenue, Hartford
Bridget de Moura Castro announces the 16th annual Messiah to aid the homeless.

Needed for the shelter: money, food, clothes, toiletries and small household goods. Get a head start on your spring cleaning and help the poor!



Suzuki Association of the Americas Announces New Chairperson

Hartt adjunct professor Teri Einfeldt has been named Chairperson Elect of the Suzuki Association of the Americas, a non-profit organization that aspires to support, guide and promote Suzuki education in North, Central and South America. Prof. Einfeldt is the Chair of The Hartt School's Suzuki Department and The Hartt School Community Division's String Department. She is also the Assistant Director of Hartt's summer Suzuki Institute.

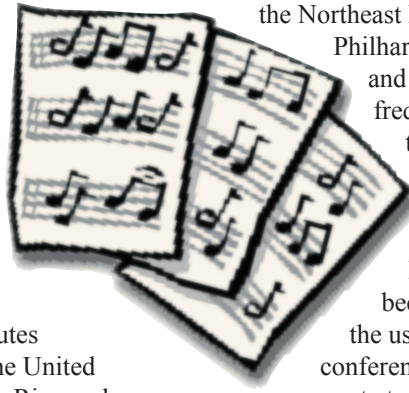
The Suzuki Association of the Americas is a coalition of teachers, parents and educators who are interested in making music education available to all children. The organization provides programs and services to members throughout North and South America. The SAA is governed by a Board of Directors and managed by a staff in Boulder, Colorado. In conjunction with the International Suzuki

Association and other regional associations, the SAA promotes and supports the spread of Dr. Suzuki's Talent Education.

A Suzuki Association of the Americas registered Teacher Trainer, Prof. Einfeldt is a frequent clinician at weekend string workshops and summer Suzuki Institutes throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada.

She received her Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Ithaca College. She has participated and presented at several National Suzuki Association Teacher's Conventions as well as lecturing at the Connecticut American String Teachers Association Convention.

In addition, she has taught at the Pan Pacific Suzuki Conference in Sydney, Australia and at the 14th Suzuki World Conference in Turin, Italy. She is the former Assistant Concertmistress of the Northeast Pennsylvania Philharmonic and performs frequently with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra. Prof. Einfeldt has been active in the use of video conferencing to promote teacher training to areas where training is not offered as a long-term option. She and her late husband David pioneered The Hartt School's Master's Degree in Performance with an emphasis in Suzuki Pedagogy program and The Hartt School Suzuki Institute. Prof. Einfeldt currently serves as Chair of the Practicum Committee for the SAA.



28th Audrey Thayer Competition Results

Malgosia Lis

Grade 3:

1st prize: Angela Luo (Lan-Ya Huang)

2nd prize: Helen Bao (Pi-Hsun Shih)

3rd prize: Jessica He (Tamila Humphreys)

Honorable Mention: Christopher Parkin (Benita Rose) and Anastasia Aschepkova (Mia Kang)

Grade 4:

1st prize: James Towne (Sima Brodsky)

2nd prize: Justin He

(Humphreys)

3rd prize: Katie Rogers (Malgosia Lis)

Honorable Mention: Priscilla Back (Brodsky) and Alicia Wang (Edith Sullivan)

Grade 5:

1st prize: Katherine Gershfeld (Bella Keyzner)

2nd prize tie: Kristen Garcia (Huang) and Anna Pan (Maggie Francis)

3rd prize: Michael Mei (Sullivan)

Honorable Mention: Ellen Liu (Bridget de Moura Castro)

Grade 6:

1st prize tie: Giulia Bambara (Lis) and Edward Krutyanskiy (Inna Sherman)

2nd prize tie: Ethan Wu (Brodsky) and Elaine Yao (Lis)

3rd prize: Jane Yu (Brodsky)
Honorable Mention: Isabel Nip (Lis) and Conan Xiao (Francis)

Grade 7:

1st prize: Alexandra Henriques (Sherman)

2nd prize: Connie Yuan Zhou (Sullivan)

3rd prize: Andrew Hannau (Kang)

Honorable Mention: Dan-than Trinh (Ju Og Kang)

Fall & Winter Events

Collette Switaj

Sep. 25

Hartford chapter's second annual New Member Brunch will be held at Falcetti's music Store, 10:00 AM

Sep. 30

Hartford Piano Society is presenting in recital Alexander Kobrin, 2005 Van Cliburn gold medalist, at Millard Auditorium, University of Hartford, 7 pm

Oct. 21

South Church at New Britain hosts the three winners of the CSMTA 2007 Collegiate competition, Anastasia, Corbin and Yu-Chen

Oct. 24

Paul Jennings presents "State of the Piano Industry" at Falcetti's, 10 am

Oct. 28

Dr Watson Morrison presents an all-Beethoven recital at Lincoln Theater, University of Hartford, 3 pm

Nov. 1

The Musical Club of Hartford presents Leonid Sigal, violinist, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, West Hartford, at 10 am

Nov. 17

First Youth Recital at St James Church in Farmington, 2 to 5 pm

Dec. 7

Holiday Adult Social at Falcetti's, 7 pm



See Winners, page 7

Connecticut State Music Teachers Association

Annual Convention

Hosted by Fairfield Chapter

Saturday, November 3, 2007

Easton Public Library Auditorium

“Music Lessons... or Music for Life?”



- 8:45 am Coffee
- 9:00 am Greetings, State Board Meeting
- 9:45 am Performance – Collegiate Winner 2007
- 10:00 am Panel Discussion on Keynote Theme: “Music Lessons, or Music For Life?”
- Jean Carucci, Education Coordinator, Stamford Symphony Orchestra
 - Gregory Rahming, Singer, Opera Director
 - Chris Thibdeau, Cellist
 - Diane Wittry, Conductor/Music Director, Norwalk Symphony
- 11:30 am Performance: Gregory Rahming
- 12:00 noon Lunch
- 1:00 pm Presentation: John Metz – “My Cleaning Lady Told Me....”
- 2:00 pm Performance: Commissioned Work
- 2:15 pm Presentations (45 minutes each) by members of Fairfield Chapter
- Benita Rose: The Importance of Sight-Reading
 - Kathleen Thelsen: “Preparing Students for a Lifetime of Playing for Pleasure”
- 3:45 pm Break
- 4:00 pm Lecture/Performance by NECM Faculty member Gabriel Chodos
- 5:45 pm Concluding Remarks

Registration Application

(Please detach and send with your Registration fee)

Members: \$50.00/\$45.00* Non-Members: \$55.00/\$50.00* Students: \$20.00

***Pre-register before October 20 and save \$5.00!**

Lunch cost is included in registration



Name: _____ Email: _____

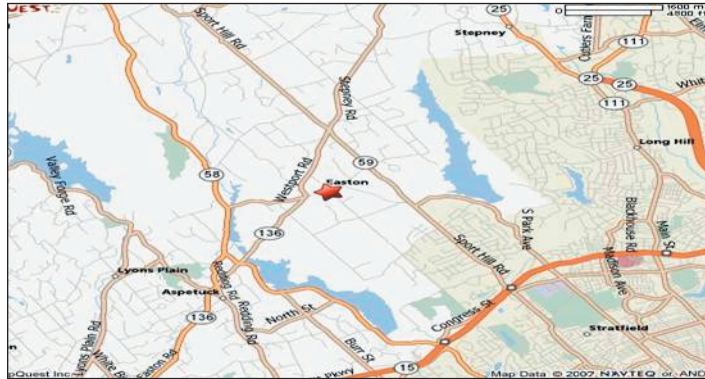
Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Chapter: _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please send your Registration application and check (written to CSMTA) to:
Barbara Johnson 59 Berlin Street, Middletown, CT 06457



Easton Public Library
 691 Morehouse Road, Easton, Connecticut 06612
 (203) 261-0134



Easton Public Library

Via Route 15 (Merrit Parkway):

1. Take Exit 46.
2. Northbound take a right off the exit and a right onto Sport Hill Road (Route 59)
3. Southbound take a right off the exit and a left onto Sport Hill Road (Route 59)
4. Travel approximately 2.5 miles. Take left onto Center Road. The Fire Station will be on your left.
5. Follow Center Road until the stop sign at Morehouse Road.
6. Take a left onto Morehouse Road, and an immediate right into the Library parking lot.

Via Route 25 South (Stephney Road, Route 59):

1. Follow to Sport Hill Road and cross over it and take a left onto Morehouse Road.
2. The Library is on the right immediately after the stop sign.

2007 Convention Participants

Jean Carucci, Education Director, Stamford Symphony Orchestra

Jean has been with the Stamford Symphony for almost two years. She began as a parent volunteer in the community and founded the Parents for Sound Music Education Committee, which was designed to examine the state of music education in the Stamford Public Schools. She was ultimately responsible for the district hiring a Director of Fine Arts to oversee and improve on all schools music programs.

During her short tenure at the Symphony she has spearheaded a unique after-school music appreciation program with the Boys and Girls Club of Stamford. "The Symphony Project", a 13-week sequential music education curriculum is now entering its second year and serves 120 children between the ages of 6 through 8.

Jean oversees the Symphony's Instrumental Scholarship Competition for qualified High School seniors who plan to major in music performance, as well as the Roger Nierenberg Young Musician Commendation Award which is given to 8th grade students in Fairfield County.

She has also increased participation of Stamford Schools in the "Advance the Arts" program which brings families to the SSO's Sunday afternoon concerts and allows schools to raise money for their arts programs.

Jean's next project will be introduction of a district-wide student concert for all the 4th and 5th grades of Stamford next spring. This program will tie the Social Studies curriculum of American History to music and will include four 45-minute lesson plans prior to students coming to the Palace Theatre in Stamford CT for a full concert. This program will serve over 2,500 students.

Jean spent 12 years in advertising and marketing before staying home with her three children. She lives in Stamford, Conn.

Gregory Emanuel Rahming, Baritone



Baritone Gregory Emanuel Rahming has been the winner of numerous opera competitions. He was a finalist in The Luciano Pavarotti Competition. He has sung many principal roles on stages throughout the world, and has toured with New York City Opera and the Metropolitan Opera Guild. He has appeared on Broadway in *On the Town*, and has contributed his talents to television and radio voice-overs. Gregory is now

appearing in *Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway.

Breaking the Cello Mold

By David Callicott

When Patrick Laird formed his group, Break of Reality, four years ago, he did so in the spirit of the Dead Poets Society.

Laird, who was a freshman at Rochester's Eastman School of Music, feared that the faculty, and possibly his classmates, wouldn't approve of the direction he was taking his music.

Eastman is a classical conservatory steeped in tradition, and Laird was taking his four-stringed straddle-ax into uncharted territory. So he kept his project on the down-low, writing unconventional, Tool-inspired instrumentals by candlelight in a



Continued on page 6

Break of Reality, cont.

cave on the outskirts of the campus forest. Or at least that's how I imagined it when Laird told me his story.

Laird stealthily recruited fellow cellists Erin Keesecker and Chris Thibdeau, and the three began playing small acoustic shows in local cafes. Soon they added percussionist, Ivan Trevino, sharpening their edge. They bought amps and crossed over to the dark side—playing their first electric show in 2004 at a Rochester coffee shop. The BoR shows started getting publicity, letting Laird's secret out of the bag. But to Laird's surprise, the old-school fogies at Eastman didn't frown upon his project. They were impressed the quartet was bringing new fans to classical music.

Since then, Break of Reality has been performing regularly all over the state, visiting the city for occasional gigs at Joe's Pub and the Knitting Factory. Last month, just before the quartet graduated from Eastman, they played their biggest show ever to over 1,000 fans at their "Farewell Rochester" concert before packing up and moving to Brooklyn. "It was the greatest night of my life," says Laird. "It showed us what an impact we had on the community."



Gabriel Chodos



Gabriel Chodos has performed throughout the U.S., Europe, Japan and Israel. He has been a soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Aspen Chamber Symphony, the Radio Philharmonic Orchestra of Holland, and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra.

A winner of the Concert Artists Guild Competition in New York, Chodos also received a Fulbright Scholarship, Martha Baird Rockefeller grants, and an NEA

Solo Recitalists Grant. He has given masterclasses and lecture-demonstrations at the Rutgers Summerfest, the Chautauqua Festival, the Hochschule für Musik in Leipzig, and the Toho Gakuen School of Music and Kunitachi College of Music in Tokyo.

Chodos has performed at the 92nd Street Y, Alice Tully Hall, Merkin Hall, Symphony Hall, and the Library of Congress. In recent years, his performances of works by Schubert, Chopin, and Brahms have been broadcast nationwide by National Public Radio. The Aspen Music Festival and School, where Chodos has been artist faculty since 1987, appointed him the second Simms Family Piano Faculty Chair for 2003-2004.

B.A. in philosophy, Phi Beta Kappa, and M.A. in music, UCLA; Diploma in Piano, Akademie für Musik und darstellende Kunst, Vienna. Principal piano studies with Aube Tzerko; also with Leonard Shure, Josef Dichler, Carlo Zecchi. Recordings on Fleur de Son, Centaur, Orion, Victor/Japan, and CRI. Former faculty of University of Oregon, SUNY/Buffalo, Dartmouth College. Current faculty of the Aspen Music Festival.

Diane Wittry

Diane Wittry is currently Music Director and Conductor of both the Allentown Symphony in Pennsylvania and the Norwalk Symphony in Connecticut. In demand as a guest conductor nationally and internationally, she has conducted orchestras in Italy, Japan, Russia, Slovakia and the Ukraine. American orchestras she has conducted include the Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Diego Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, New Jersey Symphony, Houston Symphony, Florida Philharmonic and Ojai Festivals Chamber Orchestra.



Her teachers and mentors have included Michael Tilson-Thomas, Gustav Meier, Sir Peter Maxwell Davis, Daniel Lewis, Jorge Mester, and most recently, she spent time working with the well-known Russian conductor, Leonid Korchmar from the Kirov Opera, and the famous conducting teacher Jorma Panula, from Finland.

Over the years, Diane Wittry has received many honors and awards including feature articles in Newsweek magazine (Sept. 1994) and the New York Times (2001); an "Arts Ovation Award" from the City of Allentown, Pennsylvania; the "Women of Excellence" Award in Beaumont, Texas; the national "Helen M. Thompson" Award from the American Symphony Orchestra League for outstanding artistic leadership; and the prestigious Fiorino Doro Award from the city of Vinci, Italy.

Her new book, "Beyond the Baton," was released by Oxford University Press in January 2007.

John Metz, Piano and Harpsichord

Pianist John Metz received a Master's Degree in Piano from Syracuse University and a DMA in Harpsichord from The Juilliard School.

From 1968 to 1978 he held the position of Pianist in Residence at Concordia College, in Moorhead, MN. In 1980 he joined the faculty of Arizona State University, where he built an early music program and taught harpsichord. In 1999 he became Artistic Director of the Connecticut Early Music Festival, after having performed on the festival every year since its inception in 1982. In 2004 he retired from Arizona State University, and settled in Waterford, CT, where he teaches piano and performs locally.

He and his wife Barbara are currently researching a large Romantic sonata for piano and cello, by Leonhard Emil Bach, published in 1891, of which Arizona State University holds the only known copy. They presented a "first" performance of the work in a series of recitals in the fall of 2005.



Winners, continued from page 3

Grade 8:

1st prize: Jason Ott
(Humphreys)
2nd prize: Nicholas Goldbach
(Anne Kan)
3rd prize: Mary Pan (Francis)
Honorable Mention:
Christine Huang (Brodsky)
and Andy Mai (Dina
Simanovich)

Grade 9:

1st prize: Tim Tsai
(Francis)
2nd prize: John King (Dorothy
Renouf)
3rd prize: Crystal Shen (Lis)
Honorable Mention: Felicia
Pan (Huang)

Grade 10:

1st prize: Christopher Long
(Francis)

2nd prize: Meredith Bayliss
(Francis)

3rd



prize
tie: Kendra Nealon
(Francis) and Jerui Song
(Simanovich)

Grade 11:

1st prize: Michelle Lee
(Brodsky)
2nd prize tie: Remy Zhang
(Sullivan) and Bianca
Yuh (Sullivan)
3rd prize tie: Mary
Brunelli (Gisele
Witkowski) and Jonathan
Hannau (M. Kang)

Grade 12:

1st prize: Kate
McDermott (Francis)
2nd prize tie: Kathryn
Greenwood (Francis) and
Andrei Lieders (Barbara
Johnson)
3rd prize: Caroline Berger
(Fabio Witkowski)

*If your
contact
information
changes,
please let us
know.
We want to
keep you up-
to-date on
CSMTA news.
We'll publish
your changes
here so
your fellow
teachers
can update
their address
books!*



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