



Connecticut State Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

Fall 2008

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

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Karen Kissman NCTM Honored in Manchester

Karen Kissman was inducted into the Manchester Arts Commission Hall of Fame on June 11, 2008, and was also presented an Official Citation from the Board of Directors of the Town of Manchester for recognition of her dedication to, advocacy for, and achievement in the arts of the Manchester community.

The Hall of Fame awards were established in 2001 by the Manchester Arts Council. Dr. Francis Helfrick was instrumental in his quest to honor local individuals. The Arts Council disbanded in 2003 and the Manchester Arts

Commission continued the tradition. Honorees are placed in the following categories: Music, Drama, Dance, Education, Literature, Visual Arts, Volunteer, and Arts in Business and Community (the ABC award.) Guidelines for nominations include longevity in the arts (past or ongoing), outstanding contributions in any field of artistic expression that have inspired, entertained, or educated others or benefited our community. Patrons and arts Volunteers as well as artists are eligible.

Karen is the owner and manager of the Werner Piano Organ & Vocal Studio which

was established by her uncle, Frederic E. Werner. She strives to uphold the legacy that Mr. Werner inspired in all of his students – “through a lifelong process of education we can help our students grow in their love of music and at the same time provide enrichment and meaning in their lives.” Karen is a member of CSMTA, the National Piano Foundation, MTNA, and the American Music Conference. Werner Studios offers instruction in piano, organ and voice. A Holiday Musicale and two Spring Recitals are presented each season as a gift to the community.



2008 CSMTA Convention Solid Beginnings

by Roxane Lee, CSMTA Recording Secretary, WCMTA Webmaster, Membership Chair and Publicity Chair

October 4, 2008, Elks Lodge, West Brook, CT. The 2008 CSMTA Convention, hosted by the Middlesex/New London chapter, was attended by 39 members. The magnificent waterside location was a perfect foil for the outstanding performances and presentations during the convention. John Metz, President of the host chapter, began the day by announcing the inaugural concert “Piano Works”, an organization he founded in New London. The

second place winner of the Young Artist’s competition, Corbin Beisner, gave the opening performance by starting in an unconventional way – with an improvised piece. Beisner gave a confident, relaxed performance that garnered enthusiastic a standing ovation from the audience. His program included works by Beethoven, Schumann and Liszt, with an encore by Scriabin.

Following the performance, Eugenie Rocherolle, one

of Connecticut’s treasured composers, lead a panel discussion addressing “Solid Beginnings”. The panelists included Fei Xu, founder of New Century Conservatory and piano teacher, Irene Rissi, an independent violin and viola instructor and Mary Beth Lee, an independent voice instructor. The topics discussed included the age the panelists started lessons and the effect their first lessons had on their

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From the Hartford Chapter

2008 Audrey Thayer Winners/Teachers

Grade 3

- First: Theresa Du (Svitlana Fiorito)
- Second: William Yin (Svitlana Fiorito)
- Third: Noah Yoon (Malgosia Lis)
- HM: Luke Wang (Edith Sullivan)
- HM: Jenny Chen (Malgosia Lis)

Grade 4

- First: James Zhan (Svitlana Fiorito)
- Second: Jessica He (Tamila Humphreys)
- Second: Angela Luo (Lan-Ya Huang)
- HM: Helen Bao (Pi-Hsun Shih)
- HM: Angus Li (Felicia Huang)

Grade 5

- First: James Towne (Sima Brodsky)
- First: Ray Zhang (Svitlana Fiorito)
- Second: Justin He (Tamila Humphreys)
- Second: Amanda Lee (Svitlana Fiorito)
- Third: Alicia Wang (Edith Sullivan)
- HM: Priscilla Bach (Sima Brodsky)
- HM: Hannah Grant (Felicia Zhang)
- HM: Katie Rogers (Malgosia Lis)

Grade 6

- First: Anna Pan (Maggie Francis)
- Second: Michael Mei (Edith Sullivan)
- Third: Jackie Xu (Svitlana Fiorito)
- HM: Vy Dang (Malgosia Lis)
- HM: Katie Gersfeld (Bella Keyzner)

- Third: Crystal Xue (Edith Sullivan)
- HM: Tim Tsai (Maggie Francis)
- HM: Shiori Yamaguchi (Len-Ya Huang)
- HM: Victoria Shih (Edith Sullivan)
- HM: Crystal Shen (Malgosia Lis)

Grade 11

- First: Kendra Neelon (Maggie Francis)
- First: Sarah Pan (Maggie Francis)
- Second Merideth Bayliss (M Francis)
- Second: Christopher Long (M Francis)
- Second: Joyce Han (Sima Brodsky)
- Third: Jessica Huang (Fabio Witkowski)
- HM: DaNyung Jeong (Gisele Witkowski)
- HM: Hongliang Liang (Dorothy Renouf)
- HM: George Malkin (Gisele Witkowski)

Grade 12

- First: Michelle Lee (Sima Brodsky)
- Second: Remy Zhang (Edith Sullivan)
- Third: Jonathan Hannau (Mia Kang)
- Third: Laone Tihank Thekiso (Gisele

- Witkowski)
- HM: Mary Claire Brunelli (Gisele Witkowski)

Rose-Gibbs Duo

Benita Rose and Tony Gibbs, as the Rose-Gibbs Duo, won third prize in the 2008 International Chamber Music and Ensembles Competition held in Boston during the months of April and May.

Select Students Competition 2008 Winners

The 15th Select Students Competition was held on May 3, 2008, at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain where 92 students in grades 2 to 12 participated in live auditions.

Judges selected 62 students to perform at the Winners Recital held on May 17 at the First Lutheran Church in Southington.

The event is gaining popularity among teachers and students. The 2008 competition represented 21 teachers' studios.

Vera Roberts and Donna Breen Stamm judged grades 2 to 7, and Linda Laurent and Yilin You judged grades 8 to 12. The judges were impressed with the overall level of performances, as well as the

variety of selections.

Grade 2

- Sophia Cheng - Ozeryansky
- Ashley Lam - Azadalyieva
- Marc Sokolson - Keyzner
- Michelle Li - Shih
- Amelia Henriques - Henriques
- Clara Ma - Ozeryansky
- Michelle Tang - Brodsky
- Kelly Zheng - Brodsky
- Allen Xue - Henriques

Grade 3

- Vivian Huang - Ozeryansky
- Rebecca Peng - Cassarino
- Angela Zhu - Ozeryansky

Grade 4

- Alexander Kim - Azadalyieva
- Maria Latta - Ozeryansky
- Agnes Ning - Woodard
- Teddy Liu - Ozeryansky
- Katya Makkaveyev - Simanovich

Grade 5

- Alice Chen - Ozeryansky
- Elizabeth Ladyzhets - Keyzner
- Lilia Shen - Simanovich
- Christian Bouzyk - Simanovich
- Ross Ackeifi - Simanovich
- Narineh Torosyan - Azadalyieva
- Derek Pang - Brodsky

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Eugenie Rocherolle at World Piano Pedagogy Conference

Eugenie Rocherolle presented several of her new piano publications on the Hal Leonard Showcase at the World Piano Pedagogy Conference in Dallas on Oct. 24. The two most recent are a new Christmas collection, *Candlelight Christmas*, for intermediate level with CD, and a duet, *Prime*

Time, commissioned for a monster concert which she is conducting in early December in Annapolis.

A two-piano, four-hand version of her *Jambalaya* will also be presented on the showcase, along with her French waltzes, *Valses Sentimentales*, for intermediate solo piano with

CD.

Eugenie will be releasing a new CD in a month or so with pianist, Julie Rivers. *Touch of Blue...and Other Colors* will be on her independent label, Aureus Recordings.

Two works are scheduled for publication with Hal Leonard in the next year: a flute sonata and a piano trio.

Hartford

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Grade 6

- Judy Xu- Ozeryansky
- Rita Guo - Zayaruzny
- Raymond Xue - Henriques
- Elizabeth Hammond - Bradley
- Vivienne Liu - Cassarino
- Nicole Shvayetsky - Simanovich
- Sophia Belko - Simanovich
- Lisha Li- Pi-Hsun
- Sophia Dong - Brodsky
- Nancy Fu- Lis
- Priyanka Altman - Sullivan

Grade 7

- Amanda Lee - Simanovich
- Stephanie Hua - Azadaliyeva
- Siobhan O'Neil - Azadaliyeva
- Natalia Kosyakova - Keyzner
- Jasmine Caruk - Keyzner
- Ryan Shelby- Simanovich
- Kristin Aponte- Bradley
- Diego Mejia - Lis
- David Dobrinin -Sedun

Grade 8

- Meredith E. Keen - Francis
- Nicole Yang - Pi-Hsun
- Katherine Minnes - Simanovich

Grade 9

- Carolyn Dugas - Woodard
- Rachel Fricke - Zayaruzny
- David Li - Brodsky
- Sonya Fung - Brodsky
- Richard Lin - Cassarino
- David Zha - Francis

Grade 10

- Jeffrey Chen - Ozeryansky
- Esther Chow - Ozeryansky
- Ruth Bohn - Sullivan

Grade 11

- Yulia Manyakina - Keyzner

Grade 12

- Mario Dean - Sedun
- Corinna Kasiman - Zayaruzny
- Christa Gniadek - Ozeryansky
- Anna Yatskovskaya - Keisner
- Grant Woodard - Simanovich

Baldwin Acrosonic Spinet with cherry finish. In good condition. Bench included. Asking price \$650.

Baldwin 5' 2" Baby Grand Piano with walnut finish. Excellent condition. Approximately 30 years old. Bench included.

**Contact Steve Powlisen
860-568-6580**



New Haven Chapter News

Renee B. Fisher Competition

Applications and guidelines for the 2009 Renee B. Fisher Piano Competition are now available as are the commissioned works, "Two Pattern Preludes" by Karim Al-Zand for the Elementary/Middle School Division and "Quidditch" by Gregory Fritze for the High School Division. Requests for materials can be made at 203-624-5189 ext.41 or at reneebfisher@yahoo.com. Application deadline will be January 24, 2009. The live auditions will be held at the Neighborhood Music School in New Haven on Sunday, April 19 as will the Winners Concert on Saturday, May 16.

The 31st annual Renée B.

Fisher Piano Competition took place in April 2008 at the Neighborhood Music School in New Haven; the judges were Frederic Chiu, Luiz de Moura Castro and Mihae Lee. The winners in the Elementary/Middle School division were:

- Honorable Mentions – Lloyd Chen (student of Thomas Martin), Corey Chang (student of Mary Bloom) and Jane Lin (student of Svitlana Fiorito)
- Third Prize tie – Eric Jiang (student of Qi Liu) and Rachael Shapiro (student of Adam Kent)
- Second Prize – Ethan Wu (student of Sima Brodsky)
- First Prize – Stanley Cai (student of Tatyana Pikayzen).

In the High School Division:

- Third Prize tie – Megan Zhou (student of Qi Liu) and Audrey Zhang (student of Qi Liu)
- Second Prize – Daniel Snyder (student of Istvan B'Racz)
- First Prize – John King (student of Dorothy Renouf). Prize for the best performance of the commissioned work for the Elementary/Middle School Division, *Ongheya* by Jean Ahn, was awarded to Ethan Wu and the best performance of the commissioned work for the High School Division, *Hip Hop for piano* by Peter Michael von der Nahmer, was awarded to Daniel Snyder.

All the winners performed in concert on May 3 at the Neighborhood Music School

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

Member Kudos

Pat Bissell's article on "Improvising attitudes" appeared in the Dec 2007-Jan 2008 issue of Music Teachers Magazine.

Tina Monterose, former president of NH Chapter, received Volunteer of the Year Award from the Conn. State Assn. of Healthcare Facilities at a luncheon in Mystic July 17. She received a plaque and restaurant certificate. Tina has played classical music and music for sing-alongs at the Health Care Center of New Haven for seven years as a volunteer.

Fairfield Chapter news

The Fairfield Chapter launched a new website in August: www.fairfieldcountymusicteachers.com

The chapter also has a new email address: info@fairfieldcountymusicteachers.com

Keri and Chris Salustri are proud to announce the birth of their baby girl, Mikaila Joan. Mikaila was born on September 24th at 9:33PM. She weighed 5 pounds, 7 ounces, and measured 18 1/2 inches long. With very long fingers, mom can't wait for her to play Rachmaninoff!

Kathleen Theisen, NCTM, taught at the University of Illinois Summer Youth Music piano program in June. Theisen worked with late intermediate and advanced middle school and high school classical pianists in private lessons and master classes and also taught a jazz keyboard class.

Giulia Volterra, Greenwich, a voice and piano student of Kathleen Theisen, NCTM, sang a solo role in the premiere of a scene from a new Broadway musical by Dan Furman at the BMI Music Theatre Workshop in New

York City in July.

Stefanie O'Connell, Greenwich, an alum of Kathleen Theisen's studio (voice), has graduated from NYU/Tisch "CAP 21" musical theatre program, and immediately was cast as the understudy to Lea Salonga (Cinderella) in a 9-month Asian tour of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella."

Kathleen Theisen performed her own compositions on a concert of poetry and music in Ogunquit, Maine in September. The concert featured poetry by Franklin D Reeve and Robert Siegel, as well as songs composed using their poetry as text. Theisen played and sang two of her "Robert Siegel Songs" (composed in 1990) as well as one of her "e.e. cummings songs", and was joined by mezzo Elizabeth Russo, of Danbury, for one of the compositions.

Kathleen Theisen sang the Soprano Solo in Beethoven's 9th Symphony with Norwalk Symphony in May 2008, for which the Greenwich Time wrote, "The quartet of vocal soloists blew us away."

MTNA new benefits

Did you know that MTNA offers instrumental insurance to its members? Clarion Associates, Inc., will provide music instrument insurance to MTNA members for 40 percent off the usual premiums.

- Clarion is the largest insurance firm dedicated solely to the needs of musicians
- Clarion is endorsed by more than 24 musicians associations
- Clarion is the choice of most Symphony Orchestras
- Clarion offers a unique policy not available elsewhere
- Clarion is dedicated to the music industry and supports many arts organizations

For more information about the coverage available to you, visit www.clarionins.com or call (800) 848-2534.



Attention Chapter Reporters
Be sure to get your chapter's good news and announcements to the editor in a timely manner for the newsletter. This way, you can let other chapters know what is happening in your part of the state—as well as brag on your students and announce upcoming activities and contests!

Musicianship Achievement Program Report

More teachers than ever had students in MAP in the spring of 2008: 36 in all, from 4 chapters. A total of 240 students participated in one of the MAP days last spring hosted by 3 chapters. Kudos to chapter chairs Joyce Baxter, Christine Brodzik, and Felicia Feng Zhang for their efforts and skill at running these MAP days; thanks to Barbara Johnson for all her help with the program, and thanks to all the teachers who assisted. We can be proud of the quality of this offering of CSMTA, accessible to all piano students. The students can be proud of the musical knowledge and skills they attain, and enjoy the recognition they receive. Information about MAP can be found online at www.csmta.org or by contacting Linda MacGougan, state chair, at macgougans@comcast.net.

This year Chris Chen (student of RoseMarie Tamburri) received the trophy awarded for successful completion of the 10 levels of MAP. Thirteen students received the plaque for 5 years of successful participation: Rachael Allen (Patricia Gronback), Sara Analoui (RoseMarie Tamburri), Chris Chen (RoseMarie Tamburri), Maria Flanders (Linda

MacGougan), Alyssa Gilhooly (MaryAnn Ganz), Rita Guo (Irina Zayaruzny), Eugenia Kim (Carolyn Halsted), Hunter Lee (Sabrina Lee), Claire Price (RoseMarie Tamburri), Sagune Sakya (Sabrina Lee), Justine St. Louis (Anne Cassarino), Sarah Wagner (Joyce Baxter), and Lianne Wong (Sabrina Lee). Congratulations to all!

Participating teachers

Hartford chapter:
Patricia Baranski, Christine Boghosian, Christine Brodzik, Anne Cassarino, Susan DeWolf, MaryAnn Ganz, Sharon Girard, Patricia Gronback, Carolyn Halsted, Theodore Hine, Mia Kang, Suzan Korman, Malgosia Lis, Linda MacGougan, Edith MacLean, Colette Switaj, Lean-Chang Tan, Irina Zayaruzny

Middlesex/New London chapter: Joyce Baxter, Jane Bugbee, Arline Cardoso, Constance Carroll, Laura Hibbard, Sabina Khaykin, Sabrina Lee, Irene Listorti, Barbara Metz, John Metz, Yvonne Moore, Gina Neddermann, RoseMarie Tamburri
New Haven chapter: Adele Huffman
Western chapter: Diane Cooke, Nancy McMillan, Beate Neblett, Felicia Zhang

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musical development, the involvement of parents in the studio, their approach with transfer students, methods for addressing different learning styles and their teaching method for theory and ear training.

With regard to their first lessons, both Ms. Rissi and Ms. Lee, started with piano lessons as children, although they now teach violin and voice respectively. Both panelists described their experience with their piano instructors as unsatisfactory. Ms. Lee's teacher kept her on just white keys for a long time, and did not consider her student's composition as real music. Ms. Rissi's piano teacher did not take her seriously once she learned that Ms. Rissi was a singer. Rissi did not study voice until her junior year in college. She informed the audience that since the voice develops in children, it is best to wait until the voice has matured to start lessons. Mr. Xu received his first years of lessons at the age of 11 from his mother, a pianist and remarked that this is the age his student Anna Han, was a winner in the Gina Bachauer competition. By age 14, he was playing Grieg concertos. From his early lessons, Mr. Xu learned that systematic, stepwise teaching is essential for the proper development of a pianist.

The second question explored the involvement of parents at lessons. Ms. Lee allows parents to observe lessons as long as the student is comfortable with the parent's presence. Ms. Rissi, a Suzuki violin teacher, requires parent attendance, since this is part of the Suzuki method and her students are age 3 years and up. Mr. Xu requires that parents observe for at least the first 2 years of lessons so they can help their children practice at home. In year 3-6, the student reviews tapes of lessons at home. Once the student has reached a certain level, he/she is allowed to simply take notes at the lessons rather than view a tape.

The panelists then discussed their approach and experiences with transfer students. All of them agreed that teaching transfer students is a challenge when the students have had poor instruction. When Ms. Rissi accepts a transfer student, she tells the parent and student from the start that there will be an adjustment period of several months. Mr. Xu stated that teaching a transfer student can be emotionally exhausting, especially if the student has had several years of instruction. He works with transfer students to rebuild their foundation from the beginning.

The teachers also shared similarities in their students' practice strategies. All of them required warm-up exercises before practice. Mr. Xu stressed the importance of slow practice, rhythm, fingering, dynamics and finger shape. All of the teachers also demonstrate how and what to practice during the lesson. Ms. Rissi offered an entertaining way to get students to practice many repetitions. She uses an abacus and tells the student to practice one time for each row of beads. The student gets to pick the color. Students are so excited about this that some ask to practice for all 100 beads on the abacus!

Ms. Rocherolle's next question addressed how the teachers address different learning styles. The teachers interpreted this question differently. Mr. Xu discussed his different approaches

to kinesthetic, visual and aural learners. Ms. Lee, a voice teacher focuses on a student's strong points and provides encouragement. Ms. Rissi described two kinds of students, those with an intellectual aptitude for music and those with no intellectual aptitude for music. She finds that the most difficult student to teach is the most talented student.

All the teachers agreed that theory and ear training were all essential in the study of music. Ms. Rissi and Ms. Lee both felt that they did not have a sufficient amount of time to cover the theory and ear training material that they would like. (I can imagine that many of our members have felt the same way.) Ear training is inherent in both the study of string instruments and singing. Mr. Xu, a piano instructor, uses solfege to teach all his student ear training. Ms. Rocherolle remarked how as a student in France she found it very difficult to learn this technique since it is not one that is popular in the U. S. Mr. Xu also requires that he students independently study the materials in the Arizona Theory Study program.

Mary Beth Lee's presentation "Starting Young Singers" had all of us out of our seats. She demonstrated the correct posture for singing and asked all the attendees to stand and demonstrate correct posture. In singing, the three keys are breath support, space and resonance. The goal of singers is to bring the head voice down to the lower end of the singer's range, rather than to try to belt all the notes in chest voice.

To demonstrate this, she asked the audience to try a "yawn sigh", in which the mouth is open wide and the singer sings a descending glissando. Ms. Lee then described her curriculum for beginning students. The lessons begin with warm-up exercises that include opposites such as high tones and low tones. She includes a mixture of vocal styles for her students, since students sing better if they are familiar with a song. All students study Italian as well as English.

The selection of repertoire focuses on providing a variety of moods and pieces that will be motivating to the student. She requires at least 5 days a week of practice and encourages students to memorize pieces and perform solo recitals.

After a delicious lunch with a lakefront view, Sharon Girard, NCTM and State Certification Chair, gave an informative and entertaining presentation on MTNA certification. She described the different pathways to certification with her vocal rendition of "Follow the Yellow Brick Road and Get your Kicks on Route 66, among others. In Connecticut there are currently 17 certified teachers. While the state of Connecticut requires licenses for barbers and acupuncturists, there is no license required for music teachers. Therefore, it is important to pursue certification in order to set ourselves apart from those teachers who have had a few lessons and decided that they can then teach. There are several paths to certification, and something that any teacher can accomplish. Ms. Girard urged us all to pursue certification and enthusiastically offered her assistance in pursuing this goal. She can be reached at studiosbg@aol.com

Anna Han, a winner of the Gina Bachauer competition and student of Fei Xu, performed works of Couperin, Debussy,



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Rachmaninoff, Filipenko, Ravel and Brahms. Many audience members moved right before the performance to get a better view of Ms. Han's performance. Those who could see the full keyboard witnessed the beautiful dance of Ms. Han's hands across the keys. Every aspect of her performance including her expressiveness and technical command were at a level far beyond her 12 years. She performed as if her body were an extension of the piano and as if she were inside the music, a quality of performance that some pianists never achieve in their lifetime. The audience immediately rose to its feet and gave her a well-deserved standing ovation. It was a great pleasure privilege to witness such a phenomenal talent before she begins her professional career!

Mr. Xu's presentation focused on teaching beginning piano students. Students begin technique exercises with Jane Tan's "Well-Prepared Pianist" (www.pianoteams.com; click on "Well-Prepared Pianist Catalog"). He both demonstrated the technical exercises while showing video of students performing the exercises, which was extremely helpful. The technical problems he finds in young students include: well-shaped fingers, uneven tone, flabby fingers, muddy playing at fast tempos, and the lack of technique tools to express musical feeling. Mr. Xu described his systematic technique program, which stresses developing the correct hand shape from the beginning through linking keyboard choreography to expressive playing. In the first two months of lessons, students are only required to play staccato, using the arm weight to create the sound. This is followed "walking" where one note is held while other is played and staccato and legato playing. Both types of playing are approached in a number of ways, depending on the sound desired. Mr. Xu's students also learn how to produce tone by either pushing or pulling, how to release keys, and the importance of allowing the music to breathe by lifting the wrists at the end of each phrase. He provided a highly informative and detailed overview of a solid technical foundation and how it is directly related to expressive

playing.

Irene Rissi spoke about her approach to teaching young string players. To start, she stated that her goal is to "advance the student as far as possible as fast as possible." Her curriculum includes repetition, developing a language of music and requiring practice every day. Before beginning study with her, a student and parent must observe at least 5 lessons or concerts. In preparation for lessons, students are asked to listen to the Suzuki recordings to become familiar with the music. Parents attend each lesson and they are asked to also try playing the violin so that they understand what is involved. She had some wonderful tools for teaching beginners as young as 3 years old. One of them is a diagram of where a student's feet should go when they are playing. She asked the audience to stand and demonstrate proper playing position, as well as the correct way to hold a violin. Students each make a violin box, and the first few lessons are spent using this box for learning posture, the correct way to hold the bow and rhythms. A volunteer from the audience, Lean-Cheng Tan, served as the student. Once she had graduated from using the violin box, Ms. Rissi gave her a violin and Ms. Tan, a piano teacher, who had always wanted to play violin was very excited to find that she play beautiful notes after some brief instruction from Ms. Rissi.

Bill Groth then gave an impromptu lecture demonstration on how to start students in jazz. He stressed the importance of a solid foundation in scales, chords and chord progressions while giving an impressive performance of jazz standards as well as improvised pieces. Although he was asked the day of the convention to be a last-minute speaker, he performed as if he had spent weeks of preparation.

On our drive home with two of my colleagues, we happened to see the sky fill with glorious fireworks. It was a fitting end to a day that exploded with breathtaking music and ideas. Thank you to John Metz and the Middlesex/New London chapter for providing us with a valuable learning experience! We hope to see you all the 2009 State Convention, "Collaborative Music", hosted by the Western Chapter, at Western CT State University's downtown campus on Nov. 7, 2009.

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, too!

Connie Zhou Performs with Farmington Valley Symphony Orchestra



Fourteen-year-old Connie Zhou of Westport, the winner of the 2008 CSMTA Concerto Competition, will perform the first movement of the Schumann Piano Concerto with the Farmington Valley Symphony Orchestra under conductor John Eells on Saturday, November 22 at 8 pm, at the Lincoln Theater of the University of Hartford. She is a pupil of Edith G. Sullivan of Danbury.

The Musical Club of Hartford, Inc.

High School Competition in Winds & Brasses, Strings, Voice, and Piano

For your Connecticut high-school music students

The Musical Club of Hartford, Inc., has announced its 33rd annual scholarship competitions for high school students living or studying music in Connecticut.

First prize \$500, second prize \$300, third prize \$200, awarded in each category

The winners will share \$4,000 in prize money from the competitions, to be held the weekend of January 10-11, 2009.

The piano competition takes place on Saturday, January 10, 2009, (snow date Saturday, January 17) at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2080 Boulevard, West Hartford.

The winds, strings and voice competitions take place on Sunday, January 11, 2009, (snow date January 18) at Hartt School of Music, University of Hartford.

The deadline for applying for all competitions is **December 10, 2008**. As space may be limited, interested students should apply early.

All winners must perform in a free concert at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Sunday, February 1, 2009, at 2 p.m., at which time the prizes will be awarded.

Applicants can download application forms, performance requirements, and a flyer announcing the competition from www.musical-club-of-hartford.org/high_school_competition.htm or may call the following to receive an application:

- For Piano, grades 9-12, contact Mary Ann Ganz 860-633-3827
- For Strings, grades 9-12, contact either Margaret Walker 860-233-0726 or Caroline White 860-653-0228
- For Voice, grades 11-12 only, contact Helen Douglas 860-233-0126 or Carol Hunt, 860-521-3333
- For Woodwinds and Brasses, grades 9-12, contact Bridget Gilchrist 860-651-4048

The winds, strings and voice scholarship prizes are awarded by the Musical Club Gifts and Scholarships Fund, which supports many other musical activities in the Hartford area. The Piano Competition is sponsored by the Musical Club's Evelyn Bonar Storrs Fund, set up by a bequest to provide funds for talented and advanced students of piano.

For further information please call any of the above numbers, or e-mail Anne Mayo at amayo@prodigy.net.

Announcements

Website Update

The CMSTA website is being updated this month. We will be including all teachers' names and contact info (e-mail, phone) so that people who are seeking teachers may more easily find you. If you **DO NOT WANT** your information included, please email Kathleen Theisen at: info@fairfieldcountymusicteachers.com or you may call her at 203.300.5827.

Call for Photos!

If you have any photos of state or local chapter events that are suitable for our newsletter or website, please send digital files of those photos to info@fairfieldcountymusicteachers.com, or you may mail photos to Kathleen Theisen, 20C Peace Street, Danbury CT 06810. Please include names of all people in the photo, as well as a caption of what was happening at the event. All recognizable faces that are in the photo must be able to sign a release to be included on the website.

Performance Opportunities

The Bechstein Piano Company has recently opened the Bechstein Piano Centre in Manhattan. Along with our function as selection center for the United States, we provide a concert area with a Bechstein concert grand and a seating capacity of approximately sixty. We welcome your teachers to visit us and consider our venue for student recitals and concerts.



Richard Sasnow
Bechstein Piano Centre
207 W 58th Street
New York, NY 10019
212-581-5550

MusicMakers Academy Move

The MusicMakers Academy has moved to their new location in a gorgeous 1905 Victorian home at 517 Hartford Road in Manchester (they previously were in 485 Hartford Road).

The new location features more studios, more spacious beautifully appointed rooms, waiting area, full kitchen, and over an acre of gardened property.

The MusicMakers Academy is in its 12th year of providing professional music instruction to our community, and includes private lessons in the Academy, private lessons in students' homes, a full baby/toddler music series, Suzuki, Mommy and Me classes, and a "get ready for piano" starter class for children ages 4-6, as well as programs for the schools, a Visiting



Artist series, master classes, workshops, and recitals.

The MusicMakers Academy has recently joined up with the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music in Europe, and will be participating in their annual examinations for students. They are always looking for professional musicians who would like to be paid Visiting Artists.

They also have space available for rent to teachers. Space is also available for small to medium sized get-togethers, meetings, showers, or parties. Information on all of our programs can be found at our website, <http://www.musicmakersacademy.com> or by calling our office at 860-646-3096.

Thomaston Opera House

Discounted tickets for CSMTA members, students

Once again, the Thomaston Opera House will be presenting its Piano Series on Saturday November 8, 2008, at 8 pm. Joseph Kalichstein, best known as one third of the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio, is also a formidable soloist. He was winner, after all, of the prestigious Leventritt Competition nearly thirty years ago, an event that also catapulted Alexis Weissenberg and Leon Fleisher, among others, to fame.

Born in Tel Aviv, Mr Kalichstein came to the United States in 1962. His principal teachers included Joshua Shor in Israel and Edward Steuermann and Ilona Kabos at The Julliard School. He gave a heralded New York recital debut and at the invitation of Leonard Bernstein, performed Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 with the New York Philharmonic in a nationally televised concert on

CBS.

With his diverse repertoire of works ranging from Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms to 20th century works by Bartok, Prokofiev and others, Mr Kalichstein has collaborated with such celebrated conductors as Daniel Barenboim, Pierre Boulez, James Conlon, Christoph von Dohnanyi, James DePreist, Charles Dutoit, Lawrence Foster, Zubin Mehta, Andre Previn, Kurt Sanderling, Leonard Slatkin, Edo de Waart and many more. He has appeared with many of the major orchestras of the world. A favorite of New York concert goers, Mr Kalichstein has appeared in several recitals on Carnegie Hall's "Keyboard Virtuosi" series.

Mr. Kalichstein will perform Schumann, Mendelssohn and Chopin. Tickets are \$25 each; half-price for teachers and students of your association.

Young Composers Day

Sunday, March 8, 2 p.m.
South Church, Middletown

Start preparing students now for this non-competitive early spring event run by Hartford Chapter but open to other chapters as well. Students may submit original compositions for inclusion in the Opus booklet and participate in the recital. Manuscripts must be clear, legible and easy to photocopy and may be either handwritten or printed on computer. For more information call Carolyn Halsted at 860-343-0677.

REGISTRATION FORM: Submit this form, composition(s), and \$8 registration fee payable to "Hartford Chapter CSMTA" by February 14, 2009, to Carolyn Halsted, 18 McKenzie Street, Middletown, CT 06457.

Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Title of Composition(s) _____

_____ I will participate in the March 8 recital.

_____ I cannot participate on March 8 but would like my piece(s) to be published in Opus 18.

Parent Signature _____ Phone _____

Teacher Signature _____ Phone _____

Plans for MAP in 2008-2009

Note that the New Haven chapter will offer MAP this year, and that MAP at the Western chapter will be held in the fall, resulting in three seasons of MAP!

March 28 - New Haven area (contact Linda Franklin-Briggs for exact location)

Linda Franklin-Briggs, Chair

Postmarked registration deadline: Feb. 9

April 4 - First Congregational Church, Madison

Joyce Baxter, Chair

Postmarked registration deadline: Feb. 17

April 18 - Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford

Christine Brodzik, Chair

Postmarked registration deadline: March 2

November 14, 2009 - St. James' Church, Southbury

Felicia Feng Zhang, Chair

Postmarked registration deadline: Sept. 28

Teachers from any chapter may register students for any of these dates. Registration forms, guidelines and rules, and an order form for materials are available at www.csmta.org/ or from Linda MacGougan, state chair, at macgougans@comcast.net. Please contact Linda MacGougan or local chairs if you have any questions about the program.

MAP 2009 Registration

| 2009 Date | Postmarked Reg. Date (Postmark) | Place | Chapter | Local Chair |
|-----------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| March 28 | Feb. 9 | (Contact Linda F-Briggs) | New Haven | Linda Franklin-Briggs |
| April 4 | Feb. 17 | First Congregational Church, Madison | Middlesex/NL | Joyce Baxter |
| April 18 | March 2 | Asylum Hill Congregational Church | Hartford | Christine Brodzik |
| Nov.14 | Sept. 28 | St. James' Church, | Western | Felicia F. Zhang |

Guidelines and Rules

Registration

Teachers may register students at any of the MAP sites; use a separate registration form for each place and send it to the local chair. (You may make multiple copies of the form.) Be sure to note the deadlines for submission.

Teachers entering students in the audition are expected to assist on audition day. Please indicate your preferred time on the registration form. (A teacher registering students in two places need only volunteer in one of them.)

Once the audition schedule has been set (shortly after the registration deadline), no changes in audition times can be made by the chairs. If you need to change an audition time for a student, arrange to switch times with another of your own students, preferably a student of a similar level (so the lengths of the auditions are the same). Then notify the chair, at least a week in advance, so the schedule can be corrected and the adjudicator can be given the appropriate materials.

On the registration form, indicate which students are eligible for the 5-year plaque. Any student who has completed 5 years of MAP successfully is eligible for a plaque. The 5 years need not be consecutive. Students may have done the full MAP or theory only. After the exams are corrected, and after the state chair has verified 5 years of successful participation, the teacher will be sent the plaque to present to the student.

Full MAP (Performance Audition and Theory Exam)

A student should plan to spend at least 1-1/2 to 2 hours

doing the full MAP. This includes arriving 15 minutes early to register, 15-20 minutes for the performance audition (depending on the level), and about 45 minutes for the theory test. The time allotted for the performance audition includes keyboard skills, sight reading and transposition, and rhythm as well as repertoire.

Levels 1 and 2 - 15 minutes

Levels 3 and 4 - 18 minutes

Levels 5 - 10 - 20 minutes

The non-repertoire portion of the audition takes 5 to 10 minutes, depending mostly on the proficiency of the student. Please consider the time available when selecting repertoire. All music must be in the original for the piano; no arrangements or simplifications are permitted.

In keyboard skills, although the student must prepare all the required keys, s/he will be tested in only 1 or 2 keys.

In playing of repertoire:

- Eliminate repeats when possible.
- Judge may need to halt the performance of a piece to stay within the allotted audition time.
- Students must provide a copy of the music for the judge. No Xeroxes allowed unless accompanied by a letter from the publisher.
- Please number the measures at the beginning of each line.

Theory exam only:

Theory exams are not scheduled for a specific time. The local chair will designate hours on MAP day during which exams may be taken and notify teachers.

Yale Saybrook College Orchestra Free Concert for Students

On Wednesday, December 10, 2008, at 10 am, Yale's Saybrook College Orchestra will be performing a FREE concert (RSVP required) designed especially for children.

The orchestra will be playing Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty Suite*, Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Greensleeves*, Guaraldi's *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, and Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*. This fun-filled program will be accompanied by an educational presentation designed to introduce the audience to some basics about orchestras.

The concert will take place in Battell Chapel (corner of College & Elm Streets, New Haven). Schools and students from all over Connecticut will be invited, so you must RSVP as soon as possible to gabriel.ellsworth@yale.edu to secure a spot.

More information on SYO and its annual Educational Concert can be found at <http://www.yale.edu/syorchestra/>. Encourage the music teachers you know at your local elementary and middle schools to plan a field trip!

Fall 2008 CSMTA Newsletter



208 Greta Street, Apt. 309
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