

Northwest Suburban Music Teachers Association Newsletter

January 21, 2013

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November Minutes

For the November minutes, please click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

January 21 - Program - Teaching Music of Alexander Gretchaninoff; Dr. Yeosom Kwon

January 27 - AIM Levels V-XII Theory Exams; Harper College

February 4 - AIM Judges' Meeting

February 10 - AIM Levels III-IV Exams

February 18 - Program - IMT; "So How Did It Go?"



A Note from Our President

Dear Members,

Well, the holidays come and go more quickly each year, don't they? 2013 promises to be an exciting year -- we've got lots of wonderful speakers lined up for the next few months, as well as our workshop, the national conference, and

recitals, AIM & Awards!

If anyone is interested in subscribing to Clavier with our group subscription, please remit \$20 to Joan Drolet (make your check out to her). It is a savings of about \$10 per year.

Janice Razaq and Olga Bornovalova will be performing in Harper College's 8th annual Chamber Music Festival on Saturday, February 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. They will be playing the Poulenc "Concerto for Two Pianos" in the version that Poulenc wrote for only the solo instruments. Come, watch and listen as they play their piano parts plus orchestral interludes!

Cary Senior Center is looking for a volunteer pianist to accompany their senior glee club -- they meet weekly from 10 - 11 a.m. and once a month sing at nursing homes. Please let me know if you are interested, and I will give you further information.

Our sympathy goes out to the Carol Cook & the staff at The Music Room in Palatine. Carol's co-owner, John Giovannoni, passed away last week after a brave battle with brain cancer.

Happy New Year,
Maureen Flood. President

College Scholarship

If you have a high school senior graduating this year and majoring in music at a college or university in the fall, check out the application rules and form on the website. It is a \$1000 scholarship payable in 2 installments. The teacher needs to be a member of NWSMTA for at least 3 years and be the main teacher of the instrument the student is auditioning on. Complete rules are on the website. If you need more info, please call Pat Borchardt at 847-356-6016.

Pat Borchardt, College Scholarship Chair

Holiday Pecan Bar Recipes

If you missed the holiday party, you can take consolation in receiving the recipe for the pecan bars Suzanne made for the occasion. It has the benefit of being delicious (confirmed by those in attendance) and being very easy (confirmed by Suzanne).

Pecan Bars **Suzanne Murray**

Dough

3 ounces cream cheese, softened
1 stick butter, softened
1 cup flour

Filling

1 egg
1 cup brown sugar
1 1/2 cups chopped pecans

Heat oven to 350 degrees.

In large bowl, mix cream cheese and butter until well blended, slowly add flour. Press mixture into a 9X9 inch square baking dish.

For the filling: In a medium bowl, mix egg with brown sugar and slowly add chopped pecans. Pour over crust and bake 20 to 25 minutes. Cool and cut into squares.

Eat and praise NWSMTA!

AIM Report

There were 27 teachers enrolling 132 students in the Nov. 18th AIM exam. These included level 1A (7), 1B (17), 1C

(12). For level 2 there were 26 completed exams and one make-up exam. For level 3 (theory only) there were 50 students enrolled with completed exams. We had 17 level 4 students (again theory only), with 2 students absent, one of which was given a make-up exam. Thank you Marie Rutter and Jeanie Carter for giving the make-up exams!

Thank you to all of the teachers who assisted in the exam through judging, monitoring rooms, overseeing the written exam room, grading exams, assisting in the score room and working at the front desk. Many people brought some wonderful treats to keep us energized and inspired. Special thanks to Denise Dolins and Joan James who helped out even though they did not enter students and Fran and Bob Onley, Helen Grosshans and Marcia Mally who worked nearly the entire day. We are particularly grateful to Bob Onley for once again entering scores, tracking all exams and catching some of our missing signatures and other oversights! We really hope Fran and Bob never want to retire and move to Florida!

Below are the High, Low and Average scores for each level.

| Level | High Score | Low Score | Average Score |
|-------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1A | 99.5 | 88.75 | 92.81 |
| 1B | 98.75 | 74.5 | 91.56 |
| 1C | 97.25 | 87.5 | 95.25 |
| II | 99.75 | 79.75 | 90.28 |
| III | 100 | 87.5 | 95.47 |
| IV | 99.25 | 87.75 | 94.24 |

A reminder that the level III and IV performance exams will be held on Sunday, February 10 at Harper College. For any teachers who have not enrolled students and would like to help out, please contact Mary Anne Block at mablock@ameritech.net. This is a great way to learn more about the AIM exam process and possibly even observe some of the exams if you are interested in judging students in the future.

Mary Anne Block and Suzanne Murray

Note from the Editor

Over my winter break, I read the book Practicopedia by Philip Johnston from our NWSMTA library. It's a great read while on the treadmill. Unfortunately, it didn't have anything in it about losing weight. I blame Suzanne's pecan bars for my lack of success.

The unique style of the book allows you to grab an idea quickly and refers you to more related ideas. You can adapt them to what works for you in your teaching situation. We have often heard the suggestion, when a student comes less prepared than you would like, take the opportunity to teach them to practice. This book prevents those lessons from feeling like dead ends. There are more ideas than there are days in the year.

To help with motivating the students to practice, Johnston asks them what they don't like about it. He has a solution for every answer they can give.

Following his ideas, practice can be an adventure. I loved the suggestion to play the piece and stop to fix anything that doesn't sound the way you'd like it to in a performance. I agree with his idea it's important to have a plan for practicing. Without a plan, practice takes longer and you get less out of it. He also points out, a practice journal should include written successes. If a student is more aware of their successes, they will feel positive about their lessons and have written proof which practice techniques work for them. If you follow up at the lesson by asking what success they had in practicing, you're off to a great start for that lesson.

Sincerely,
Deb Lynch, Editor

Hospitality

A card was sent to Joan James, wishing her well following her hip surgery.

Janice Wilkans, Hospitality Chair

January Program

Dr. Yeeseon Kwon who will be presenting for our Jan. meeting a program on "The Teaching Music of Alexander Gretchaninoff". The lecture will present and highlight Gretchaninoff's unique musical style and highlight elementary and intermediate level teaching pieces.

Dr. Yeeseon Kwon is Assistant Professor of Keyboard Musicianship and Piano Pedagogy at Roosevelt University and brings with her expertise and scholarship in piano pedagogy as a teacher and performer. Her published research on strength-based teaching in piano pedagogy demonstrates how to implement best learning and teaching strategies for students and teachers. Formerly Dr. Kwon taught piano and piano pedagogy at Greenville College (IL), Ithaca College (NY), Northwestern University (IL), and Harper College (IL), among others.

Author and formerly Associate Editor for Clavier Magazine, Yeeseon Kwon has written new music reviews for Clavier Companion as well as published numerous articles and books in the area of piano pedagogy, including Written For You Collections, Books 1-4 with Teaching and Practice Guides (F.J.H). She is active nationally as an adjudicator, workshop clinician, and conference presenter.

As a performing artist Yeeseon Kwon has been featured in international solo and collaborative performances in the United States and Russia. Yeeseon Kwon received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance and pedagogy from the University

of
Oklahoma as well as M.M. and B.M. degrees from Northwestern
University.

Mary Anne Block, Program Chair

Can You Help?

Helen Grosshans and I are in the midst of our 2nd year teaching group piano at Whitman Elementary school in Wheeling School District 21. Some of our students are working very hard and would benefit from supplementary reading books. If you have any level 1 or level 2 elementary method books, solos, or repertoire that you are not using, and would like to donate them to our program, we would be very grateful. Please give them to Helen Grosshans at any NWSMTA meeting.

Thank-you for your consideration,
Fran Evens

Northwest Suburban Music Teachers Association
Maureen Flood, President
Joan James, Webmaster
Deborah Lynch, Newsletter