

February 15, 2021 NWSMTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

President Brenda Buchanan called the meeting to order at 9:50 A.M. January meeting minutes were read by Maureen Flood — no additions or corrections. Deb Lynch moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Carol Walgren Georgas.

Treasurer Midori Kim gave the totals of our bank balances:

BMO Harris	\$16,966.23
Fidelity	\$34,533.43 (a loss of \$105.31 from last month)

The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

1st Vice-President and Program Chair Rachel Wojcicki not present, no report

AIM — Helen Chang reports that the January 31 exams were very successful. Out of 209 enrolled, 204 were graded. It was a lot of work by coordinators, graders, judges and especially Terry Goedken. Sight-reading and harmonization were done by screen share. Parents got an email with the answer sheets, which everyone submitted, with only a few stragglers. An inbox with NWSMTA as owner was used, so no personal emails were shared. The biggest job was grading the written work, which was done electronically. Helen shared the score sheet with grades, the average was above 90. Families were scheduled together with the same judge, for the convenience of parents. There was a big snowstorm that day, and it was possible that Harper might have been shut down, had we not been in quarantine.

Helen Grosshans thanked all members who put so much time and energy into making it a success, and in turn, teachers thanked Helen Chang for her hard work.

Helen Grosshans reminds teachers that AIM Performance exams are coming up on March 14th for Levels 3-9. The students will submit everything through recordings, not ZOOM. The slots are in OPERA registration. Technic will also be recorded, a few days in advance. If you have judged before, it will be easier. Judges can listen to the recording and write up your report.

Olga Ulitsky asked why it needs to be done this way, Helen responded that this is because of technical issues with ZOOM, such as sound quality, glitches, connection issues. Vonnie Mrozinski reports that other associations are doing the same, submitting recordings, and everyone is exploring different ways to hold these events online, in order to decide what works best.

Olga Ulitsky asks why the need to scan their pieces, and Helen Grosshans responds that it is done so that the judge knows the articulation that the student has been following. Olga Ulitsky states that it is too time consuming for teachers to do this, and Helen responds that the students should be doing their own scanning. Jennifer Cohen adds that the judges who are evaluating videos are not professional judges, and they may not be familiar with the variety of articulation, dynamics, pedaling in different editions. It is for the students' benefit that they are asking for scanned pieces. Jennifer explains that North Suburban MTA has over 700 students involved in their AIM program, and their students scan the music, put it in Google drive and share the link.

Mary Anne Block asks a question on technic — will there be a separate link? Helen Grosshans will work it out with Terry Goedken, and plans to suggest that a camera be placed over the students shoulders, in order to see both hands, or parent can hold the camera.

The deadline for technic will be different than that for performance, perhaps extended. Students will receive the key, and will have time to submit recordings by Sunday evening at 7 p.m.

Justyna Weirich asks if the students will send their technic recording to the teacher, who would then upload it, and the answer was yes.

Beethoven Festival — Chairpersons Olga Ulitsky and Olga Bornovalova not present. Brenda Buchanan asked if NWSMTA should put on another festival for 2021, and if members had ideas. Jerry Dolins suggested celebrating J.S. Bach, who was born 350 years ago, and Brenda suggested the Well Tempered Clavier, which was written 300 years ago next year. Midori reminds members that the Beethoven Festival was created due to the cancellation of the Sonata-Sonatina Festival; if it takes place next fall, it might be too much to hold another composer festival.

Recitals — No report, other than that they will take place on April 25th. Prepare your students for these recitals which will be done as a Zoom recital.

Scholarships — Pat Borchardt could not be here, but Brenda reminds everyone that the deadline for Camp & College scholarship is April 15.

Music Blocks — Mary Anne Block will put out a newsletter in the near future, and will send it to NWSMTA members. They have upgraded many students to full size keyboards and digital pianos, even a few acoustic pianos. Deb Lynch suggested that we should have a “community outreach” page on our website, since we support Music Blocks, and it was suggested that Terry Goedken can be consulted about doing this.

Hospitality — Janice Wilkans reports that she will be sending 2 cards, one to Marcia Mally after her accident, and one to Chyi-Ling Evans, who has injured her shoulder.

NO OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS

President Brenda Buchanan was asked why the last program does not appear on the website, and replied that the presenter’s Zoom settings were not up to date, or perhaps he did not give permission.

Maureen Flood reminds membership that Brenda Buchanan asked for ideas on organizations to donate our proceeds from the Beethoven Festival to. Maureen recommends Be An Arts Hero, which is an intersectional grassroots campaign comprised of Arts & Culture workers, Unions, and institutions in the United States pushing the Senate to allocate proportionate relief to the Arts & Culture sector of the American economy. Maureen will send information out to the membership.

Brenda Buchanan said that she had been thinking of something local, but asks for members to think about ideas and give suggestions.

NEW BUSINESS

Brenda Buchanan reminds members to register for the MTNA Conference online by tomorrow, before the fee increases. The \$195 fee includes Pedagogy Saturday.

Marie Rutter suggests making Joan Drolet an honorary member. Maureen Flood states that Joan was an honorary member, but she does not want to be in the group since she cannot attend ZOOM meetings. Brenda suggests that members call Joan, as she enjoys hearing from people.

Maureen Flood moves to adjourn the meeting, Deb Lynch seconds, meeting is adjourned at 10:40 a.m.