

FROM THE EDITOR

All our members have ideas which need to be shared. Please consider the following:

1. Does this newsletter fill your needs and interests?
2. Please send news of you and your students by postal mail, telephone, or email.

HEY!! Y'know, we have a website! Make this work for you!

Promote your studio in newspapers too! Submit short articles with photos about student recitals & accomplishments to your local papers.

www.HudCatMusicTeach.org

Reminders

Newsletter deadlines are

January 2nd

August 1st

Please send copy to:

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Or email to

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New York State Music Teachers Association

Hudson-Catskill MTA

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New York State
Music Teachers Association
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Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

SUMMER 2020 Message

Greetings! What a year this has been. We began Fall 2019 with the devastating and completely unexpected death of our beloved member, Joanne Raichart. Her obituary is included in this newsletter. There was an especially moving memorial service at her LDS Church in New Windsor, where her husband spoke, her student performed, and Joanne herself played her own composition via a recording. We are grateful for Joanne's splendid example of how to live joyfully.

Mary Lee Farris had a fire in their home on February 13. It destroyed the piano, her music and the computer. Mary Lee said that both she and John were fine, but what a blow! Rebuilding should be done during the Fall, 2020. Mary Lee has found a new piano! We all hope for a season of hope and restoration for Mary Lee and John, and for ALL of us.

Hope you are making the most of this strange summer, and that you are finding ways to continue teaching safely. There are many events listed in this newsletter but all will be conducted online, via Zoom or via video. Please consider participating whenever possible. Make note of the calendar dates; some exact dates and plans (community service, Guild auditions, for example) are still uncertain so stay tuned.

WELCOME NEW OFFICERS: Chairperson **Mary Lee Farris**, Secretary **Fenlan Lin**, and THANK YOU for continuing as Treasurer, **Jean MacDonald!**

Be sure to check out the entire newsletter! There has been a lot to cover.

THE BIG DISCUSSION

How have we fared during this pandemic?

How are we managing our lives?

How are we teaching?

How are our students?

Many students and families are not doing well at all with this switch to online.

We should check on our students from time to time.

Online Teaching?

Apple or PC?

Computer, Laptop or Tablet?

How have you positioned your computer so students can see you and your piano?

Facetime (for Apple products), Google Duo, Google Hangouts, Skype, and Zoom.

Which have you used? Which do you prefer and why?

Drawbacks of online teaching:

Dreadful sound quality. Dynamic contrasts are impossible to hear.

Internet connections are inconsistent in quality, unreliable, or unavailable.

Inability to play live duets or ensembles.

Difficulty addressing student's tone quality, voicing, pedaling

We're not able to dive in to fix fingering, posture, notes, or to write anything in the music.

Students can't always hear our comments or demonstrations.

We can see our students' home practice environment and all their distractions.

Benefits of online teaching:

Safety for us and our students.
Better for the environment and our own home wear and tear: no commuting or parking.
No forgotten music or materials!
We can see our students' home practice environment and can suggest improvements.
Students gain independent learning and practice skills.
Students make corrections or notations in their own music.
They learn to keep a pencil handy.
They learn how to use measure numbers or to refer to the score.

What can we do to improve online teaching?

We can't really fix a student's internet connection but a few changes could help.
Ask other members of the student's family to refrain from sharing the bandwidth during the lesson time.
Ask for quiet in the background (close the door, avoid mowing the lawn or vacuuming, etc.)
Make suggestions regarding the placement of the student's computer/Chromebook/phone in order to better see the keyboard and fingers.

On our end, we can improve our own internet connection, improve the signal by using a WIF extender, reduce competing noise at our end, and perhaps purchase a good USB microphone so at least our sound quality is the best it can be for the student to hear voicing and dynamics.

If using Zoom, be sure to select "original sound" and request that your students do the same.

It's possible to play duets with your students online.

Two ways:

1. You lead, with your microphone ON, and the student plays along with his/her microphone OFF. The student should record this duet and then send the recording back to you.
2. The student leads, with his/her microphone ON, and you accompany with your microphone OFF. You record the duet and send it to the student.

This will require students to LISTEN and keep a steady rhythm. This will also require a lot of practice and patience, but is worth trying.

Lesson assignments and Sheet Music

Consider emailing a lesson summary to your online student and parent.
You could scan and email pages from music you already have. The advantage of this is that you can include fingerings and markings.

You could also find an online link for parents to download music.

www.imslp.org is an excellent source of free public domain music, and there are others that offer arrangements for free, or downloads for purchase. Let's gather a list of useful sites.

Payment

Checks in the mail.
Cash, hand-delivered and left in your mailbox or hollow tree.
PayPal – there's a fee
Venmo – similar to PayPal, but no fee!
Google Pay – also no fee!
Zelle – from Bank of America? No fee
Be sure to look into each method.

Ada Margoshes had some suggestions:

- 1) Invite students to create their own musical videos of anything they feel might help or inspire people in this traumatic time.
- 2) have groups of students prepare videos of favorite pieces to share with other music students, with perhaps a very short verbal presentation. Students might share according to level with those of other teachers in MTNA. Perhaps inviting positive commentary.

3) Have mini Zoom or Google Duo Recitals ~ again, not too many students in each group, but sharing the experience of online “live performing”.

4) invite students to be part of a local online student musicians group (obviously this would necessitate close supervision, but might lead to some exchanges between musical students of a response to this current life-changing Covid crisis).

Most of all, we need PATIENCE, and a lot of it.

Anything to add to this? Please join in a Zoom pedagogy discussion on September 9.

REOPEN OR NOT TO REOPEN YOUR STUDIOS?

Here’s a message from Dr. Gary L. Ingle, Executive Director & CEO of MTNA:

For almost a century and a half, MTNA has been the preeminent source of support for the music teaching profession and continues to be at the forefront for providing timely resources to our members and the profession.

Over the next few weeks, many of you will be **reopening your music studios** as the various governmental entities relax their mandates on COVID-19 quarantines, social distancing and stay-at-home orders. All of us have been eagerly awaiting the opportunity to get back to normal, or more precisely, the “new” normal. However, this “welcomed return” brings with it **legitimate concerns about legal liability** and its ramifications for the music teacher.

As a service to members, MTNA is providing a concise and practical guide to assist your return to in-person teaching. We asked the MTNA attorney, Scott Gilligan, to prepare a resource, specifically tailored for our members entitled, ***Legal FAQs for Reopening Music Studios***. In it, Attorney Gilligan answers a number of your most frequently asked legal questions related to reopening your music studios and teaching in-person lessons. Here is a sample:

- **What is my legal liability if I reopen my studio and one or more of my students are diagnosed with COVID 19?**
- **Is there an obligation to go back to in-person lessons?**
- **What steps can I take to protect the safety of my students?**
- **May I bar someone from my studio who does not follow safety requirements?**
- **Can I be sued if I have other teachers working with me who are diagnosed with COVID-19?**

In addition to its sound legal advice, it’s also free of charge to MTNA members. You would have to pay hundreds of dollars to get this advice, but as an MTNA member, there is no cost to you. While each member will have to assess his or her teaching situation and make some difficult decisions, we hope that this legal information will assist with that process.

[Click here](#) to access this important resource.

Remember, you can always count on MTNA—your one stop for the best resources for dealing with music teaching issues, whether they are legal, pedagogical or business-related.

Stay healthy and safe,
Dr. Gary L. Ingle

LEGAL FAQs FOR REOPENING MUSIC STUDIOS

T. Scott Gilligan
MTNA Legal Counsel

With states either implementing or considering the reopening of businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic, MTNA members have a number of questions regarding the legal ramifications of reopening music studios and teaching lessons to students. Below, MTNA has provided answers to several of the legal questions that it has received:

1. Is there an obligation to go back to in-person lessons?

No. Each music studio will have to determine what procedures it is comfortable with going forward. There is no requirement to continue in-person lessons if it presents a safety or medical issue. Of course, if students had prepaid for in-person lessons that are no longer being offered, the music studio would have to refund the amount for the lessons that will no longer be provided.

2. What is my liability if I reopen my music studio and one or more of my students are diagnosed with COVID-19?

This is uncharted territory for the legal system and lawyers. Since we have only been dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic for a few months, there are no concrete conclusions that can be drawn about potential liabilities for businesses that reopen.

But, there are three major legal doctrines that would come into play in any lawsuit against a music studio owner who reopened his or her studio. The first would be the issue of causation. Considering that the incubation for COVID-19 is usually 5 to 7 days and that community spread of the virus is generally found in every city and town in the U.S., it will be nearly impossible for a student to be able to pinpoint that his or her exposure happened at the music studio. Absent some type of clear cut evidence, this would be problematic to pinpoint where any person was infected.

Secondly, in order to establish liability, the student would have to prove that the music studio was negligent. If a studio opened up in violation of any applicable stay-at-home order, negligence would not be difficult to show. But, if the music studio operated in compliance with state and local restrictions and orders, and if it followed current CDC and state health regulations, negligence would be very difficult to prove.

The third legal doctrine that would come into play is assumption of the risk. If a student sued a music studio for negligently exposing the student to COVID-19, the studio could defend by asserting that the student (or his or her parents) voluntarily and knowingly assumed the risk of exposure by allowing the student to come to the studio. Since everyone is well aware of the risks of COVID-19 infection, anyone who ventures out into a business environment is knowingly assuming the risk of exposure. Courts do not permit a plaintiff to recover for an injury or illness when the plaintiff was aware of the risk and voluntarily assumed it.

While, as noted above, there have been no court decisions regarding the liability of businesses that reopen during the pandemic, the fear of legal liability should not prevent a music studio from reopening. Of course, owners of music studios should implement the safety and health practices mandated or recommended by the CDC and state and local health departments to protect clients and staff, and reduce the risk of legal liability.

3. What steps can a music studio take to protect the safety of its staff and may the music studio bar persons from its facilities who do not follow safety requirements?

There are numerous steps that music studios may employ to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure for students and parents coming to your studio. Below is a list of measures you can implement depending upon the exposure level in your community, your clientele, your studio setup, and your comfort level:

- Pre-Opening Welcome Back Letter. Music studios should send a pre-reopening letter to all students and parents informing of a reopening date and all infection control procedures that the music studio will be implementing. Emphasize that the procedures are mandatory and must be complied with as a precondition to entering the music studio and/or receiving lessons.

- Scheduling. Schedule lessons so that there is a gap between students to reduce the number of persons in the studio at any one time.
- Waiting Room. A music studio may elect to eliminate its waiting room by having students remain in their cars until they are notified by cellphone or text that the teacher is ready to begin the lesson. If a waiting room is used, music studios should remove magazines, toys and other objects which may be difficult to disinfect.
- Screening List. Music studios should instruct students not to come to the music studio if they have or have had in the past 14 days a cough, a fever, shortness of breath, difficulties breathing, flu-like symptoms, gastrointestinal upset, or experienced a loss of taste or smell. It may be beneficial to send to the student the day before his or her lesson a patient screening form which they would fill out indicating that they have had none of the above listed symptoms. To encourage students to be honest, the music studio may want to consider waiving any cancellation fees due to an illness.
- Limit on Items. Music studios may want to restrict the items that students bring with them into the studio, such as limiting a student to a cellphone and wallet. It may be beneficial for students not to bring into the music studio books and other music instruction materials.
- Hand Sanitizer. Music studios should place hand sanitizer stations at the entrance of the studio with specific instructions to use it prior to entering the studio and upon leaving the studio. Sanitizer stations could also be placed in instruction rooms.
- Temperature. The music studio may want to take the temperature of students as they enter the music studio. Touchless forehead scanners are readily available online for less than \$100. If an elevated temperature is noted, the students should be instructed not to enter the music studio and to proceed home.
- Payment. Music studios may want to require payment by credit cards over the telephone to avoid touching credit cards, checks or cash.
- Masks. State orders may require the use of facemasks by both the student and studio employees. In addition, even though the state may not require it, a music studio can certainly adopt the policy requiring facemasks to be worn by students and employees. If masks are required, the students should be advised of that beforehand in the written welcome back letter. The music studio may also want to obtain a supply of disposable masks for students who forget to wear one.
- Sanitation. The music studio should establish a set schedule to sanitize all areas where persons have been during the time the music studio was opened. Obviously, those would include instruments, tables, chair arms, door knobs, light switches, hangers or anywhere else where people come in contact. Surfaces should be cleaned with detergent or soap and water prior to disinfecting them. To disinfect, use products that meet the EPA's criteria to use against COVID-19.

4. How should a music studio handle refunds for prepaid lessons that were cancelled and students who no longer wish to continue lessons although there is a contract with the music studio?

This will be a road that each music studio will have to navigate depending upon the wording of its contracts, its existing cancellation policies, the level of COVID-19 infection that exists in its community and the possible public relations fallout if it is perceived as being too heavy handed in the treatment of its students during a pandemic. MTNA recommends that if a member is uncertain how to proceed, it should involve its attorney in deciding the proper way to handle cancellations, refunds and terminated contracts.

Even if a music studio has a well-drafted contract that requires a student to pay for all cancelled lessons, in some cases the student may be able to escape liability under the doctrine of impossibility of performance. If a party to a contract is not able to perform because of an event beyond the party's reasonable control, it can avoid liability under the contract. So, even if students are required to pay for all or some portion of cancelled lessons, if they can show that it was impossible or illegal to attend the lessons because of the pandemic or government orders, they may be relieved of having to pay any cancellation fee under the contract.

5. If the music studio has employees, could the employees sue the music studio owner if the employees are diagnosed with COVID-19?

Like the answer to Question 1 above, there would again be an issue of causation. Given the community spread of the coronavirus, it would be very difficult for an employee to prove that he or she caught the virus at the music studio.

In addition, employees cannot sue employers because they become sick or injured on the job unless they can show that the employer intentionally put the employee at risk or recklessly disregarded their safety. Instead, the government provides worker's compensation for employees who get sick or injured because of their employment. Workers compensation provides immunity against employee lawsuits alleging carelessness or negligence on the part of the employer that results in injury or illness to the employee.

6. Where can I find the CDC recommendations?

The CDC has issued guidelines to businesses that are considering reopening their operations. Those guidelines can be found at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html. Also, specific CDC suggestions and recommendations regarding cleaning and disinfecting businesses can be found at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/reopening_america_guidance.pdf.

Nearly every state will also have orders and/or guidelines regarding reopening. In many states, there are restrictions on the number of persons that can be in the business facility, spacing requirements, mandates on the wearing of face masks, and other measures that a business must take. Please review all such orders and guidance carefully to ensure compliance prior to reopening the music studio.

For questions contact MTNA at mtnanet@mtna.org or (888) 512-5278.

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How to make YouTube links for your students' videos.

As you may have discovered, most videos are too large to squeeze through email. There are a number of ways to circumvent this problem: Dropbox, Google Drive, YouTube, or mailing a thumb drive or disk. The easiest and most used method is to convert your videos to YouTube links. The links are easy to email, share with parents, or post on our www.HudCatMusicTeach.org website. This does require some preparation by the person who makes the original video. That can be done on a phone, a computer with a video camera, or a Video camera. Once you or your student has that video, and have trimmed off the unwanted opening and ending bits, UPLOAD that to YouTube to create a link which can be copied and shared via email.

1. Create a YouTube account. If you have a Google account (gmail, Google-docs, etc.), you can access YouTube and create an account. (Google and YouTube are linked.)
2. Once you're in YouTube, Click on the red button icon on the top right corner, and go to YouTube Studio, or Channel dashboard.
3. Then click on the little red video camera button that says "Create," in the top right corner.
4. Click on the blue UPLOAD VIDEOS button which will bring up a screen of selections. Click "select files" and find the video you want to upload. I usually download my video camera files to my laptop and put them in a file I'll remember, but you can access these video files directly from your device. Just remember what drive they're in.
5. Be sure to describe your video: Student name, Composer: Title of music.

For the Festival Auditions: Student name, Music in order of performance: Composer: Title of music, Composer: Title of music, Composer: Title of music Please do not include the Teacher name in the Festival Auditions Video description. We want to keep that information anonymous from the judges.

6. In YouTube, you'll be asked whether the videos are for kids or not. Select "not for kids" even though these may be videos of your students. The purpose is not kids' programming, hence "not for kids."
7. Then select "Unlisted" for audience options. This allows you to send the link to anyone who needs or wants to watch the video. I think this option provides sufficient privacy while allowing flexibility.
8. Press the "NEXT" button to proceed. There is NO need to Schedule when this video is available. Just leave that blank.
9. Before you press the "SAVE" button, be sure to click the double box button to the right of the blue hyperlinked Video link, so that you have a copy of your new YouTube link to email to someone and yourself.
10. Press "SAVE" but be sure to leave your browser open until the video uploading is complete. This can take a while, depending upon the size of your video.
11. Press "Close" and you're done. You might want to check your list of videos to see how it's listed. To do that, go down the left column, just below the "Dashboard" and click on "Videos."

ORIGINAL COPIES OF MUSIC

Hudson-Catskill Music Teachers Association as associated with the New York State Music Teachers Association **strictly adheres to copyright laws**. Photocopies of music are **NEVER** allowed for performances. Additionally, it is against the © law. It is each teacher's responsibility for students to be prepared with original copies of music. Photocopied music could result in a student being unable to perform. We certainly do not want to disappoint anybody on the day of a special program. We need to set a good example by using good published editions. **However, for practice or emergency teaching purposes, did you know that there is an excellent website for free public-domain classical music? www.imslp.org** Because we will be doing our Fall Piano Auditions Festival completely online, there will be a temporary policy explained in the application information.

DRESS CODE

The revised dress code for recitals is **Black and White**. Girls: Long skirt or long dress, or pants below the knee. BOYS: Dress shirt and tie, long pants. All performers must wear dress shoes (NO sneakers). JEANS of any color are unacceptable.

Teachers, please advise parents of the proper attire well in advance of each program. Without exception, these must be dress-up events. **Please try to maintain standards even on video recordings!**

Short Fingernails Please! Pianos and teachers do NOT appreciate long claws.

\$\$\$\$\$ Membership and Dues Reminder \$\$\$\$\$ DUES REMINDER

Thanks to all who have already paid their dues and a friendly reminder to all other HCMTA members who have not yet paid their dues. We have many interesting programs that teachers and students in which you will want to be participants. Therefore, please remit dues to National prior to September 1. Our local will then be notified that you are a member in good standing and your eligibility will not be questioned. **Note the updated Membership Roster.** If a new member lives in your area, please welcome that person warmly!

Looking forward to seeing you all in the upcoming months, Janet Nelson Nickerson.

REPORTS

Fall 2019 – Spring 2020



Joanne Driggs Raichart, born January 7, 1953 in Rexburg, Idaho, daughter of DeEtta Maxine Floyd Driggs and Cleon “Kelly” Howard Driggs, passed away on August 24, 2019. Joanne grew up in Teton Valley and exhibited her talents and intelligence early. She graduated from high school in three years before studying piano and music at BYU-Provo. While attending Idaho State University, she met and married Randy Raichart on February 16, 1973. The couple lived in a variety of places in Idaho, including Pocatello, Lewiston/Clarkston, Boise, and Coeur d’Alene, before moving to New York State nearly 20 years ago. While in New York, she studied creative writing and wrote *The Evan and Norma Floyd Family History: The Esprit de Corps*, and her autobiography, *...But I Digress*. She also wrote her own piano instructional course.

One of Joanne’s most charming qualities was her ability to cook. She taught her children the benefits of gardening and cooking from scratch. Every summer while growing up, her children would “help” make applesauce, canned peaches, and dried fruit. In autumn she would make fruitcake for her family and many friends. In her thirties, she discovered a love of bicycling, which she enjoyed with her husband, son, and sister, Joyce. She rode regularly until her passing.

She had an affinity for science and loved to learn, which drew her to the American Museum of Natural History. She was a docent for 17 years and won a Volunteer of the Year award. The AMNH will have a memorial service in her honor in Central Park in the next few weeks.

She loved nature, lighthouses and beaches, the Teton mountains, and Yellowstone National Park, which she loved sharing with her friends and coworkers in New York. She loved cinnamon bears, Bigfoot, rocks, and her children teased her about her love of circus peanuts. Above all else, the best gift she gave to others was that of music. Beginning with playing during church services, which continued until her passing, she was well known in musical circles for her accompanying skills, recitals, music lessons, and arrangements. She taught private piano lessons for over 40 years to hundreds of students, many of whom pursued their own music careers.

She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Randy; her children Patrick Urion (45), Ginny Beisel (43), Nicholas Raichart (41), and Audrey Keyes (38); her sister Joyce, and brother Allan. She had six grandchildren who adored her and will dearly miss her. Services will be held Tuesday, September 3 at 11 a.m.; visitation at 9:30 a.m. at the LDS Church in Driggs, Idaho. There will be another service on September 14 at her home church in New York. [https://www.tetonvalleynews.net/obituaries/joanne-driggs-raichart/article_6532b902-4e96-51fa-8ddb-fb2c99e551c4.html]



At Janice's home last August for the End of Summer Social.
Janice at her piano, Jean MacDonald and Eileen Landman listening.

TEACHERS RECITAL

King of Kings Lutheran Church in New Windsor on Sunday, October 20 at **4 p.m.**



The concert was dedicated to the memory of our friends and colleagues in HCMTA.

Seated in front, left to right: Margaret Barton Small & Jean MacDonald
In rear, left to right: Janet Nelson Nickerson, Ruthanne Schempf, Carol Losee, Valentina Shatalova,
Amelia Seyssel, Mary Lee Farris, Carolyn Topliff

HCMTA Music Festival – Auditions & Honors Recital

Held at SUNY New Paltz Music Department, located in College Hall on the SUNY New Paltz campus.
Judges are Andrew Schmidt from Jamestown, and our HCMTA colleague, Dr. Janice Nimetz.



Andrew Schmidt & Janice Nimetz, our judges



Helping run the Auditions Festival:
Valentina Shatalova, Carol Losee, Sofya Maryanova, Ruthanne Schempf



Honor Recital was on Sunday, November 17, 2:00 p.m.

Hudson-Catskill Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with the New York State Music Teachers, and Music Teachers National Association

2019 Auditions Festival Honors Recital

November 17, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
SUNY New Paltz Music Department, College Hall

Autumn Is Here

Ivan Jirka, 7, (Valentina Shatalova)

William Gillock

Arabesque, Op. 100 no. 2

Christopher Lee, 9, (Akiko Sasaki)

Friedrich Burgmüller

Gymnopedie No. 1

Miles Eyler, 10, (Valentina Shatalova)

Erik Satie

The Night Ride

Landon Fracasse, 12, (Valentina Shatalova)

Robert Vandall

Medieval Kingdom

Evelyn Harwood, 13, (Valentina Shatalova)

Melody Bober

Solfeggietto

Marcelo Cuya, 14, (Maria Peterson)

Carl Philip Emanuel Bach

Invention No. 11 in G minor

Jennie Po, 14, (Fenlan Lin)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Impromptu, Op. 90 no. 3

Wren Werner, 15, (Carol Losee)

Franz Schubert

La Fille aux cheveux de lin

Claude Debussy

Veronica Klein, 15, (Akiko Sasaki)

Fugue No. 22, in B-flat minor, WTC I

Johann Sebastian Bach

Eliana Barth, 17 (Ruthanne Schempf)

Puck, Op. 71 no.3

Edvard Grieg

April Wang, 12, (Fenlan Lin)

Fugue in Ab major, BWV 862

Johann Sebastian Bach

Emily Wong Pan, 16, (Valentina Shatalova)

“Alerte” from Mouvements Perpetuels

François Poulenc

Danae Evans, 13, (Valentina Shatalova)

Dr. Gradus ad Parnassum, from Children’s Corner

Claude Debussy

Lena Tran, 12, Honorable Mention (Maria Peterson)

Ballade No. 1 in G minor, Op. 23

Frédéric Chopin

Gregory Marcinik 16, Second Prize (Sofya Maryanova)

“Presto” from Italian Concerto

Johann Sebastian Bach

Julian Lazaro, 14, First Prize (Ada Margoshes)

Participating Teachers

Fenlan Lin, Carol Losee, Alex Marrero, Sofya Maryanova, Ada Margoshes, Alex Peh
Beverly Poyerd, Akiko Sasaki, Ruthanne Schempf, and Valentina Shatalova

Judges

Janice Nimetz and Andrew Schmidt

HCMTA Festival Review Meeting at Alexis Diner, Newburgh
January 8, 2020



Jean MacDonald, Margaret Barton Small, Carolyn Topliff, Janet Nelson Nickerson

Teacher Play-in

Wednesday, January 29 at 10 a.m.
At Jean MacDonald's studio, Monroe



Pedagogy Discussions



Guest music teachers: Elsa Ceron, Berta Boller, and Eleanor Milliken joined Margaret Barton Small and Jean MacDonald [not pictured] at Ruthanne Schempf's studio 10 a.m. on February 26
(This was our last in-person meeting)

We had an enlightening, cheerful morning.
The Discussion question was "How do we instill practice habits in our students?"

Berta likes structured lessons; always starting with technique warm-up and then Bach, always some Bach.
Then literature and particular music projects.

Ruthanne shares the Piano Practicing "Treatment" Checklist for Students:

- Does it sound ok?
- Do I feel ok with this piece/section?
- Where are the problems?
- Why are those spots so tough?
- How do you think you can make these better or easier?

Some suggestions for practicing

1. For a spot, a section, or the whole piece: three times correctly, in a row.
2. Backwards Practice: Number the sections of your music. Practice the last section, then the second-to-last section until the end, then the third-to-last section until the end, and so forth.
3. Hands alone, then together
4. Band aid practice: fix the spot, then start a measure or so before the spot, and end a measure or two after it.
5. Practice a measure or pattern, plus one more measure/beat/note
6. Slow motion practice. Practice slowly enough to be correct and comfortable, and consistent, but in the same gestures as if up to tempo.
7. Destinations. Become comfortable with the big arrival places and then practice the shift or phrase direction to that spot.
8. Half tempo to full tempo. See number 6
9. Unit plus one. For example, play 4 16th notes plus one more note of the following pattern
10. Rhythms: Dotted 8th → 16th, and the reverse 16th → dotted 8th.

There are many, many more crafty ways to make practicing effective and game-like.

Guild Auditions

Cornwall-on-Hudson

As chair of the Cornwall-on-Hudson Guild site, I contacted Guild headquarters in the first week of March, as soon as I understood that we were going to have a problem. At first, I was assured that I could reach out to our judge and request that she hear recordings or do online auditions. Then, we learned that recordings could only be sent to Austin. Our judge was very willing and flexible to adapt but after a month of postponement, I released our judge. We were not able to hold live auditions because the church was closed. My own home studio was not an option either! I could not see a workable way to make live, online auditions fair and manageable. Poor internet connections mean inferior sound quality, and students and families were already stressed. Then, the work of scanning and emailing the music to the judge, and mailing the forms, became insurmountable. I suggested that each teacher judge her own students, or request a partial refund from Guild headquarters. This pandemic will most likely be with us for the foreseeable future. Perhaps Guild 2021 auditions will be done from YouTube recordings, hence the shift to this method for our November Festival Auditions.

New Paltz

Valentina Shatalova contacted Guild headquarters and received changing advice. The judge, Dorothy Grimm, was also willing to hear online or recorded auditions but the logistics became overwhelming. Valentina emailed each participating teacher a long, thoughtful message detailing her thought process. In the end, the official judge was released and each teacher judged her own students, or cancelled the auditions and moved ahead with new material. Some teachers requested the available partial refund.

Poughkeepsie

Carol Padron arranged for the assigned Guild judge, Gale Ridge, to hear in-person auditions at Renaissance Kids, on May 30, for ten of her students. Students waited in cars in the parking lot until their appointment times. Each student entered and washed hands. Carol disinfected the doorknobs and piano keys between each student. Everyone wore masks throughout.

Middletown

Diane Miller had judge Lina Otero listen to video recordings (each student submitted 3 videos: one each for IMMT, Phases, Pieces). Students sent recordings to Diane and she assembled these into video folders for the judge. The Middletown Guild was held around June 20. Diane Miller has been teaching via Google duo, Facetime, and Zoom. She thinks the connection from the strongest internet. Now, in addition to online lessons, she has begun in-person lessons. She has Electrolux Air Purifiers, two on each floor. In addition, students wear masks.

Planning Meeting, held over Zoom

June 3, 2020

Eleven members attended! Zoom meetings might make participation easier and welcoming!

Our own recitals have been postponed or cancelled. Some have done Zoom recitals. BachFest Young Performer videos have been uploaded to the HudsonValleySocietyforMusic.org website. Thank you to teachers and students who made this happen. THANK YOU, Valentina for coordinating the Young Performers North!!!

We agreed that we could encourage our students to start recording for music portfolios, scholarship or college applications, or learning purposes. Janet Nickerson said that the MTNA national webpage had helpful information regarding reopening studios. This information has been included in this newsletter.

We discussed having performance goals or projects for our students, such as a Beethoven themed Zoom recital. Any suggestions?

Valentina Shatalova shared this:

“Good morning fellow teachers,

This site seems to sum up the effort one will need to re-open. LOTS of time in between to make sure that everything is clean. MTNA also has excellent studio guidelines written from a legal point of view. I am sure that everyone has students beginning to ask....No matter how we look at things, we will all be affected financially. <https://www.pianostreet.com/blog/articles/keep-your-piano-keyboard-clean-from-viruses-10308/>

I hope that everyone is staying healthy and enjoying the lovely weather!

PS - to try and stay on the positive side. Each week, Carol [Losee] and I try to find some really positive points in teaching remotely.”

Valentina Shatalova sent a letter to her students and their families. In it, she discussed video recording, Zoom recitals, and the concerns we all have regarding lessons during this pandemic. It's worth sharing the ending:

“I would like to thank all of the students and parents who have been onboard with this unique educational experience. For every cloud, there really does seem to be a silver lining. Here are just a few things that have evolved from this:

- students are recording pieces and listening to themselves
- younger students are learning to navigate their music without me pointing in the score
- note-reading skills are improving!
- students are thinking about what their music means!
- students are writing down their own assignments
- some are composing!
- I have met your pets!

I do, however, miss teaching all of you “live”, but without various recitals and competitions, we have even had the time to talk more about what music actually means in our lives. It is truly an honor to work with such a wonderful group of musicians!” [Valentina Shatalova]



Mary Lee Farris, Ruthanne Schempf, Alex Marrero, Jean MacDonald, Carol Padron, Amelia Seyssel, Eileen Landman, Janet Nickerson, and Janice Nimetz. Valentina Shatalova and Carolyn Topliff had to leave early.

BachFest 2020

THANK YOU to Valentina Shatalova for shepherding this online event. Thank you to all the students who sent in videos for BachFest 2020.

These videos are available for viewing on www.hudsonvalleysocietyformusic.org

FALL 2020 – SPRING 2021 UPCOMING EVENTS

An End-of-Summer Social – All are Welcome!

To chat -- To play -- To relax

ZOOM

Wednesday, August 26, from 10 until 1 p.m.

Pack a snack and beverage and sign in to our Zoom gathering.

This is a Perfect Way to fire up the new academic year with Fun and Yum, without the need to leave home or find a parking spot!

Executive Board short meeting & Pedagogy Discussion

ZOOM

Bring your teaching observations, complaints, questions, etc. and enjoy the camaraderie with a nosh from the comfort of your own home!

Wednesday, September 9 at 10 a.m.

Teacher Play-in

ZOOM

If you have something you're working on but need that extra motivation only an audience can provide, plan on attending this low-pressure play-in. We all benefit by playing for each other, regardless of goal. If you have the time, music and inclination, consider the invitation!

Conveniently located at, you guessed it, your own house. Look, no commute!

Wednesday, October 14 at 10 a.m.

TEACHERS RECITAL

VIDEO POSTING TO HudCatMusicTeach.org website

Don't let your students have all the fun, come join your teaching pals in Video posting to our HudCatMusicTeach.org website!

It is requested that we limit our performance total time to **ten (10) minutes** so that we have more participation.

Please let Margaret Small know what you'd like to present but do it by October 16.

Video recordings must be sent as YouTube links to schempfr@gmail.com by October 20 so we can post videos by October 25.

NYSMTA State Conference.

Stay tuned.

Full information about the Competitions, MTNA and Empire State, is available online at

<http://www.nysmta.org>

HCMTA Music Festival – Auditions & Honors Recital

Judges are Sylvia Karkus Furash, our beloved former HCMTA member now living on Cape Cod, and her friend, Estrid Eklof, who has judged for us before.

This Festival will be done entirely online.

Student videos must be submitted as **YouTube links [one link per student entry] by November 7.**

The winners and honor recital program will be announced before November 15. The Honors "Recital" will be a series of Videos posted on our www.HudCatMusicTeach.org website.

Start preparing your students NOW.

Be sure to have music from three different style periods.

Please make every effort to stay within the time allotments for your student's level.

Auditions information is included in this email.

Contact: Ruthanne Schempf (845) 534-2166

HCMTA Music Festival Review Meeting

ZOOM

January 13 at 10 a.m.

All comments regarding the Music Festival are welcome.

Teacher Play-in

ZOOM

To alleviate the winter doldrums, consider joining fellow members in a play-in. We all benefit by playing for each other, regardless of goal. If you have the time, music and inclination, consider the invitation!

Wednesday, January 27 [snowdate is Feb 3] at 10 a.m.

Executive Board short meeting & Pedagogy Discussion

ZOOM

Bring your observations and questions and have a field-day of pedagogy brain-storming.

February 26 10 a.m.

Community Service Month

VIDEO

Each year, we encourage our students to perform at three different health-care facilities. Performing is good for everyone! Not only do we bring joy and hope but we gain a different performance experience.

Let's give back to our community!

This year, we encourage students to submit video recordings of themselves (converted to YouTube links).

This project is tentative, depending upon each health-care center's computer ability. Stay tuned.

Contact Janice Nimetz 783-1242 for the program in Sapphire – Goshen.

Contact Janet Nickerson 561-0763 for the program in Sapphire – Fishkill.

Contact Valentina Shatalova 256-9837 for the program at Woodland Pond

TBA

Teacher Play-in

ZOOM

To celebrate the first stirrings of spring, join all fellow members in a play-in. We all benefit by playing for each other, regardless of goal. If you have the time, music and inclination, consider the invitation!

Wednesday, March 24 at 10 a.m.

National Guild of Piano Teachers Auditions Four locations

At this time, it is unknown HOW Guild Auditions will be conducted in Spring, 2021.

Keep practicing and stay tuned.

Date: TBA **NEW PALTZ** Contact: Valentina Shatalova 256-9837

Date: TBA **POUGHKEEPSIE** Contact: Carol Padron 452-4225

Date: TBA **CORNWALL-ON-HUDSON** Contact: Ruthanne Schempf 534-2166

Date: TBA **MIDDLETOWN** Contact: Diane Miller 342-2206

Annual Spring Recital

VIDEO

Don't forget to have your best students submit videos (in YouTube links) for our Annual Spring Recital
Posting on HudCatMusicTeach.org

Videos are due by April 15 in order to be posted by April 25.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

ZOOM

Date & Time: May 19 10 a.m.

Venue: Your House. BYO snack and beverage

Come join everyone; put in your professional "oar."

BachFest 2021

THANK YOU to all the students who sent in videos for BachFest 2020. These videos are available for viewing on www.hudsonvalleysocietyformusic.org

We anticipate a similar approach for BachFest 2021. Applications for Young Performers will be available online: www.hudsonvalleysocietyformusic.org Information should be sent to schempf@gmail.com and to emilyfaxon@aol.com

For up-to-date information about the programs, please check the website
www.hudsonvalleysocietyformusic.org or call (845) 534-2166.

Other Updates, Notices, Biographies

Be thinking of friends who are having medical “adventures” or those who are travelling, or those who are needing a friendly call or visit.

Former Poughkeepsie resident, and HCMTA member, **Sylvia Karkus Furash** is living on Cape Cod and is just as busy as ever. She has been practicing, teaching online, does lesson summaries, and holds online office hours. We are delighted that she has agreed to judge our HCMTA Auditions Festival. Our other judge will be Sylvia’s friend, **Estrid Eklof**, who has judged for us twice before.



Photo from Janet Nelson Nickerson’s visit to Cape Cod in Summer, 2019. From left to right: Sylvia’s daughter, Deb Hoffman, Janet Nelson Nickerson, Sylvia Karkus Furash, and Janet’s friend, Sue.

Beverly Poyerd’s student William Lacombe has performed at Weill Recital Hall on his guitar. His teacher at the New Windsor Music Academy rented the space there a couple of years ago, and hosted a recital.

William decided that he wanted to perform there again, on piano. He found an organization online, [Crescendo International Music Competition | Crescendo Competition](#), sent in an audition recording and was chosen for a 2nd place winners recital. Beverly is so impressed with his initiative and success! She had not heard of this competition and thought we would want to look into it.

“It is amazing when we can learn from our students. Wow!!!” – B.P.



HCMTA member **Alexander Marrero** was selected to be the Chairperson of the Committee on Cultural Inclusion (CCI) for the College Music Society (CMS). The College Music Society is a network of students, faculty, and staff from colleges, universities, and conservatories throughout the United States and around the world.

After his appointment to his position on January 22nd in 2020, he volunteered to be a Session Chair (in person) at their Northeast Regional Conference on March 7th and 8th at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Alex Marrero’s responsibilities as chair included appointing 6 different musicians who either earned Ph.D. degrees or D.M.A. degrees. The finalists included faculty members from Anderson University in Indiana, Texas

Southern University, Rutgers University in New Jersey, the Peabody Institute in Maryland, Temple University in Pennsylvania, and Washington State University. These faculty members are the new members of the committee starting on March 1, 2020.

He was scheduled to participate in an international CMS video conference concerning 10 committee chairpersons involving universities based in the United States and Malaysia. The schools included are Auburn University in Alabama, California Polytechnic University in Pomona, East Carolina University in Greenville, Ohio University in Athens, Salisbury University in Maryland, Sunway University in Malaysia, Ohio University in Athens, University of Minnesota in Twin Cities, University of Missouri in Kansas City, and the University of Texas at Denton. The private video conference was on Friday June 19th at 11AM Eastern Standard Time. One of the chairpersons presenting in the video conference was Gail Berenson, who is a Professor Emerita of Piano, and a Past President of the Music Teachers National Association.

HCMTA Member Commences Composer Advocacy Project

HCMTA Member Alexander Marrero commenced a Composer Advocacy Project (CAP) as Chair of the Committee on Cultural Inclusion (CCI) for the College Music Society (CMS). The Composer Advocacy Project was done through Linked In. The CAP started with 30 female composers over a 30 day period in July of 2020. The list of dates and composers with their schools are shown below:

July 1st - Sabrina Clarke - West Chester University
July 2nd - Amy Dunker - Clarke University
July 3rd - Jessica Hardman - Hartt School of Music
July 4th - Caroline Kyunga Ahn - Anderson University
July 5th - Elaine Aberdam - University of Rhode Island
July 6th - Kati Agocs - New England Conservatory
July 7th - Kathryn Alexander - Yale University
July 8th - Julia Alford - Temple University
July 9th - Jen Allen - Trinity College
July 10th - Olga Amelkina-Vera - Collin College
July 11th - Linda Antas - Montana State University
July 12th - Ingrid Arauco - Haverford College
July 13th - Kimberly Archer - Southern Illinois University
July 14th - Elinor Armer - San Francisco Conservatory
July 15th - Eleanor Aversa - Berklee College of Music
July 16th - Alexis Bacon - Michigan State University
July 17th - Carla Kay (CK) Barlow - University of New Mexico
July 18th - Erin Barra - Arizona State University
July 19th - Jennifer Bellor - University of Nevada
July 20th - Jane Ira Bloom - New School University
July 21st - Marita Bolles - DePaul University
July 22nd - Amanda Bono - James Madison University
July 23rd - Susan Botti - Manhattan School of Music
July 24th - Leslie Boucher - Emmanuel College
July 25th - Meredith Brammeier - California Polytechnic State University
July 26th - Kirsten Soriano Broberg - University of North Texas
July 27th - Eliza Brown - DePauw University
July 28th - Erin Busch - University of Pennsylvania
July 29th - Madelyn Byrne - Palomar College
July 30th - Nancy Hill Cobb - University of Northern Iowa

Janet Nelson Nickerson's student Achievement!

AGO [American Guild of Organists] Executive Director James Thomashower and Don Cook, AGO National Councillor for Education, announced that our Chapter [Central Hudson Valley AGO] is the FIRST one in the nation to have people passing the Achievement Awards. Therefore, our three students, (and by extension, their teachers, and their families,) are the FIRST in the NATION. Janet's student, Carl Geiselhart, will be a Junior at Valley Central High School. He attends Juilliard pre-college where he studies trombone. For the summer, he is subbing at St. John's Lutheran in Middletown and during the rest of the year, he is a substitute organist wherever he can. He is very bright, with lots of potential; he loves doing major works and difficult music.



From left to right: Eric Hepp with his two students, Janet Nelson Nickerson with her student, Carl Geiselhart
Dr. Laura Ramsey Russell, of CHVAGO

Margaret Barton Small has reported from Downeast Maine. She and Don are back at the 200 year old Blueberry farm. On July 20, Margaret emailed: "It is stifling Humid here & in the 80-90 degrees. We have had 2 Sundays inside sanctuary (2 Rainy Sundays) with everyone in masks & sitting 6' apart (pews taped off).....20 or so people. Excellent Pastor with inspiring sermons on Jesus' Parables. My Prelude & Postlude yesterday were Beethoven short pieces using the Organ buttons on the Electric Keyboard... Our kids are Not coming here this summer, not wanting to bring us the virus.... Picked First Quart of BB last week.....still too many white ones on the bushes...so eagerly awaiting more hand-picking to Eat & Jam! We've made 3 double batches of Rhubarb-Pineapple Jam....Yummy! Gave one dozen Half-pints to Church Barn Sale FundRaiser.... Don's Huge veg garden is growing well. We already had Lettuce & Beet greens, soon broccoli & spinach! Wildlife: 3 Rabbits in front yard hedge, Groundhog in back yard, Hummingbirds at the feeder....at least we know that we are in the Safest Place we can be ...during this pandemic!"

Last August, we visited Margaret and Don at their Washington County farm. It's a piece of paradise.



Welcome! New Members:



Jo Prout moved to the Capital Region after receiving her Bachelor's of Art from the University of Notre Dame (Go Irish!) where, outside her two social science majors, she studied voice and piano as an undergraduate and a post-grad student. Since then, she has performed as a soprano soloist with the Battenkill Chorale and the Averill Park Community Chorus, and onstage with the Columbia Civic Players, Upstage Productions, and groups and chorales in Albany and Rensselaer counties. She has accompanied church services and youth performances on piano in Cossackie and Catskill, and school choruses in Cossackie-Athens. She has been continuously teaching piano since 2002, and is a member of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA). Jo now lives in a very rural area an hour southeast of Albany, and teaches online - about 80 % of my students continued lessons this way. She prefers using Messenger but also has Skype.

She is currently recording and sharing dropbox files for church services (the mission for Easter), but generally doesn't do worship music except on the rare occasion, and then usually as a soprano, unless she accompanies a Sunday school group. Jo is in the pulpit as a part-time minister and she is the techie person doing it. She pushes "record," leads

the remote service, uploads it to the church channel, then shares the link.



Sarah L. Terrell is celebrating 10 years of teaching in Beacon, NY. She has been working with young people for 25 years. She received her M.A in educational theater from New York University and holds a B.F.A from the University of Kansas School of Fine Arts. While a voice major at KU, she studied piano with Professor Alice Downs, soloist with the Houston Symphony Orchestra. Her former work as education programs director at the Paramount Center for the Arts (Peekskill) and TADA! Youth Theater (NYC) and have helped master the skills needed while working with young people. In her home studio, Sarah provides a nurturing, patient environment combined with high expectations. Young students learn valuable skills like diligence, practice goals, how to receive constructive feedback, and most importantly; how to play musically while telling the story of the piece. Theory, aural training, improv and a strong emphasis on rhythm, are all a part of lessons. Many of her students prepare graded solos at NYSSMA (*New York State School Music Association*) and consistently receive outstanding ratings at all levels 1-6 from adjudicators. She is a member of MTNA (Music Teachers National Association). Check out her website:

<http://www.pianoadventuresbeacon.com/>



Dr. Sarah Matthews holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and Piano from The Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, a Master's Degree in Piano Pedagogy from The University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, and a Doctorate in Music and Music Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. Sarah has taught in the Bedford Central School district for the past 25 years, having taught multiple levels of group piano, music technology, world music and drumming, music therapy and special education music classes, middle and high school band, and is currently Director of Bands at Fox Lane High School. She regularly plays ensemble piano with The New York Wind Symphony and is an active accompanist in both Westchester and Orange County, NY. Sarah is presently completing a course in Piano Technology, tuning, and maintenance through the Piano Technicians Academy and plans to one day become a member of The Piano Technicians Guild.

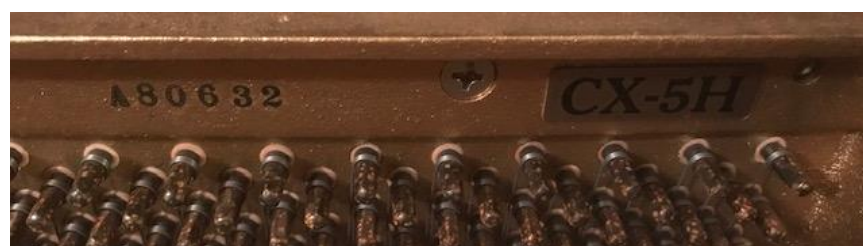
TWO PIANOS FOR SALE

Diane Miller acquired two pianos for students who asked her to search, but the pandemic took away their families' livelihoods and these families are no longer interested in lessons. Diane would like \$3,500 or best offer for the Kawai and best offer over \$800 for the Wurlitzer. The Kawai was purchased by the owner in 2005 and holds a tune beautifully. The Wurlitzer was purchased in 1945, belonged to a church pianist, we think has ivory keys, but John Nash said is only able to be brought up to 1/4 tone below concert pitch.









Catskill MTA – Treasurer's Report for May 22, 2019 – May 20, 2020
Annual Membership Meeting

Account I – Business Savings Account - Scholarship

OPENING BALANCE: \$8015.60

Income:

Teachers Recital - \$170
Donation - \$30
Interest - .80

Expenditures:

Transfer to General Fund - \$421.43 (Piano Festival)

CURRENT BALANCE: \$7,794.97

Account II – General Fund

OPENING BALANCE: \$2,823.24

Income:

Dues - \$230
Nov. Piano Auditions - \$1450
Transfer from Scholarship Fund - \$421.43

Expenditures:

Calendar postage - \$13.20
Howland Tickets - \$80 (Piano Festival)
King of Kings - \$100 (T. Recital)
Judy Lorkowski - \$30 (T. Recital)
Nov. Piano Auditions - \$1817.43
Website update - \$300
Election mailing - \$32

CURRENT BALANCE: \$2552.04

Auditions, Festivals, Competitions, Recitals, and Workshops, OH MY!

We try to offer many performance goals for our students. Why not consider utilizing several opportunities?

- HCMTA offers multiple opportunities for local performances and workshops. Take advantage of this!
- NYSMTA has state level competitions. Attend our state conferences and become familiar with the process!
- NYSSMA auditions are coordinated through our public school systems. Get to know your students' school music teachers and make certain your students are signed up. Also, discover where and when the NYSSMA sites are and work with your student school district music teachers to register them. You cannot register your students on your own. Cooperation is the "key."
- Piano Guild Auditions are held in the spring, usually before NYSSMA. Our local sites are Poughkeepsie, New Paltz, Middletown, and Cornwall-on-Hudson.
- The Federation of Music Clubs also holds auditions in the spring. Contact Diane Miller.
- Our HCMTA Festival is held in November in order to avoid conflicts with the spring audition schedules. This is the only locally held festival that uses two out-of-district judges and awards actual cash prizes. The standards for preparation are higher but a satisfying challenge for diligent students.