

New York State
Music Teachers Association
Hudson-Catskill MTA

Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

WINTER 2021 Message

Greetings! What a season, what a year!

Hope you are making the most of this strange summer, and that you are continuing to find ways to teach 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.

Please continue to look after each other via postal mail, masked & distanced visits, phone calls, email, Zoom, FaceTime, Skype, or coffee cans and string. A number of us have suffered loss or close calls this past year, so let's keep our friends in our thoughts. Our lives and livelihoods, and those of our students and neighbors have been sorely tested during these past nine months, and we must continue to be patient, and safe, and look for positives. Here's one: two new grandchildren; one to Valentina and one to Mary Lee!

Be sure to check out the entire newsletter!

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.

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.

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 February 10. The main topic of this pedagogy session will be on introducing and sustaining classic repertoire (Bach, Beethoven) in our music lives.

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 external drive 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. **For Guild Auditions:** In the "details" screen, write in the "description" part: e sure to describe your video: "2021 Guild Audition" – John Doe – Complete (or part 1 of 2 if necessary)Composer: Title of music.

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. 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 For Guild online and video Auditions, we are to await the judge's request for scans of unfamiliar music. We must therefore register our students soon enough to get the report cards AND the judge contact 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

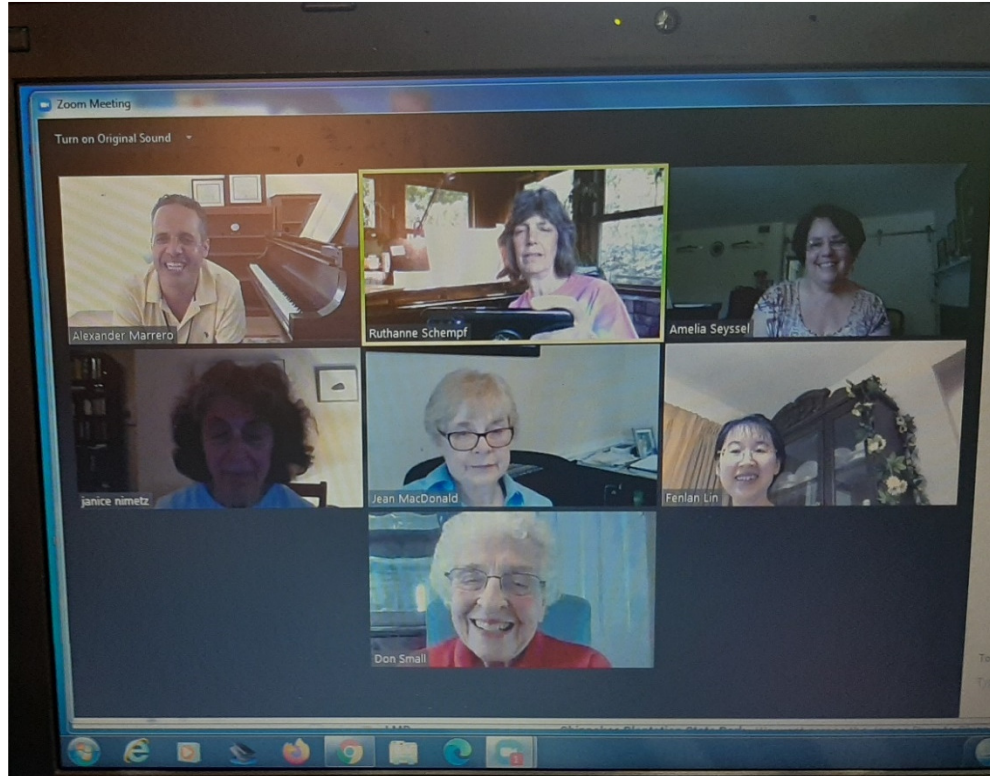
Thanks to all who have already paid their dues and a friendly reminder to all other HCMTA members who have not yet paid their dues. We have many interesting programs that teachers and students in which you will want to be participants. Therefore, please remit dues to National prior to September 1. Our 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.

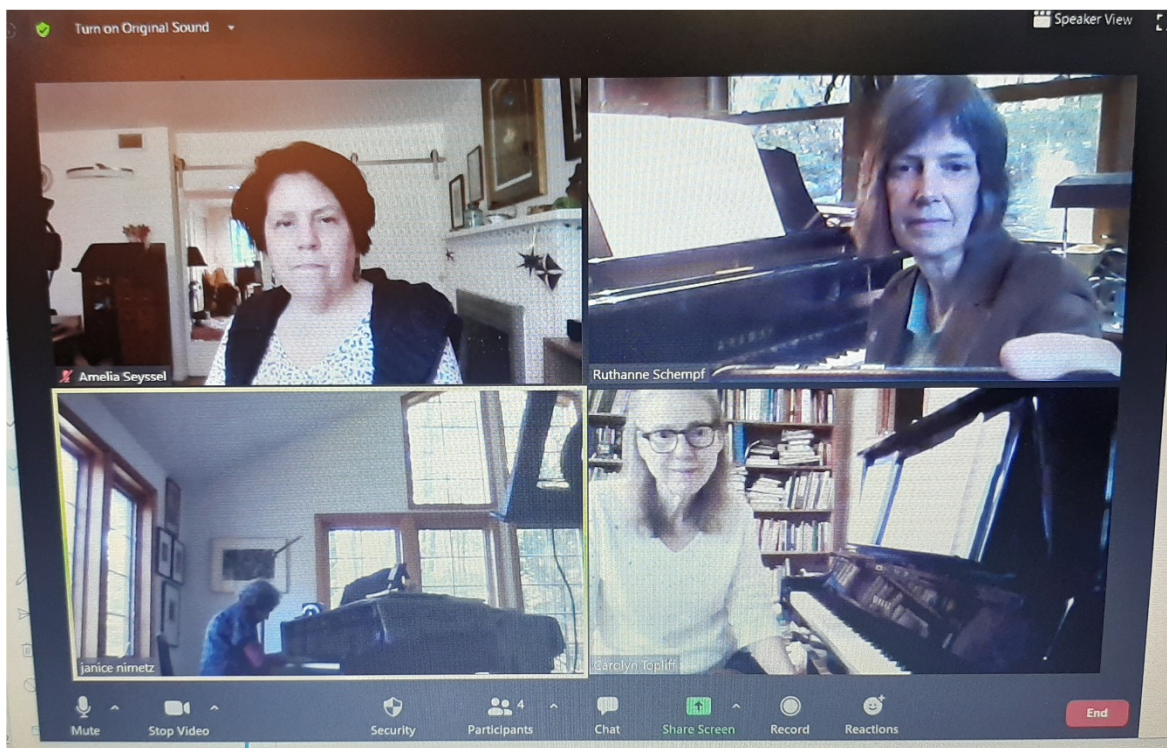
REPORTS

Fall 2020

All of our Fall events were held virtually. The play-in events were held over Zoom



September 9 Executive Board Meeting and Pedagogy Discussion



October 14 Teacher Play-in. Margaret was still in Maine and planned to join the Zoom until her internet crashed. She had recorded her performance and we watched it as a shared screen. Then, several of us performed live for each other.

TEACHERS RECITAL

Hudson-Catskill Music Teachers Association Annual Teachers Recital Online October 2020

- Sonata in A major, H. 186
Allegro assai, Poco adagio, Allegro
Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (1714 – 1788)
<https://youtu.be/vAczUAIxDFA>
Ruthanne Schempf, piano
- Notturmo, Op. 54 no. 4
Edvard Grieg (1843 – 1907)
<https://youtu.be/YHYMx-CSTnM>
Eileen Landman, piano
- Impromptu in Gb, Op. 90 no.3
Franz Schubert (1797 – 1828)
<https://youtu.be/8mdhhrAmVsQ>
Margaret Barton Small, piano
- Arabesque No. 1
Claude Debussy (1862 – 1918)
<https://youtu.be/o2xJHQIVvss>
Carolyn Topliff, piano

Donations to Hudson-Catskill Music Teachers are tax-deductible. Checks made to HCMTA can be sent to 58 Pinehurst Circle, Monroe NY 10950

Hudson-Catskill Music Teachers Association

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2020 Auditions Festival Honors Recital

- Melody Cantabile
Timothy Brown
<https://youtu.be/hBnekPvjKW4>
Ian Chien, 7, (Fenlan Lin)
- An Enchanted Castle
Pat Boozer
<https://youtu.be/01AyRSQn5Q>
Tomohiro Yamada, 8, (Fenlan Lin)
- Crystal Springs
Judy East Wells
<https://youtu.be/-QsBoCo4VM8>
Anthony Chen, 10, (Fenlan Lin)
- Children's Song No. 3
Chick Corea
<https://youtu.be/k-oICdGsaAk>
Chelsea Venuto, 12, (Valentina Shatalova)
- The Orphan, Op. 64 no.4
Jean Louis Streabbog

<https://youtu.be/yYvNzURdaeM>
Sofia Kelly, 12, (Akiko Sasaki)

Valse Op. 33

August Durand

<https://youtu.be/NENuZT4Criw>
April Wang, 13, (Fenlan Lin)

Daydreaming

Timothy Brown

<https://youtu.be/zgQj8pEmJmg>
Landon Fracasse, 13, (Valentina Shatalova)

Waltz in A minor, Op. Posth.

Frédéric Chopin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzUv3qoGWvO&feature=youtu.be>
Oliver Jang, 13, (Ada Margoshes)

Song of the Lark Op.30 no.22

Piotr Ilich Tchaikovsky

https://youtu.be/yAT_vI7EG6E
Jacqueline Venuto, 14, (Valentina Shatalova)

Prelude in B minor, Op. 28

Frédéric Chopin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHTebZCsnfo&feature=youtu.be>
William Lacombe, 15, (Beverly Poyerd)

Romance

Piotr Ilich Tchaikovsky

<https://youtu.be/pXEN-ZpV6IU>
Danae Evans, 14, (Valentina Shatalova)

The Maiden and the Nightingale

Enrique Granados

https://youtu.be/EmJ4yG_7LxE
Wren Werner, 16, (Carol Losee)

Nocturne, Op. 9 no.1

Frédéric Chopin

https://youtu.be/De3Pbxxv_Mo
Veronica Klein, 16, Honorable Mention, (Akiko Sasaki)

Sonata in C, K.545 “Allegro”

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

<https://youtu.be/fNHypGJSys>
Christopher Lee, 10, Second Prize (Akiko Sasaki)

The Cat and the Mouse

Aaron Copland

<https://youtu.be/Y1-NdNoylbE>
Briana Poon, 15, First Prize (Akiko Sasaki)

Participating Teachers
Fenlan Lin, Carol Losee, Ada Margoshes, Jean MacDonald,
Beverly Poyerd, Akiko Sasaki, and Valentina Shatalova

Judges
Estrid Eklof and Sylvia Karkus Furash

HCMTA ~ Festival Auditions

Afterthoughts

When asked to participate as an Adjudicator for this event, I was greatly honored. In the space of one phone call, I slipped back to the years of 1984-2008. Does time have a meaning? Did T.S. Eliot have it correct after all? [*Time Future is contained in Time Past.*] Have I been reborn again, this time enhanced by the elusive element of what we define as “ago.”

It was that autumn day in '84 when I entered with intrepid heart, the beautiful, warm home of Jean MacDonald for a meeting of IMTs, part of NYSMTA. After all, I told myself, you have been “here” before in several other of the United States. Familiar, yet totally dissimilar.

Yes, there is no space able to contain the love, trust and enduring friendships—let me not forget support—you gave with open hearts, always the footprints of my life for twenty-four years.

There was an intimate exhibit in Chicago, around the corner of the Rasmussen Hotel, where husband, David, was attending a conference. I recall it with clarity. The work of one John Cage. I only knew of his renown with of “silence.” Apparently, he too was exploring space using other forms of calligraphy.

Why refer to some obscure gallery of many years past? Probably, because what we do is and is not transient. Music is that art which exists in time, as opposed to space. We rely upon dance, theatre and visual arts to give permanence to what we do.

And, as I learned from an old classmate just yesterday, the billionaire Mark Mobius (check out his lecture probably on U-tube) everything he has accomplished and made of his life he credits to music, theatre and his life at the piano! Not at all an ingratiating effort at 'umble pie, but a sincere reminiscence as he recalls playing in Boston bars, the very same days I walked past them!

Another digression to suggest why what we do is essential to life. Mr. Mobius sees a great resurgence of the Arts very soon, with more support and participation. We are preparing the next generation to be first in line!

That should be more than enough to justify what I saw and heard this past week as Estrid Eklof and I participated in the Festival as your Adjudicators.

We did select a First Place, Second Place and Honorable Mention; we did assign grades to each participant, but the real winners were each of you teachers (those who supported, and those who entered students), and of course the families who provided lessons, tuition and encouragement!

Teaching over a medium that is often fickle in its flickering, where we are at the mercy of the proximity and stability of cell towers, and an actual earthquake rumbling through my bedroom, while I was on line with your students! to our people tired of fighting fear of disease and the inconveniences of what they knew as “living a life,” is not easy. Yet you soldiered through.

Your fearless leader, Ruthanne with her support team, provided Estrid and myself with as clear and direct material with which to assess each student. In a way, I felt more connected to, more loving toward and more responsible for what I was doing than in countless similar in-person auditions. Maybe, we have become soldiers as well.

So, as we move through more tough time ahead, have courage, dear Colleagues, that what we are doing has great consequence; we provide the beat to march us forward with hopefully a greater understanding of the Universe and love for our fellow peoples.

In gratitude and love, Sylvia

Dear Colleagues,

In re-reading Sylvia's thoughts on the field of music and its endless benefits for all I was reminded of events in this musical web that brought me into the paths of this competition

Sylvia and I go back to our days at Boston University both studying eventually with the same wonderful piano professor. Alfredo Fondacaro. As the years have passed and our careers have taken us on many separate adventures we have always "found" one another again, as we did this year!

Mary Boyle and my sister Elaine were dear friends meeting at Columbia University. I soon entered this duo with. Mary even attended my wedding 25 years ago! She spoke so highly about Ruthanne Schempf, and I have come to hear young pianists through events so carefully run by Ruthanne.

Now that travel and direct contact with all is difficult if not impossible, I am made so aware of the precious events that bring people together for life. I think the persistence and talents of the teachers training and preparing materials for this event are the heroes! This special experience during the pandemic will be part of their positive memories. The teachers being the mentors as to how to complete events and how to enter the web of joyful experiences.

With love to you, Estrid

A big **THANK YOU** to all the teachers and students who participated in this year's auditions festival. Your patience, preparation, and eager participation is an inspiration to all of us to keep on practicing!

Akiko Sasaki, who joined the SUNY New Paltz faculty in 2020, has sent information about the Lyra Music Festival and Camp (www.lyramusic.org), sent out this announcement in December. Do be alert to Howland Center events!

The Howland Chamber Music Circle and Howland Cultural Center presents a Classics for Kids holiday concert, *The Nutcracker*, arranged for two pianos and narration! The video premieres Sunday, December 20th at 4:00pm (EST) and will be available until the end of the month! This concert is not ticketed, but there is a free-will donation to this concert. Suggested amount is \$10 per adult viewer (children free).

visit: <http://howlandmusic.org/ClassicsForKids.html>

HCMTA Music Festival Review Meeting

ZOOM

January 13 at 10 a.m.

All comments regarding the Music Festival were welcome, and seven members attended: Mary Lee Farris, Jean MacDonald, Valentina Shatalova, Carol Losee, Carolyn Topliff, Janet Nickerson, and Ruthanne Schempf.

Here are the comments:

While it was good to have the semblance of a normal audition festival, students found that recording three pieces in a row, plus the required scales was VERY stressful and they don't want to do it like that again. Students and teachers profited from the comments but wish the judges could type the comments in future.

By teaching online, we have discovered how good or bad our students' pianos really are.

This led to discussions of NYSSMA. We do not know how these auditions will be except that they will be virtual. Sight-reading will most likely be from "Sight reading Factory" which is an online resource used by many public school and private teachers.

**SPRING 2021
UPCOMING EVENTS**

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 10 10 a.m.

Community Service Month

Not possible this year.

Our senior care facilities are stretched to the limit just caring for everyone during this pandemic.

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.

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.

Guild Auditions

New Paltz No dates this year. Any students who are accustomed to auditioning at the New Paltz site are welcome to register for other area sites, but be sure to register for the site you wish.

Contact: Valentina Shatalova 256-9837

Cornwall-on-Hudson May 10-12 VIDEO only

Register your students early. In the requested date portion of the registration form, write "VIDEO." Once you receive the report cards, and the judge's mailing address, fill out the report cards. You will need to mail the report cards to the judge, along with a STAMPED and SELF-ADDRESSED large envelope for the returned report cards. In that package, please include a list of your students and your own contact information: mailing address, email address and phone number. Send the packet of report cards and stamped return addressed envelope to the judge early enough for the judge to look over the repertoire and let you know IF you need to send scans or photocopies of unfamiliar music. **I recommend mailing the packet to the judge by April 9, or shortly thereafter.** Students and/or Parents are NOT to contact the judge!! ONLY teachers can contact the judge.

Cornwall-on-Hudson Guild 2021 auditions will be done ONLY from YouTube videos, in a method similar to our November Festival Auditions. Recordings are to be done in 15 – minute increments. Students and teachers need to consider the timing of long programs so that they can be recorded in suitable sets. Upload these videos to YouTube as unrestricted Unlisted YouTube links and in the description portion, label them “2021 Guild Audition – John Doe – part 1 of 2 (or complete)”

Assemble a list of your students to include student name, level classification (EA, IB, etc.) and number of pieces. Copy and paste the YouTube links to the appropriate student line.

Email the whole list of YouTube links to the judge **by May 9.**

Contact: Ruthanne Schempf 534-2166

Middletown June 3 – 5 mornings VIDEO

Diane Miller will coordinate this site. Teachers must email videos **by June 2.**

Contact: Diane Miller 342-2206

Poughkeepsie June 11 in-person

Carol Padron will arrange for the Guild judge to hear in-person auditions at Renaissance Kids.

Students will wait in cars in the parking lot until their appointment times. Each student will enter, have a temperature check and wash hands. Carol will use alcohol to disinfect all the “touchable spots” such as doorknobs and piano keys between each student. Everyone must wear masks throughout.

Contact: Carol Padron 452-4225

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



HCMTA Member Commences Composer Advocation Project

HCMTA Member Alexander Marrero commenced a Composer Advocation Project (CAP) as Chair of the Committee on Cultural Inclusion (CCI) for the College Music Society (CMS). The Composer Advocation 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

FRDM THE EDITDR

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:

Ruthanne Schempf
26 Tamara Lane
Cornwall, NY 12518
Or email to
schempfr@gmail.com

New York State Music Teachers Association
Hudson-Catskill MTA
Ruthanne Schempf, Editor
26 Tamara Lane
Cornwall, NY 12518
www.Hudcatmusicteach.org