



NEW ENGLAND

PIANO TEACHERS' Assoc., Inc.

April 2007

Dear Colleagues,

Following the March 19 meeting with **Cathy Fuller** (WGBH 89.7 Classical Music Producer and Host), I felt as if I had had a fire-side chat with many of the great pianists of our time! Cathy shared her experiences of interviewing a wide range of artist, illustrating the conversations with recordings to demonstrate her points, or to bring the personality to life. Sitting informally, sharing many anecdotes as well as insights into music and the performers who interpret it for us, she charmed us all. We are so fortunate to have such a thoughtful, articulate, multi-talented personality in our larger community, willing to share her story with us, as well.

Miriam Gargarian, chair of the **20th/21st Century Recital**, reported that 16 students of 13 teachers performed. In addition, two original compositions and one jazz improvisation, performed by students of an additional three teachers, were heard in the **Composition and Jazz Recital**, chaired by **Ruth Shyu**. Congratulations to all students and teachers, and many thanks to all the recital chairs.

The final NEPTA recitals for the season were held on Sunday, March 25 at Steinert's in Natick, with more than 50 people attending the **Ensemble Recital** (thank you, **Edwin Light**), and the **Adult Recital** (and you, **Phoebe Yassa**). This year, the Ensemble Recital involved 25 students of eight piano teachers, two string teachers, and two voice teachers. The 13 ensembles included six piano duets, two duo piano/four hands; one duo piano/eight hands; one violin/piano; one two-violin/piano; and, for the first time, two vocal/piano selections. It's not too early to begin thinking about this wonderful performance opportunity now available to our students and their friends. The Adult Recital featured nine performers of seven teachers. Many thanks as well to **Steve Hauk**, manager of Steinerts, who provided the space and appropriate instruments for the events.

We look forward to the **Student Masterclass** with **Sally Pinkas** on **Monday, April 30** at the Watertown location. Our final session of the year, the **Annual Meeting and Awards Recital** will be **Monday, May 21**. The recital features those student winners of the Middle School and High School competitions, and is truly "awesome" and inspiring. Please do plan to stay for a celebratory **luncheon** following the program (see enclosed forms).

Please consider placing an ad in next season's Program Booklet, which will be seen by the entire membership, many of the local music schools, and music stores. You may wish to promote your own teaching materials, a music school or studio, a piano-related service. Please use the enclosed advertisement insert to accomplish this, and help NEPTA, as well.

Do remember to return your **membership renewal form** and **dues** for the 2007/08 session. The dues form was included in the March newsletter but can be downloaded from the website if you need one. We have some very exciting speakers and programs arranged, as well as the usual array of recitals and masterclasses. Dues must be received by treasurer Lindsey Robb by May 31 in order for your name and contact information to appear in the next Membership Directory.

Cordially,

Barbara Jones
President

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS and RECITALS/CONCERTS

The Brookline Library Music Association (BLMA) is holding auditions on Monday, May 7, 2007 for student performers, 6 to 18 years old, to perform in a Young Musicians' Recital on Sunday, May 20 at 2:30 p.m. at the Brookline Public Library. The recital is part of the BLMA's annual concert series and is a celebration of the

BLMA's 55th season of presenting free concerts in the Library, as well as the Library's 150th anniversary of its founding. Here are the criteria for the recital:

- Students, ages 6-18, must live in Brookline.
- Performance pieces may be a maximum of 6 minutes in length. Memorization is required for solo pieces.
- Auditions will be held Monday, May 7 at the Brookline Public Library, 361 Washington Street, Brookline (next to town hall in Brookline Village; street parking is available) between 3 and 6 p.m.
- Teachers may audition more than one student, but only one student per teacher will be selected for the performance.

Please contact **Julia Hawkins**, BLMA Program Director, at jhawkins01@msn.com to schedule an audition for your student(s).

The Annual Arlington Piano Festival will be held on Sunday April 29, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. at the Park Ave. Congregational Church, 50 Paul Revere Rd., Arlington Heights. This Festival is available to piano students and teachers in Arlington and the surrounding cities and towns. Students range from all levels and ages. Admission is free and open to the public. Refreshments and a reception will follow the Concert. NEPTA Guidelines apply. For an application and more information call coordinator **Angela Gazza** at 781-646-7768.

NEPTA February 26, 2007 YEHUDI WYNER

Interpretation: Prison or Liberation

Assisted by the New England Preparatory School Advanced Piano Seminar
A. Ramon Rivera, Instructor and Coordinator

Yehudi Wyner is a spontaneous and lively speaker who shared his insights and experience with us about this perennially interesting subject. He delighted us with stories of his years at Yale, where he studied with Paul Hindemith, and at Harvard, where he studied with Walter Piston. [whose Harris tweed suits he greatly admired!] But, of greatest interest were his musical insights, the result of his years of experience.

The notes on the page, no matter how carefully presented, are not able to completely convey the meaning and substance of the music. The performer needs to add his or her understanding and feeling in order to bring the music alive. Imagery helps. For example, Mr. Wyner spoke of the quality of tension that rests provide, a “what’s coming next” feeling. On the subject of fermatas he said that they grow out of the flow and mood of the music: they are a psychological moment, and, as such, cannot be counted out mechanically.

Recapitulations are very important, not merely a “rerun” of the exposition, but a reflection of experience and, as such, are more intense: a dramatic truth brought home to us.

The 12 young students each played a short composition by Mr. Wyner. It was a pleasure to hear this music played so well and to hear Mr. Wyner’s ideas which he occasionally illustrated by his own playing.

One of the pieces was titled “Very Fast-Scurrying”. Mr. Wyner suggested that imagining mice rushing around would help in the performance.

The Allemande from his Partita required a “so what” attitude and this brought it alive and right into the tin Pan Alley of the 20th Century.

“Three Fingered Don”, a salute to Don Martinu, was a delight. Mr. Martinu, we were told, only played with 3 fingers, and the piece was a delicious spoof on this.

The mission of performance is to find a way to communicate and Mr. Wyner’s thoughts and his own playing were inspiring examples of this mission.

We are very grateful to Mr. Rivera for bringing the fine young performers and to their teachers for preparing them for this fascinating meeting. Thanks to: Sylvia Chambless, Ya-Fei Chuang, Tatyana Dudochkin, Randy Hodgkinson, Isabella Li, A. Ramon Rivera, Marilyn Roth, Elizabeth Skavish, Tatyana Yampolsky.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Collins



68 School Street
Watertown, MA 02472

NEW ENGLAND PIANO TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL LUNCHEON - MAY 21, 2007- 12:00-3:00 PM

MENU

SALAD

Classic Caesar - Romaine leaves, garlic croutons, anchovy and Parmesan cheese

ENTRÉE

#1 Primavera Abruzzi - Garlic & herb marinated zucchini, yellow squash, cherry tomatoes, carrots & eggplant grilled & sauteed with olive oil & basil tossed with gemelli pasta

#2 Chicken Pesto - Sautéed Chicken breast with braised leeks & wild mushrooms finished with a sun-dried tomato pesto sauce. Served with mashed potatoes

#3 Sole - Almond & Parmesan encrusted Sole fillets with roasted red pepper & olive coulis, rice pilaf and sautéed spinach

DESSERT

Royal Pear Tart

Send this form with a check payable to NEPTA in the amount of \$24 (twenty-four dollars) postmarked no later than May 11, 2007 to: Jennifer Cope, 120 East St., Hingham MA 02043-1958. Questions? Call (781)749-6227

NAME

ADDRESS

Street

City

State

Zip code

TELEPHONE _____

Choice of entree: Primavera Abruzzi Chicken Pesto Sole

\$24 per person includes tax and gratuity