



*NEW ENGLAND*  

---

*PIANO TEACHERS' Assoc., Inc.*

May 2007

Dear NEPTA Colleagues,

As teachers, we are very aware of how quickly a year shaped by predictable rhythms of performances and other benchmarks sweeps by. We are also very aware of change, as we see our students literally grow and develop before us. Just as the start of the year encourages goal setting, the close of the teaching year brings with it an opportunity for assessment of that growth. For many of us, NEPTA contributes to the tide of our teaching year, providing the monthly stimulation of speakers addressing a wide-range of interesting and relevant issues, Teacher's Exchanges, Masterclasses, recitals and competitions. Underpinning this current are the efforts of many, many people who volunteer their time to the organization.

I use this, my last newsletter as President, as an opportunity to reflect upon the incredible fleetness of the last two years, and the depth of my admiration for all my colleagues, who, like the necessary crew on a ship, keep the NEPTA boat afloat and on course! I hesitate to begin to single out individuals for fear of omitting some whose contribution is just as vital to the smooth and successful voyage as any of the more obvious officers. Please accept my most sincere thanks for the opportunity to have given back to this organization which has so enriched my life and, by extension, that of my students. My very best wishes to Joan Reddy, as she assumes the helm! I know she will have the continued assistance of an incredibly able crew.

**Edwin Light** and friends brought the Bach household to life in his presentation at the April **Teachers' Exchange** on the Anna Magdalena Notebook. He was assisted by **Martha Warren**, soprano, **Rebecca Carol**, gamba, **Joseph DiMarina**, harpsichord, **Peter Clark**, harpsichord builder and player, and **Michelle Coolidge-Kelley**, pianist. Our understanding of the circumstances from which this important musical collection was created was greatly enhanced. The many practical performance insights will be used by all. Thank you, **Adele Dreyer**, for arranging such interesting and practical Teachers' Exchanges.

**Sally Pinkas** provided a wonderful **Masterclass** experience performers observers alike. The selections (Beethoven, Ravel, Shostakovich) allowed for many insights into structural and technical areas; the playing was at a very high level; and Sally's enthusiasm and complete commitment to the music and the moment was absolutely infectious. Thank you, **Janet Ainsworth**, for arranging this most successful Masterclass.

**Chairman Janet Bruene** and her **Program Committee** (**Elfrieda Hiebert, Irene Golan, Joan Collins, Wanda Paik, Margaret Bachelder, Shann Wood, Janna Bruene, Joan Reddy, Carol Chaffee, Miriam Gargarian**) brought us a wonderful group of speakers this year, who addressed a wide range of topics of great interest and relevance to us all. Thank you all so much for providing such stimulating programs, which are at the core of NEPTA's mission. I look forward to the exciting presentations you have lined up for us next year.

We also have had two days of competitions. Congratulations to these wonderful students and their teachers.

The **Alice Procter Award for Composition** was awarded to **Emily Seidman** (student of **Janna Bruene**.)

The **Mildred Freiberg Middle School Competition** winners are:

1st Prize - **Will Bristol** (Naydene Bowder)

2nd Prize - **Hannah Kim** (Clara Slater)

3rd Prize - **Carl Lian** (Wei Le)

Honorable Mention - **Michael Suo** (Natalia Harlap)

Judges were **Jon Sakata**, **Wanda Paik**, and **Faina Bryanskaya**

Thanks to Claudia Struble for organizing this competition.

The following winners were selected from the **Senior Competitions**, which were held on April 29.

**Ruth Davidson Competition Winners**

1st Prize: **Ariel Borensztein** (Clara Slater)

2nd Prize: **Simon Xu** (Helena Vesterman)

3rd Prize: **Tiffany Ho** (Ludmila Bekker) and **Andi Zhou** (Marilyn Roth)

**A. Ramon Rivera Contemporary Music Award: Ariel Borensztein**

**Alice Hamlet Senior Scholarship Competition Winners**

1st Prize: **Jung A. Bang** (Natalia Harlap)

2nd Prize: **Jennifer Chen** (Faina Kofman)

3rd Prize: **Veronica Lau** (Sylvia Chambless)

**A. Ramon Rivera Contemporary Music Award: Veronica Lau**

Judges were **Maria Clodes Jaguaribe**, **Neal Larrabee**, and **Gregg Pauley**. Thanks to **Shann Wood** for chairing the High School Competition, and to her assistants, **Catherine Hirata** and **Colleen Campbell**.

The **Annual Meeting** will be held at 9:30 on **May 21** at The First Parish of Watertown, at which time you will have the opportunity to hear these incredibly talented pianists perform. In addition, **Janet Ainsworth** will play a special piece written by **John D. McDonald** in tribute to **Mildred Freiberg**.

You will also have the opportunity to vote on the officers and new board members. The **Nominating Committee** (**Margaret Bachelder**, chair, joined by **Janna Bruene**, **Carol Chaffee**, **Joan Collins** and **Shann Wood**) put forward the following slate:

**Officers for the two-year term 2007-2009**

**President: Joan Reddy of Lexington**

**Vice President: Lydia Reed-Guertin of Arlington**

**Executive Secretary: Colleen Campbell of Wellesley**

**Recording Secretary: Allen Giles of Lincoln**

**Treasurer: Lindsey Robb of Roslindale**

**Board Members to serve 2007-2010**

**Elizabeth Ann Reed of Belmont**

**Shelley Reeves of Carlisle**

**Tanya Shrago of Brookline**

**Rachel Goodwin of Dorchester** will complete Catherine Hirata's term (to 2009). We wish Catherine a speedy and complete recovery.

**Kathryn Rosenbach** of Belmont will complete Colleen Campbell's term (to 2008).

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Do join us at Porcini's restaurant for the **annual luncheon** following the meeting/recital. Please contact **Jennifer Cope** if you have any last minute luncheon-related questions.

**Miriam Gargarian**, Chair of the **20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Century Recitals**, requests assistance from NEPTA members in the following ways: (1) volunteers to serve on this committee and (2) suggestions of contemporary repertoire at all levels to supplement the current list, which is available to all members. Please contact Miriam directly if you are interested in helping her with this important recital.

Thank also go to **Administrative Assistant Michelle Coolidge-Kelley**, who manages to keep the increasingly important member data base current, and our **newsletter producer and web master, Sue Demb**.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the May 21st Annual Meeting/Awards Recital, and wish you all a good summer. Our next meeting will be Monday, September

Cordially,



Barbara Jones  
President

#### **MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

NEPTA member Emma Jean Moulton recently directed the 21st annual Milton Young Musicians' Festival, which involved middle school and high school piano, wind, string and voice students. NEPTA members Carol Chaffee, Ruth Ross, and Sandra Rosenblum were piano judges this year. In past years many other NEPTA members have been judges. All participants received medals and Gold Medal winners received a music trophy after a special Gold Medal Concert.

*Duo Con Anima*, Fern Abrams and Joan Garniss, are celebrating their 20th year as a two-piano team. Their next concert will be Friday, June 29 at noon at First Parish Church on the Green in Lexington. They will play music by Couperin, Bizet, Ravel, Poulenc and Milhaud. This free concert marks their 22nd appearance in the First Parish Summer Concert Series.

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.

NEPTA March 19, 2007

CATHY FULLER

The Pianist and the Air:  
The Challenges and Rewards of Putting Pianists on the Radio

Classical Producer and Host of Classics in the Morning for WGBH 89.7, Cathy Fuller's career in radio began with her response to an ad for learning how to speak on the radio for WICN in Worcester.

The goals of her interviews are to convey the motivation and thoughts of performing pianists; to inspire the general public to go to concerts and to buy recordings; to describe basic musical concepts (e. g., rubato) for the average listener; to create intimate conversations with diverse pianists; and, to air live performances for the radio audience.

To put each pianist at ease and to ask questions that will stimulate discussion with depth within a limited time frame is a constant challenge. Ms. Fuller proceeded to play excerpts of recorded interviews.

GLENN GOULD – The life of a concert pianists is “hideous, traumatic” but concertizing created an audience for his recordings. He felt that his recordings said everything and that the projection necessary for the balcony of a concert hall required him to exaggerate. In regard to singing while he was playing Gould said, “I can't do without it, but I don't like it.”

PAUL BADURA SKODA – a meticulous scholar. Demonstrated at the piano what not to do in the Mozart K. 331 in A Major. He remarked about the relationships between some of the piano sonatas and the lieder of Schubert. Demonstrated the Viennese waltz rhythm: second beat early, third beat extended.

YEHUDI WYNER – spoke about the composition of his song Florida Express in a cabaret, popular style.

Other pianists mentioned were: MARTHA ARGERICH, JANET WEBER, SERGIO FIORANTINO, JEAN-YVES THIBAUDET, VLADIMIR BACHMANN, and MARK ANDRE HAMELIN.

Finally we heard a recroding of a Steinway grand piano falling off the stage of Mechanics Hall. This nightmare actually happened to Cathy Fuller as she was about to perform the Mozart Concerto K. 467 with the Bach Society of Worcester orchestra. She courageously performed the concerto, nonetheless, on an upright piano. Despite the limitations of the instrument, her artistry was evident to the appreciative audience.

One might say that the purpose of Ms. Fuller's interviews and live performances is to answer the question: What is a Concert Pianists? Fortunately for her and for her enthusiastic audience the answers are as numerous as there are pianists!

MIRIAM GARGARIAN