

STACCATO NOTES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SEATTLE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
SEATTLEMTA.ORG

DECEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

* Dec 1	SMTA Commissioned Sonatina submission deadline
* Dec 1	MAP registration opens
* Dec 1	Safe and Sound Grant Applications Open
* Dec 3	Online Student Recital
* Dec 10	New Member info session and happy hour
* Dec 16	SMTA Holiday Party
* Dec 18	Simon-Fiset Piano Registration Opens
* Jan 5	SMTA Social Outing: Sonic Symphony at the Paramount
* Jan 8	MAP Registration Deadline
* Jan 15	Jazz, Rags, and Blue Festival registration deadline
* Jan 19	January General Meeting

- * **Jan 19** **Simon-Fiset Piano registration deadling**
- * **Jan 20** **Feb Staccato Notes deadline**
- * **Jan 27** **Jazz, Rags, and Blues Festival**
- * **Jan 28** **New Member Info Session and Happy Hour**

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Season's greetings friends and colleagues!

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for our November general meeting, the first of three online before we return to in person meetings in April. That we have a mixture of in person and online meetings is such a strength of form, I think.

On the one hand Dr. Kautsky's presentation was a tour de force of the art, music, and cultural history that brought the 'belle époque' to life and is also a presentation we'd never have managed in person considering her locale in the middle of the country. On the other side of the equation but in the same vein, our members hail from all over the metropolitan area and in many cases can't commit to a drive up to the northwest corner in the midst of Seattle's morning traffic.

Unrelated to distance, if we'd had our meeting on the 17th in person I would've blithely walked in with Covid, only to feel the first inklings of it the next day, shortly after exposing everyone that cared to attend. Personally I'm glad to have avoided the guilt of sharing the disease, let alone ruining many more Thanksgivings than just my own.

In any event I'll be happy to have the opportunity to see you all online in January, and in the meantime I hope some of you will consider joining me in Atlanta for this year's national conference, where face to face is thrust into overdrive for five days of music teacher madness.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season, and I hope all of your endeavors continue to bloom as we turn to greet 2024.

Happy holidays,
Ryan

SMTA GENERAL MEETING

Friday January 19th, 2024

9 - 11 AM

Online Via Zoom

MEETING AGENDA

- 9:00AM Social and networking time
- 9:25AM Opening music
- 9:30AM Business
- 10:00AM **Presentation:** *William Chapman Nyaho, NCTM*



SMTA General Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 17, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

Meeting held online via Zoom

ATTENDANCE

SMTA requires 10 members present for a quorum. The quorum was met with 21 members in attendance. Minutes were recorded by Colleen Kennedy, secretary.

Members enjoyed a performance of Pablo Sarasate's dramatic *Ziguenerweisen* (Gypsy Airs) by Claire Meng, flute, and Cheng Lian, piano. Claire is a student of Bonnie Blanchard.

MEETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Ryan Worswick, president.

Correction to the October meeting minutes:

Chas Arnold is the name of the representative from Music Center of the Northwest who so graciously welcomed us to the space.

Ann Simonson moved to approve the September minutes; Pam Chang seconded; motion *approved*.

Anne Reese:

- Dr. Fabio Menchetti, one of the adjudicators from last spring's MAP, emailed that he will be in town in early December. He has some time available December 1st and 2nd in case we want to put together an informal masterclass. Mariya will send out an announcement.
- There is a fun free gift available from Forrest Kinney. Order your copy of *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy*, arranged for piano duet by Forrest and Andrea Rackl. Go to forrestkinney.com and click the banner at the top of the page.

Josie Zocco:

- Registration for the upcoming MAP will take place December 1 – January 8. Reminder to pay the fees for *both* WSMTA and SMTA.
- We can use help with MAP registration! Reach out to Josie if you are interested.
- We're preparing for our second year of the Jazz, Rags & Blues festival. This non-competitive event will be held Saturday, January 27, 3 p.m. at Wedgwood Presbyterian. All levels and instruments are welcome. Students may perform written arrangements, standards, or their own compositions!

- The first online recital of the school year will be on December 3 at 1:00. Registration is now open and all instruments are encouraged. There will be an open window for tech checks one hour prior to the recital.

Anne Simonson:

- A separate account for Willard's gift has been established with Raymond James for the purpose of supporting Simon-Fiset.
- Advised that Dorothy Woodcock fund may last another 7-10 years if we continue current spending rate. We are actively looking at fundraising.

Jessica Andrews:

- A reminder about the music teachers' dinner party at Ristorante Picolinos on Saturday, November 18. Guests are welcome!

Joan Schoepflin:

- Registration for Seattle Young Artists Music Festival opens December 4 and runs through January 14. Their website is now updated with current information.

PRESENTATION

Following the meeting, Catherine Kautsky presented "Debussy's Paris: A City, a Composer, and his Piano." Dr. Kautsky is Professor of Music and Chair of the Keyboard Department at Lawrence University.

Meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m. by Ryan Worswick.

SMTA HOLIDAY PARTY

Our festive holiday party is coming up on **Saturday, December 16th** at 5:00pm and we really hope you can make it! This year, Jeff Pettijohn will be hosting at his home in Bothell and you are invited, along with any family and friends. Dinner and drinks will be provided, but feel free to bring a favorite small dish or drink if interested! This is going to be a fun-filled night of celebrating the season and making music together. Jeff is inviting members to bring along their instruments and sheet music they would like to play with other members or as a solo. If you love playing duets and sight-reading through fun pieces, this party is for you!

Please RSVP by December 13th to Sophia @ 206-310-3769 or sophia@pianoplayground.org
We can't wait to see you there!

Time: 5:00pm-late
Jeff's home:
16909 29th Dr. SE
Bothell, WA 98012

SMTA NEW MEMBER INFO SESSIONS AND HAPPY HOURS

Are you a new SMTA member? We'd love to have you attend this informal get-together!

All members are welcome! This event is geared toward making new connections within the organization, learning more about the different programs, and how to make the most of your membership and get involved with all SMTA has to offer.

December

When: Sunday, December 10, 5 - 7 PM

Where: Percy's and Co. (5233 Ballard Avenue NW, Seattle)

January

When: Sunday, January 28th, 5-6pm on Zoom

Contact: smtaoffice@gmail.com for more information

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE GRANTS

Plan for the WSMTA Conferences

SMTA offers reimbursement of half the early-bird registration fee for attending the annual WSMTA Conference.

Here's how it works: Grant requests must be made after registration and will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Reimbursements will be issued until the \$1,500 budgeted amount is exhausted. The application deadline for the WSMTA Conference is June 1, 2024.

Details and the SMTA grant request form for the State Conferences can be found on the SMTA website. (www.seattlemta.org). This program is made possible by a generous gift from Dorothy Woodcock.

Questions: Contact Co-chairs RoseMarie Tamburri (ronyc714@aol.com) or Kathy Mortensen (kmortensenpiano@gmail.com).

ADULT MUSIC RECITAL DATES

SMTA adult music student soirees have been scheduled, all on Sundays at 6:30 pm, locations to vary.

Sunday February 11, 2024

Sunday May 19, 2024

Contact Chair, Karin McCullough (karin.mccullough@gmail.com), for more details.

SAFE AND SOUND GRANTS 2023 - 2024

Safe and Sound Grants

Recommended by the Dorothy Woodcock Oversight Committee, the Board approved another round of Safe and Sound Grants for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Ten grants of \$100 each will be available starting December 1. This grant is intended for SMTA members who need assistance upgrading their teaching setup so they can retain students and to find more ease in their work.

Application Guidelines:

This grant may be used for any purchase made after July 1, 2023. Applicants who have never received a Safe and Sound Grant may apply starting December 1. Applicants who have previously received a grant may apply starting February 1. Please apply online at www.seattlemta.org/stipends-grants

New Safe and Sound Grants Chair

SMTA member Sandra Layman is the new Chair for the Safe and Sound Grants program. SMTA thanks Sandra for volunteering for this role.

DOROTHY WOODCOCK MUSICLINK TEACHERS STIPEND

The MusicLink Foundation (musiclinkfoundation.org) is a national non-profit organization linking music teachers with low-income students who are not able to afford music lessons. MusicLink teachers volunteer to teach these students at up to half of their normal fee, while MusicLink handles the process of determining a student's financial eligibility and provides support and discounts for participating teachers.

MusicLink has adjusted income eligibility to help families who might be struggling financially due to the Covid-19 pandemic. If you have students you are already teaching in your studio who are struggling financially, MusicLink could be a great option for you!

SMTA teachers who are registered through MusicLink and are actively teaching students registered through MusicLink for at least 3 months are eligible for a \$600 Dorothy Woodcock MusicLink Teachers Stipend. More information is available on the SMTA website under "Stipends and Grants."

Please consider signing up to be a MusicLink teacher! Not only does it make you eligible for a teaching stipend, but it supports the SMTA values of access and widespread availability of music instruction. It's free and easy to register whether you are already teaching a student at a discounted rate, or whether you are looking to begin teaching a new student waiting to be linked. To become a MusicLink Teacher, contact Washington State Coordinator Amanda Snell (amandacs87@gmail.com).

SMTA MUSIC ARTISTRY PROGRAM

What?

The Music Artistry Program (MAP) is one of the outstanding programs offered to you as a member of SMTA. Your students get to work with nationally and internationally acclaimed teachers/pianists, and you get feedback about your teaching from these Visiting Artists.

When?

February 27 - March 2, 2024

Register between December 1 - January 8

Where?

Various venues including Wedgwood Presbyterian Church and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.

How?

Students prepare 2 pieces to perform for the Visiting Artist. Register online through the WSMTA website (details below). In late January, you will receive the schedule for your studio via email.

Details and more information can be found [here](#).

Registration details

First, register as a teacher. Choose from the following options

Oral Consultation (10 minutes, \$15)

Written Consultation (10 minutes, \$15)

Oral and Written Consultation (20 minutes, \$25)

*Written evaluations are only given for teachers who enter 5 or more piano students

Second, register your students*

1. 10 minutes ----- up to 4 minutes \$20

2. 15 minutes ----- 4-7 minutes \$30

3. 20 minutes ----- 7-10 minutes \$40

4. 30 minutes ----- 10-15 minutes \$50

*MusicLink students are exempt from the listed student fees. If you have students in financial need who do not qualify for MusicLink, please consider applying on your students' behalf for the MAP Fee Subsidy using the application on WSMTA's website.

Lastly, pay your Chapter Fee (\$15/student, payable through the SMTA Website)

Please note that your WSMTA dues must be paid by Oct. 15 for continuing members or Jan. 10 for new members.

MAP provides an incentive for our students to perform well for a highly respected Visiting Artist. For those students who are interested in playing in Simon-Fiset, in competitions, and for Honors Recitals at the State Conferences, MAP is a mandatory performance for them.

Visiting Artists this Year

We have a great line up for visiting artists this year: Dr. Yoon-Wha Roh from Washington State University, Dr. Lark Powers from Pacific Lutheran University, Dr. Ricardo de la Torre from University of Puget Sound, and Dr. Eleanor Elkins from Angelo State University.

We hope this information excites you so that you take advantage of this program! Ask anyone who has participated, and they will surely tell you that it is extremely worthwhile.

Please get in touch if you might be willing to be a part of this fabulous program!

Josie Zocco (jozocco@gmail.com)

Michelle Huang (mingshiow.huang@gmail.com)

SMTA 2024 SIMON-FISET COMPETITIONS

Piano

SMTA is happy and proud to present the annual Simon-Fiset Piano Competition on February 10 and 11, 2024. We are also thrilled that last year's host, Seattle Chamber Music Society ("SCMS") will once again welcome us to their beautiful, state-of-the-art center in downtown Seattle at Union Square.

Our esteemed adjudicators for 2024 will be Professor Rufus Choi, co-founder of the Salit Conservatory in Los Angeles and Professor Kenneth Christensen of Montana State University. You can read their bios at [Adjudicator Rufus Choi — Seattle Music Teachers Association \(seattlemta.org\)](#) and [Adjudicator Kenneth Christensen — Seattle Music Teachers Association \(seattlemta.org\)](#).

Please watch future *Staccato Notes* and the web site for registration details. Also, don't hesitate to reach out to Chair Thom Stuart at simonfisetpiano@gmail.com.

Registration will be December 18, 2023 through January 19, 2024.

Strings

Simon-Fiset Strings Division will be held in March 2024 and chaired by SMTA's tireless and amazing Jan Coleman.

Registration will be late February through early March. The event will be mid- to late-March 2024. Please watch future *Staccato Notes* and the web site for venue, details, and information on the adjudicator or reach out to Strings chair Jan Coleman at jan.coleman.violin@gmail.com.

Winners' Recital

SMTA will again host a winners' recital to present the first and second prize winners in both the piano and strings divisions. Last year's event, our first in-person winners' recital in four years, was splendid and well-attended. We look forward to presenting the winners again in May 2024. Watch future *Staccato Notes* articles and the web site for details.

Composition

SMTA is currently recruiting a new chair for the Simon-Fiset Composition 2024 Competition. We are sad to say goodbye to last year's chair, Laura Dean, so soon. Laura served as chair for one year and we appreciate her excellent service. Laura, you will be missed!

Please reach out to Mariya Lincoln, SMTA Administrator, at SMTAOffice@gmail.com or Thom Stuart, VP of Competitions, at ragionare@outlook.com if you are interested in learning more about this opportunity. Composition is the least labor-intensive of the three current Simon-Fiset events, but there is enough planning and execution to require a dedicated chair.

Please help us continue the legacy of this opportunity for the many talented, young composers in the northwest! If we are unable to secure a chair, SMTA will discontinue the event until further notice.

JAZZ , RAGS, AND BLUES FESTIVAL

Following the success of the inaugural Jazz, Rags, and Blues Festival last year, we are excited to be able to offer it again this year. This event is a non-competitive recital meant to feature and celebrate the diverse genre of jazz.

Submissions are welcome from all ages, levels, and/or instruments. Pieces can be solos, duets, ensembles, arrangements, standards, and/or improvised works. We're looking forward to another great afternoon of jazz!

Event Details

Saturday, January 27, 2024

3:00pm

Wedgwood Presbyterian Church

Register between December 15 - January 15 @ seattlemta.org

Please contact event chair Josie Zocco (jozocco@gmail.com) for more information!

SMTA 2024 MUSIC LITERACY PROGRAM

Music Literacy's Superpower

What if studying music could improve literacy skills beyond the musical experience? This is precisely what neurobiologist Dr. Nina Kraus has observed in her research. In her book, *Of Sound Mind: How Our Brain Constructs a Meaningful Sonic World*, she asserts that music training improves the process of reading words.

The implications of these findings are potentially far-reaching. The technical and biological reasons are impressively outlined in this and other research revealing the undeniable influences that rhythm and sound units have on the brain's ability to create and comprehend phenomes and the rhythmic patterns and shifts in language!

We could, therefore, merge our concept of music literacy and language reading literacy into just one category – super literacy! The two skills are linked and related in ways we still strive to understand.

With the ever-growing body of research and experience informing us about music literacy's unsung superpowers, why would we *not* take advantage of SMTA's amazing Music Literacy Program!?

You need look no further than SMTA's website to find information on the program and, when registration opens on March 1, to register your students. The program offers students an opportunity to demonstrate their progress in music literacy in five broad areas: rhythm patterns (sight clapping rhythms), sight playing (on keyboard), applied technique (scales, chords, arpeggios, and chord progressions on keyboard), written theory (comprehensive concepts in rhythm, notation, dynamic/articulation symbols, chord and key structures, intervals), and listening (ear training).

The curriculum is progressively organized into levels from one through ten. I have personally used it as preparatory study for college theory placement assessments and to supplement AP theory and/or running start theory courses – and as always to bolster my core studio curriculum for all students.

The 2024 MLP event will be held at Cornish College of the Arts in downtown Seattle on May 4 and 5, 2024. Watch the website for detailed information on registration, fees, and how to register. Also, please don't hesitate to reach out to me (sragionare@outlook.com) or my co-chair, Mona Elsing, (mapleleafpiano@gmail.com) with any questions or to inquire about volunteering at the event.

We hope to see you on the road to literacy!

Thom Stuart
SMTA MLP Co-Chair 2024

STUDENT RECITAL AT HEARTHSTONE

SMTA teachers have an opportunity for their students to perform for the residents at Hearthstone retirement center in Greenlake. Many of you know that they have a wonderful recital hall and Steinway piano. They are open to us performing for their residents. This will be on a Saturday or Sunday in March 2024. The format for the recital will be formal, traditional, and students age 7 and older with memorized, polished pieces are welcome to perform. More information will be forthcoming but it's never too early to start preparing! Questions can be directed to chairperson, GraceANN Cummings (GraceANNcumplings@outlook.com)

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Frank Huang Master Class

On Saturday, December 9th, Fran Walton Competition alternate winner, Zhengyi Huang, will be offering a free piano masterclass at Music Center of the Northwest at 9:30 AM. The class will feature a performance by Mr. Huang followed by performances and feedback with three students, two from MCNW and one student of our own Selina Chu!

From Karen McCullough: *How about getting together an SMTA contingent attending this master class on December 9 at 9:30 am by Zhengyi (Frank) Huang at Music Center of the Northwest? Registration to attend is free of charge! (Mr. Huang will my house guest that week. I hope you'll be able to attend! Mr. Huang will also have performed the night before (Friday) on KING FM's program NW Focus Live so be sure to tune in to that!*

Please feel free to send the below invitation/registration form to any students you think might be interested. If you know other teachers who you think might like to distribute this to their students as well, please feel free to share!

<https://lmcseattle.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events#/events/515>

Contact: Karin McCullough (Karin.mccullough@gmail.com)

Come Visit the SMTA Lending Library!

The SMTA has a library of fabulous resources for use by all members. The SMTA Library is located in a detached building in back of 8342 20th Avenue Northwest, Seattle 98117. There is plenty of free, on-street parking, and the Library is just four doors south of a city bus stop on Northwest 85th Street between 19th and 20th Avenues Northwest. If you need to avoid stairs, access is available through the alley between 19th and 20th Avenues Northwest. The library has a CD player and an electronic keyboard for patrons to use while visiting.

[Here is the link](#) to the shared Google drive card catalog. Almost all the materials can be checked out.

You can contact our Chapter Librarian, Karin McCullough, with any questions or, to arrange a visit, just text, phone, or email Karin at (206) 789-6059 or karin.mccullough@gmail.com (in emails, make your Subject Line: Library, please).

Look for more Library News in future issues of Staccato Notes, on our website, and at the General Meetings. Your reviews of materials are most welcome!

Donations to the library may be arranged by contacting Karin. In particular, the Library is looking for some back issues of various pedagogic periodicals.

Check out new acquisitions donated by Louise Bardy, student of Laura Dean:

Felix Mendelssohn: His Lilfe, His Family, His Music, Herbert Kupferberg

My Early Years, Arthur Rubenstein

The New Oxford History of Music, Volumes I-V, VII and X, Oxford University Press

The Glorious Ones: Classical Music's Legendary Performers, Harold C. Schonberg

If anyone has the missing volume of The New Oxford History of Music (Volumes XI, VIII and IX) your donation of them would be greatly appreciated! Please contact SMTA's acting librarian Karin McCullough at 206-789-6059 (Cell and text) or by email: karin.mccullough@gmail.com if you'd like to schedule a visit to the library, or if you'd like Karin to bring any particular library acquisition to an upcoming membership meeting, or if you want to inquire about making a material donation to the library.

Bach in the Subways

YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO CROSSROADS MALL (BELLEVUE) MAIN STAGE TO PERFORM MUSIC OF J.S. BACH

Since the beginning (2015), the Greater Seattle area has SHATTERED Bach in the Subways world records: over 300 musicians, 150 performances in a dozen locations, a COMPLETE Well-Tempered Clavier marathon – thousands of hours of public Bach! For 2024, Greater Seattle will be "Bach" in the house yet again.

Since Bach in the Subways Greater Seattle doesn't have permission to perform in our "subway," each year local musicians have performed Bach marathons in public places. For the 339th anniversary of J.S. Bach's birth, Karin McCullough has gotten permission for a Bach marathon at the Crossroads Mall Main Stage near the food court, on both Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on March 23 and 24, 2024.

It would be lovely for Seattle Music Teachers Association teachers and students, friends and family members to participate in this international movement called Bach in the Subways. This year it's easier than ever: you can go online to <https://bachinthesubways.org/register-a-performance/> and register your performances all by yourself, without the need to contact a third party. Crossroads Mall Main Stage has an upright piano. If you'd like to perform your Bach in other public venues too, that would be wonderful; but be sure to get prior permission from the appropriate people at the venue of your choosing. Feel free to contact Karin (karin.mccullough@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Join SMTA's Facebook group

It's called Seattle Music Teachers Association Discussion Group and is open to all current SMTA members. We would love to have it be an active place of conversation and exchange between meetings: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/132956514029013>

Sheet Music Available

SMTA has received boxes of music from retiring teachers, and from the estates of teachers. Normally Kathy Mortensen sets up the boxes at our general meetings, and many of you have made generous donations to the SMTA education programs. The boxes are organized to some extent: piano duets; 2 piano works; technique; theory; composer by last name; method materials; jazz; popular; vocal; string, flute and other instruments.

If you would like to look through the materials, please make an appointment with Kathy (kmortensenpiano@gmail.com) and she will set boxes out on her front porch bench.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Staccato Notes is the official Newsletter of the Seattle Music Teachers Association. The Newsletter is distributed monthly and **submissions are due by the 20th of each month.**

Please e-mail information for the Newsletter to smtanewsletter@gmail.com. The editor prefers to receive articles in the body of the email, as all submissions have to be reformatted to fit the constraints of the newsletter.

Staccato Notes welcomes articles on topics of interest to members. Please consider writing an article on a relevant subject. The more interesting articles we receive, the better! SMTA prefers writers to stay in the 3rd person when possible. Examples include:

- How to teach duets to siblings
- How you prepare your students for the Music Artistry Program
- Studio Policy Options