

# STACCATO NOTES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SEATTLE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
[SEATTLEMTA.ORG](http://SEATTLEMTA.ORG)

## FEBRUARY 2024

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### UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

* Feb 1	SMTA Concert Outing: Michelle McCann @ Meany Hall
* Feb 1	Safe and Sound grant applications open to all members
* Feb 4	Online Student Recital
* Feb 11	Adult Student Soiree
* Feb 15	Simon-Fiset Strings registration deadline
* Feb 16	February General Meeting
* Feb 20	March Staccato Notes deadline
* Feb 24	SMTA Concert Outing: Seattle Opera
* Mar 9	SMTA Concert Outing: Helene Grimaud @Meany Hall
* Mar 20	Staccato Notes deadline
* Mar 28	SMTA Concert Outing: Calder Quartet/Urban Jazz Dance @ Meany Hall

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

### Happy new year everyone!

However belated it may be when this finds you sometime near the beginning of February, the sentiment is evergreen. The calendar has turned and though it may only be the midpoint on our teaching season, we have an opportunity to benefit from holiday season reflections and set out our path for the new year.

Personally I'm enjoying exploring new repertoire, always, but particularly after the wonderful presentation we were graced with by Dr. Nyaho at our latest general meeting. If you missed it, be sure to check it out on our SMTA YouTube channel for some truly stunning repertoire exploration, or pick up any volume of his collection 'Piano Music of Africa and the African Diaspora' and prepare yourself for a treat!

For February's general meeting we're lucky to have Dr. Andrea McAlister joining us, a division director for the MTNA, a professor of piano pedagogy at Oberlin, and an inaugural member of the Yamaha Master Educator Collective. Afterwards we return to in person meetings for April and May, while March is occupied by the national conference in Atlanta. Between here and there we've got our second year of the Jazz, Rags, and Blues festival, an exciting outing to see the inimitable Michell Cann at Meany hall with our colleagues and students, the second of three online recitals, and then the stalwart Simon-Fiset competitions. So much good stuff!

Here's to hoping you get to enjoy at least some of it, and otherwise that everyone finds peace and prosperity in the meantime. Looking forward to seeing you all soon, one way or another,

Ryan

## SMTA GENERAL MEETING

Friday February 16, 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:** *Professor Andrea McAlister, "Building Better Habits"*

Habits shape approximately half of our days, so it's time to give more conscious thought to our unconscious thoughts. This session will provide tools for establishing stronger and more successful habits for practice and performance.

Presenter's Bio:

Andrea McAlister is Professor of Piano Pedagogy at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Piano Inspires Kids*, Editor of *Piano Magazine* and Director of Digital

Programming for the Frances Clark Center. Her research has been featured at national and international conferences including the International Society of Music Education, Music Teachers National Association, College Music Society, and the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy. She is an inaugural member of the Yamaha Master Educator Collective in Keyboard Pedagogy.

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES: JANUARY 2024



### **SMTA General Meeting Minutes**

Friday, January 19, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

Meeting held online via Zoom

### **ATTENDANCE**

SMTA requires 10 members present for a quorum. The quorum was met with 20 members in attendance. Minutes were recorded by Colleen Kennedy, secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m. by Ryan Worswick, president.

### **MEETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There are no corrections or changes to the previous meeting minutes (11/17/23).

Kathy Mortenson moved to approve the minutes, RoseMarie Tamburri seconded the motion; minutes *approved*.

Josie Zocco:

- The MAP committee will be scheduling time slots this coming Tuesday. Teachers will be notified of their times sometime next week.
- Seeking an additional MAP committee member. Ideally, the new member will "shadow" Josie while learning the ropes. (Per Suzanne Grant: you will definitely learn a lot from Josie- she is very knowledgeable and organized!)
- Jazz, Rags & Blues Festival will be held next weekend. Participants will receive the program next week.

Mariya Lincoln:

- Beverly Gilyeart is seeking a partner to share a beautiful 700 sf teaching space in the Bitter Lake area. Available days are Sunday, Monday, and Thursday. No drums, please. For more information, contact Beverly at 206-789-8066 or email her at [beverly@greenwoodviolinstudio.com](mailto:beverly@greenwoodviolinstudio.com).

Jessica Andrews:

- Our next social event is planned for Thursday, February 1 at 7:30. Pianist Michelle Cann will be performing the works of African-American female composers at UW Meany Center. Remember, SMTA members get 50% off tickets!
- Today's presenter, William Chapman Nyaho, will be teaching a masterclass on the music of Florence Price for the South King County Music Teachers Association. The masterclass will be held the morning of Tuesday, April 9.

Ryan Worswick:

- Online registration is now open for our next online recital, which will be held Sunday, 2/4. As always, he can assist with soundcheck and tech set-up the weekend prior as well as an hour before the program. (Thank you, Ryan!)

Karin McCullough:

- Performance spaces are filling up fast for Bach to the Future (formerly Bach in the Subways). She has reserved the Bellevue Crossroads Mall main stage (near the food courts) for Saturday, March 23 from 10:00-5:30 and Sunday, March 24 from 3:30-5:30.
- We don't have permission from transit stations to perform in March but will have permission for the last weekend in July.

#### PRESENTATION

- Peter Mack introduced today's guest speaker, Dr William Chapman Nyaho. Dr. Nyaho, currently MTNA VP for Diversity, is one of the world's preeminent scholars of music of the African diaspora. He has compiled and edited a five-volume anthology, *Piano Music of Africa and the African Diaspora*, published by Oxford University Press.
- Dr. Nyaho's presentation was titled "Expanding the canon of piano music: exploring music by composers of African descent."

Meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m. by Ryan Worswick.

## 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

### May Adult Student Soirée - New Venue!

We are excited to announce that the May Adult Student Soirée will be held at the new venue [The Point](#), in Redmond! The date and time is Sunday, May 5th at 6:30pm.

This venue means there is room for more adult students to participate, and we encourage them to do so! The soirées offer a fun and supportive environment for adult students of all levels and instruments to share music together, followed by social conversation.

For more information, or to sign up students to perform, contact Karin McCullough at [karin.mccullough@gmail.com](mailto:karin.mccullough@gmail.com).

## SMTA HOLIDAY PARTY RECAP

Enjoy some pictures and a message from the Holiday Party Host, Jeff Pettijohn...

Dear Friends,

It has been a full week and I am still enjoying our holiday social last Saturday night. My vision for the night was to offer space for those who just wanted to connect and let those who wanted fill the house with the musical sounds of Christmas. And I got that in spades! There were pianos and flutes and singers and jingle bells. To me, it was an absolutely magical night. At one point I had the realization that some of the best musicians in Seattle were here, in my house, enjoying themselves, and making music just for fun.



I couldn't have done it without the help of Jessica and Sophia. Thank you guys so much. Because of you, I wasn't stressed about the food; because of you, I could mingle and enjoy my guests and the party. Because of you, I was able to take a moment, after everyone had left, and reflect on the evening knowing that clean up would be a breeze. And it was. I have never enjoyed cleaning up after a party like that before. Everything I touched sparked a memory and I got to live the joy again. You were no small part of the magic of the evening.



All of this is to say thank you for allowing me to host. And, thank you to those who came; I hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as I did.

Yours,  
Jeff

## 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](mailto:GraceANNcumplings@outlook.com))

## CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE GRANTS

### Plan for the WSMTA Conference in Spokane, WA June 27-29

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](http://www.seattlemta.org)). This program is made possible by a generous gift from Dorothy Woodcock.

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

## 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:amandacs87@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. Follow these links to read their bios: [Rufus Choi](#) and [Kenneth Christensen](#).

Registration is now closed. Please watch future *Staccato Notes* and the web site for results in mid-February. We wish everyone the best!

We need volunteers at the event. Please reach out if you are interested and available.

### ***Strings***

Simon-Fiset Strings Division will be held March 4 and 11, 2024 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynwood.

Registration will close on February 15, however, like Simon-Fiset Piano this year, we may be compelled to close registration before the deadline due to time constraints in our venue.

Please watch the website and/or email blasts for updates!

Reach out to Strings chair Jan Coleman at [jan.coleman.violin@gmail.com](mailto:jan.coleman.violin@gmail.com) with any questions.

### ***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 will not be presenting the Simon-Fiset Composition 2024 Competition. We were 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! The event will resume when SMTA secures a new chair.

If you are interested, please reach out to Mariya Lincoln, SMTA Administrator, at [SMTAOffice@gmail.com](mailto:SMTAOffice@gmail.com) to learn 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 in the future for the many talented, young composers in the northwest!

### ***Volunteer – SMTA needs you!***

SMTA is great because of its volunteers! Please let us know if you would like to volunteer to help with any of these outstanding events. Volunteering with SMTA is a great way to learn more about the programs, connect with other teachers, and experience firsthand how these events can benefit your students.

SMTA hopes to see you and your students at one of the Simon-Fiset Competitions in 2024.

*Thom Stuart*  
*SMTA VP Competitions*  
*Chair Simon-Fiset Piano 2024*



## SONATINA FESTIVAL

We are preparing for this year's Marsha Wright Sonatina Festival and looking forward to an exciting event! The Festival will take place at Wedgwood Presbyterian Church on Sunday April 28 starting at 2pm, and registration will run from March 11 through April 12 on the SMTA website, where we will also post more detailed registration guidelines. This year we are making a special effort to promote the inclusion of a broader diversity of composers and styles in our program. Please check the SMTA website for a list of repertoire ideas we have compiled.

We would also like to offer congratulations to Nathan Zhao, a student of Peter Mack, and the winner of this year's Marsha Wright Commissioned Sonatina Award. His winning composition, *Sonatina: Sources of Light*, is written in 3 movements for a chamber ensemble of violin, cello, double bass, and piano. We hope you will join us at the Sonatina Festival, where Nathan will be joined by colleagues from his school orchestra to give the premiere performance of the piece.

**Date and Time:** Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup>, starting at 2pm

**Location:** Wedgwood Presbyterian Church, Seattle

*Registration opens March 11<sup>th</sup>*

Best wishes to you and your students,  
**Tom Lee and Ondine de Mer, Co-Chairs**

## SMTA 2024 MUSIC LITERACY PROGRAM

### STOP! You're under a rest!!

Were you looking for *mi*??



Well, look no further! Help your students not to find themselves “under a rest” or lost in search of *mi*. SMTA is right here and happy to remind you that everything your students need to learn about music theory is built into WSMTA’s Music Literacy curriculum.

Progressively-graded music theory in five broad areas (sight playing on keyboard, sight clapping rhythms, technique on keyboard (scales, chords, arpeggios), ear training, and a comprehensive written section) will help your students learn basic to advanced concepts.

The annual event will be presented again May 4 and 5, 2024 at Cornish College of the Arts in downtown Seattle. Students can register for one or all five of the sections and can mix the levels depending on their individual skills. For instance, a strong sight reader might register for Sight Playing

at level six and also register for Ear Training at level four. Conversely, a student who has strongly developed technique might register for Technique at level seven and Sight Playing at level three. The permutations and combinations are numerous, and this flexibility ensures students can learn at their level and develop at their pace. Teachers and students work together to determine appropriate levels and curriculum.

Also, please find an updated curriculum guide by following this link to the WSMTA website. ['22 MLP Curriculum Guide - revised 2022 \(wsmta.org\)](#)

You can also find scale, arpeggio, and chord reference sheets and checklists at [Microsoft Word - Scale Reference Sheets.doc \(wsmta.org\)](#)

Registration will be from March 1 through April 1, 2024, online via the WSMTA website.

Please consider participating in MLP. My co-chair, Mona Elsing ([mapleleafpiano@gmail.com](mailto:mapleleafpiano@gmail.com)) and I ([sragionare@outlook.com](mailto:sragionare@outlook.com)) are more than happy to answer your questions and help you learn more about the program. If you have participated before, we look forward to seeing you and your students again!

We also need volunteers for the event. Please reach out if you are interested and available.

MLP is not just a powerful adjunct to your teaching, it can also prepare high school students for concurrent enrollment and/or AP music theory or college-level entrance assessments.

See you on the road to literacy.

Thom Stuart  
SMTA MLP Co-Chair 2024

## AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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>

## Looking for Studio Space?

Looking for Studio Partner to share space in beautiful 700 sq. Ft. Teaching studio across from Bitter Lake in N Seattle. Available teaching days are Sunday, Monday and Thursday. No drums please. Garage parking included. Contact Beverly Gilyeart by phone: 206-789-8066 or by email: [beverly@greenwoodviolinstudio.com](mailto:beverly@greenwoodviolinstudio.com)

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Cozy 300sf independent studio space with 2021 Brodman Professional upright piano. Located in Seattle's Madison Valley neighborhood and available for sublet Fri-Mon, hourly or all day between 9am and 7pm. Contact Gloria Tzuang, [madisonparkpiano@gmail.com](mailto:madisonparkpiano@gmail.com) or 650-868-7906 (text only).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> person when possible. Examples include:

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