

STACCATO NOTES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SEATTLE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

SEATTLEMTA.ORG

NOVEMBER 2023

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

* Nov 1	MusicLink Teachers Stipend application opens
* Nov 5	Adult Student Soiree
* Nov 17	SMTA General Meeting, online
* Nov 18	SMTA social event
* Nov 20	Dec-Jan Staccato Notes Deadline
* 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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello one and all, it's great to be here.

And of course by here I mean with you in the SMTA, learning, collecting a cohort, finding solace, getting advice, and generally doing what we can to become better tomorrow than we are today. We, in our multitude, have the power to light the paths of the legions that will follow. Take pride in that! Love yourself a little more for what you add to our world, a blessing that you breathe into being at every lesson.

This line of thought comes back again and again if you take time to look backwards, to dig through the dust for whatever gems have been left behind. A personal favorite comes from Plato, in the grand tradition of aping the intellectual giants of the old world; when discussing the aim and intent of education, Plato writes, "I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy; but most importantly music, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning."

On the topic of intellectual giants, by all accounts GraceANN Cummings has yet again pulled off a masterclass of putting on a great show; I'm speaking of the October Festival of course. Between 10 teachers, 33 students, and 2 recitals, it lights the season with joyful exuberance and musical creativity. Thank you to everyone involved, at all levels, and for whoever donated, thank you twice. [We're ever in need](#) if we're to survive in perpetuity, and from wills to ones, every bit counts.

In other news our meetings will move online as we hibernate through to the spring, aka November, January, and February. Additionally the first of our online recitals has moved from November to December 3rd, with the dates updated on our website calendar. Come and join us, they're fun! At least, they serve as a warm up for whatever winter recitals or competitions are already on the docket for your studio. At most, they're a great performance experience all on their own.

Until we see each other next I'd beg you to take care of yourself and your loved ones, do your best to count your blessings, and reach always for your aspirations; we only go around once after all.

Ryan

SMTA GENERAL MEETING: NOVEMBER 17TH

Online

MEETING AGENDA

9:00AM	Social and networking time
9:25AM	Opening music
9:30AM	Business
10:00AM	Presentation: <i>"Debussy's Paris: His Poets, Painters, Clowns, and Dancers"</i> by Catherine Kautsky, George and Marjorie Chandler Professor of Music and Chair of Keyboard Department at Lawrence University

Online via Zoom



SMTA General Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 20, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

Music Center of the Northwest

ATTENDANCE

SMTA requires 10 members present for a quorum. The quorum was met with 18 members in attendance. Minutes were recorded by Colleen Kennedy, secretary.

Karin McCullough treated members to a beautiful performance of a Rachmaninoff's Etude-Tableau in G minor, op. 33 no. 8.

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

There are no corrections to the September meeting minutes.

Kathy Mortenson moved to approve the September minutes; Peter Mack seconded; motion *approved*.

MEETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karin McCullough:

- The fall Adult Music Student Soiree will be held on Sunday, November 5th, beginning at 6:30 p.m. There is room for nine performers and accompanists can be arranged.
- SMTA encourages teachers to obtain National Certification. Grants are available from SMTA and WSMTA to cover the cost of certification. See Karin if you are interested in learning more.

Jeff from Music Center of the Northwest introduced himself and welcomed SMTA to the space.

Josie Zocco:

- We have three venues reserved for MAP. Visiting Artists are Lark Powers (Pacific Lutheran University), Ricardo de la Torre (University of Puget Sound), Yoon-Wha Ro (Washington State University), and Eleanor Elkins (Angelo State University).
- Registration for Jazz Rags & Blues Festival opens December 15. Solo and ensembles works are welcome.

Amanda Snell:

- Teachers registered through MusicLink with active MusicLink students may apply for a \$600 stipend, available through the Dorothy Woodcock fund. As of this writing there are still stipends available!

Joan Schoepflin:

- ❑ The Seattle Young Artists Music Festival will take place March 18-23, 2024, at the UW School of Music. Online registration is from December 4, 2023 to January 14, 2024.
- ❑ This years' piano adjudicators include Stephen Drury (New England Conservatory of Music), Christopher Harding (U of Michigan), Sandra Shapiro (Cleveland Institute of Music) and Joseph Fridman. Masterclasses are open to public.
- ❑ SYAMF needs volunteers to serve as monitors or assistants to adjudicators. Interested? Talk to Joan or Pam Chang.

Peter Mack:

- ❑ Cherie Felts of Olympia has been confirmed as the WSMTA Foundation Fellow for this year. Charitable contributions made in her name will support the MTNA Foundation Fund.

GraceANN Cummings:

- ❑ October Festival will feature two full recitals with diverse programming, including some student compositions. Ten teachers are participating this year, including some non-SMTA members, so we're expanding our reach!
- ❑ The online recital has been moved from November to December 3.

Karin McCullough:

- ❑ A big thank you to our social coordinators Jessica and Sophia for arranging the Meany concert. Karin took a student to the concert and the student had a transformative experience!

Following the meeting, esteemed pianist and music educator Laura Dean gave a presentation on the role of music in the Old West. Laura is the published author of *Music in the Western Expansion: Songs of Heart and Place on the American Frontier*.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. by Ryan Worswick

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).

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).

ADULT MUSIC RECITAL DATES

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

Sunday November 5, 2023

Sunday February 11, 2024

Sunday May 19, 2024

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

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 Northminster Presbyterian 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 (jzocco@gmail.com)

Michelle Huang (mingshiow.huang@gmail.com)

SMTA 2024 SIMON-FISET COMPETITIONS

SMTA will present the Simon-Fiset Piano and Strings competitions again in February and March of 2024.

Piano

Piano will kick off the Simon-Fiset season on February 10 and 11, 2024. Seattle Chamber Music Society (“SCMS”) will again host the piano event at their beautiful Center for Chamber Music in downtown Seattle at 601 Union Street.

Registration will be online from December 18, 2023 through January 19, 2024. You can download the registration guidelines from the SMTA web site at [Simon-Fiset Competitions — Seattle Music Teachers Association \(seattlemta.org\)](https://seattlemta.org/simon-fiset-competitions).

SMTA is proud to welcome Rufus Choi of the Salit Conservatory in Los Angeles and Professor Kenneth Christensen of Montana State University as our 2024 piano adjudicators. You can read their bios at [Adjudicator Rufus Choi — Seattle Music Teachers Association \(seattlemta.org\)](https://seattlemta.org/adjudicator-rufus-choi) and [Adjudicator Kenneth Christensen — Seattle Music Teachers Association \(seattlemta.org\)](https://seattlemta.org/adjudicator-kenneth-christensen).

We hope you will consider entering your students in SMTA’s upcoming Simon-Fiset Piano 2024. Please reach out with any questions to Thom Stuart, VP SMTA Competitions and Chair of Simon-Fiset Piano 2024 at simonfisetpiano@gmail.com.

Please be sure to read about the recognition and adjudicators’ choice awards that are available to all who enter. There are more opportunities for recognition than ever before!

Students who also register for the Music Artistry Program (“MAP”) will be eligible to be selected by the adjudicators as one of three honors recitalists or one of three alternates for the Washington State Music Teachers Association state conference in June 2024.

Strings

Simon-Fiset Strings will follow in late February.

Watch the SMTA web site for information about registration, repertoire requirements, the strings adjudicator, and information about collaborative pianists – or reach out to Jan Coleman, Chair of Simon-Fiset Strings jan.coleman.violin@gmail.com with any questions.

Winners' Recital

A winners' recital featuring pianists and strings musicians earning first or second place in the events will be offered in May 2024. Watch the web site and *Staccato Notes* for details in early 2024.

Composition

SMTA continues to recruit a new chair for the Simon-Fiset Composition Competition. If you, or someone you know, is interested in being more involved in SMTA, we would love to talk with you about helping with this wonderful event.

If you would like more information about chairing the Composition Competition, please contact Sophia Pereyra-Johnston, SMTA Board Member at Large at Sophia@pianoplayground.org or Thom Stuart, VP SMTA Competitions simonfisetpiano@gmail.com.

We hope to see you and your students at one of the wonderful Simon-Fiset events!

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.

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

Are you prepared for the Music Literacy Sin Tax?

Fortunately, we do not risk a consequence or time out! The only sin here is potentially *not* helping your students learn more about music theory!

As the well-known researcher, teacher, author, and lecturer Edwin Gordon noted, while music has no words or grammar, it does have a syntax or an “orderly arrangement of sounds and context.”

Likewise, David Davis, a “40 under 40” Yamaha certified music educator embraces this musical syntax

theory and encourages us to teach “music as a language and give students skills to develop fluency in improvising, reading, notation, and audiation.”

This holistic approach to music literacy now shapes the study of music theory even at the most vaunted conservatories. Dr. Christopher Azzara of the Eastman School of Music agrees that “we as teachers need to rethink teaching music so that it is more in line with how humans learn music.” That is, first through imitation, then by meaningful communication – just like language.

Davis further asks if we would learn a speech in a language that is not our mother tongue then deliver it without learning the true meaning of the words. Obviously, we could not deliver with the same impact and meaning as when we deeply understand the language and its structure.

Developing from imitation to comprehension is one reason I include music literacy in my core teaching curriculum.

Please consider registering your students in the SMTA Music Literacy Program. I, and other participating teachers, have found this program to be invaluable and fun for students.

The Music Literacy Program (“MLP”) will be offered May 4 and 5, 2024 in downtown Seattle. We are honored and thrilled that Cornish College of the Arts will partner with us again. Since returning to in-person events after the pandemic, SMTA has been fortunate to offer MLP at Cornish’s spacious and modern facilities.

Students can register for sight playing (keyboard), sight recognition of rhythms, applied theory (keyboard), written theory, and ear training/listening at progressively challenging levels from one through ten. The program is flexible allowing students to register for any or all sections and at different levels depending on current skill.

Please reach out to me (sragionare@outlook.com) or our wonderful 2024 co-chair, Mona Elsing (mapleleafpiano@gmail.com) with any questions or for more info.

If you would like to volunteer, please let us know! We always welcome more help with the event and its preparations.

Check the SMTA web site at [Music Literacy Program](https://www.seattlemta.org) — Seattle Music Teachers Association ([seattlemta.org](https://www.seattlemta.org)) for updates and registration info. Registration will be available online from March 1 through April 1, 2024.

Thom Stuart
SMTA Music Literacy Co-Chair 2024

SMTA COMMISSIONED SONATINA

A Call for Composers

\$750 Award for Student Composer of WSMETA Teacher

Seattle Music Teachers Association launched The Marsha Wright Commissioned Sonata

Award as a means to support student and teacher composers, and encourage composition of new sonatinas. The award alternates between WSMTA teachers in odd-numbered years, and student composers in even-numbered years. This season we will choose an original composition from a student (age 18 or under) of a WSMTA member. The award is \$750.

We are looking for an early-intermediate level sonatina, for solo or combination of instruments. A nod to traditional sonata-allegro form is welcome but not necessary; any brief work in several movements will qualify as a sonatina.

Deadline for submission of a complete sonatina composition is December 1, 2023. The winner will be announced January 1, 2024.

Send the following by December 1, 2023 to smtaoffice@gmail.com:

- A brief email stating your full name, age, email, phone number, and the name of your teacher. The teacher must be a member of WSMTA. Please put "Sonatina Festival Commission" in the subject line.
- A PDF file of your original composition, with no identifying information in the document itself. Compositions will be renamed by random number assignment in order to ensure anonymity before being reviewed.
- MP3 or WAV audio file.

The new sonatina will be premiered at The Marsha Wright Sonatina Festival in April, 2024. The composer may be asked to perform part or all of their piece, or provide someone else to perform it.

Suggestions/guidelines for an early-intermediate level piece:

- Have a friend who plays the instrument try your composition before you submit it. Flute players need to breathe, violin players use bowing to shape the phrase.
- Limit the key signature to 1 or 2 sharps or flats.
- Meters: compound time such as 6/8 is OK.
- Piano: compare to a Clementi sonatina
- Violin/Viola: compare to Suzuki Volume 3
First and Third positions; Pitch range: Violin - low G (open G) to the D 2.5 octaves above that.
- Viola - same only a fifth lower.
- Flute: Compare to ABRSM Grade 5 or below
Pitch range: low D below staff to high F above staff (just over 2 octave range). Flute is softer in the low register, and louder in the high register.

The award is named in honor of the Sonatina Festival's founder and is supported by a generous gift from Dorothy Woodcock.

Contact: Mariya Lincoln
SMTA Administrative Coordinator
smtaoffice@gmail.com

An Introduction from our Intern



Hey everyone! My name is Sarah Guo, and I am going to be taking Jonathan's place as an intern for the upcoming school year. I currently study piano under Donna Bender and am super passionate about music in all its forms, so I hope to be as much help to the organization as possible. Aside from piano, I spend my time on creative writing, high-school debate, and skateboarding. Although I am a classical pianist, my favorite musician will always be Mitski.



NOV. 28-30
2023
TUE, WED & THU

Garrick Ohlsson

Residency

The internationally esteemed concert pianist Garrick Ohlsson leads master classes with UW piano students and takes part in a public panel discussion during a three-day residency at the School of Music.

MASTER CLASSES

NOV. 28 10:30 am-1 pm;
TUESDAY 2:30-5 pm

NOV. 29 1:30-3:30 pm
WEDNESDAY

NOV. 30 11 am-1:30 pm
THURSDAY

PANEL DISCUSSION

NOV. 29 4 pm
WEDNESDAY

Musicians of this Moment: Pioneers and Curators

Music journalist Melinda Bargreen moderates this discussion about challenges and opportunities facing professional musicians of today.

Panelists: Garrick Ohlsson, Emily Choi (Pacific Northwest Ballet), Quinton Morris (Seattle University), Marcin Pączkowski (UW DXARTS), Christina Scheppelmann (Seattle Opera), and Adam Stern (Seattle Philharmonic).

All events are in Brechemin Auditorium. Admission is FREE.

This residency is made possible with funding from the Robin L. McCabe Endowment in Piano Performance.

MORE INFO

W SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Photo of Garrick Ohlsson by Dario Acosta



Need Music Studio Partner

Looking for Studio Partner to share space in beautiful 700 sq. Ft. Teaching studio across from Bitter Lake in North Seattle. Available September 2023. Available teaching days are Sunday, Monday and Thursday. No drums please. Contact Beverly Gilyeart at 206-789-8066 and leave a message, or beverly@greenwoodviolinstudio.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 the an upcoming membership meeting, or if you want to inquire about making a material donation to the library.

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>

A Word of Thanks

I wanted to extend a heartfelt thank you for all of the well wishes and support I received around my concert. It was great to look out into the audience and see those who have been with me through this journey that spans years. For those who weren't able to attend, it was a success. My intention was to entertain and bring joy. And I must have done that because I sold 26 books spanning 4 different learning levels. My book, Let's Bring Joy to Life, sold out. It has been a week of recovery for my body, but my creative mind is already back at work. I've already started composing again and my next project is going to be finishing the first book in my Pick-A-Path improvisation series. I'll keep you posted.

Creatively yours,
Jeff

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