

STACCATO NOTES

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

April 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Upcoming Events and Important Dates</i>	1
<i>President's Letter</i>	2
<i>SMTA General Meeting</i>	2
<i>Conference Attendance Grants</i>	3
<i>Safe and Sound Grants 2023 - 2024</i>	4
<i>Dorothy Woodcock MusicLink Teachers Stipend</i>	4
<i>SMTA Basket at the WSMTA Conference</i>	5
<i>2024 Simon-Fiset Strings Competition Winners</i>	5
<i>MAP Gold Seal Students</i>	6
<i>Sonatina Festival</i>	7
<i>SMTA 2024 Music Literacy Program</i>	8
<i>Around the Neighborhood</i>	9
<i>Newsletter Submissions</i>	10

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

- | | |
|------------|--|
| * Apr 1 | Music Literacy Program (MLP) Registration closes |
| * April 12 | Sonatina Festival registration closes |
| * Apr 19 | SMTA General Meeting |
| * Apr 20 | Staccato Notes deadline |
| * Apr 21 | New Member Info Session and Happy Hour |
| * Apr 28 | Marsha Wright Sonatina Festival |
| * May 4-5 | Music Literacy Program |
| * May 5 | Adult Music Soiree |
| * May 17 | SMTA General Meeting |
| * May 18 | Seattle Opera Concert Outing |
| * May 20 | Staccato Notes deadline |

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Goodness Gracious it's Already April!

I'm just back from the national conference and it feels like I'll be spending months unpacking and incorporating the various ideas, music, and methods I was lucky enough to meet. What an intoxicating brew these conferences are!

Being immersed in a world of excited music teachers and makers has the capacity to make the whole thing feel new again, while simultaneously confirming the best of what you are already in the process. If you haven't before, I absolutely recommend making a point to go, you won't regret it for even a minute.

Beyond the world class presentations and discussions, the opportunity to forge (or deepen!) relationships with other teachers was professional succor beyond compare. To share around the fire (or the lobby anyway) your success and your failure, your process and your pride, is to exchange your fears for aspirations, your roadblocks for pathways.

We are all richer together than we could ever be apart. It is an immense honor to represent our Seattle chapter in these moments, and no small measure of that stems from the stories I get to tell about what we're doing, what we prioritize, and how well we work together.

Thank you to one and all, I hope your winter has passed by pleasantly, and that I'll get to see a healthy share of you at our next meeting in person at the Music Center of the Northwest.

Until then take care,

Ryan

SMTA GENERAL MEETING

Friday April 19, 2024

9 - 11 AM

Music Center of the Northwest

901 N 96th St, Seattle, 98103

MEETING AGENDA

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 9:00AM | Social and networking time |
| 9:25AM | Opening music |
| 9:30AM | Business |
| 10:00AM | Presentation: <i>Professor Kay Zavislak, DMA, NCTM,</i>
"When Is Stealing OK? Some Thoughts on Rubato" |

Description

The concept of Rubato is vital in expressive and artistic music making. Many seasoned musicians and intuitive young performers rely on their musical instinct to employ this concept. However, what do we do if we are teaching students who might be less intuitive and need step by step explanation? My hope is that the discussion in this presentation gives some insights as a starting point in encouraging each student's interpretation in the area of pacing and time.

About the Presenter

American pianist Kay Zavislak enjoys a multi-faceted career as a performer, teacher, adjudicator, and clinician. Dr. Zavislak attended the Toho Gakuen High School of Music, one of the most prestigious conservatories in Japan. Dr. Zavislak then moved to the U.S. and earned the degrees Bachelor of Music, Master of Music, and Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Michigan.

As a performer Dr. Zavislak has given solo and chamber concerts regionally and nationally in addition to public performances in Australia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, and Japan. In collaboration with flutist Leonard Garrison and saxophonist Bill Perconti, Dr. Zavislak has also recorded two CDs for Centaur Records. As a member of Duo Cascadia, Dr. Zavislak performs with Dr. Jensina Oliver, exploring a diverse piano ensemble repertoire and concertizes in the Pacific Northwest region. In addition, she is newly appointed as a co-artistic partner for the Bellingham House Concerts Series.

Many of Dr. Zavislak's university and pre-college students have received top prizes and honors in a number of international and regional piano festivals and competitions, such as Nomea International Piano Competition in Italy, the Memorial "Sanja Pavlovic" International Competition in Serbia, Stage4Kids Festival in Germany, MTNA Northwest Regional Competition, MTNA Washington State Competition, MTNA Idaho State Competition, Seattle Russian Chamber Music Competition, Spokane Piano Competition, Music Fest Northwest in Spokane WA, and Sonata-Sonatina Festival in Ellensburg WA. Some of Dr. Zavislak's former students have been accepted with a full tuition waiver to Bachelor and Master programs in the US.

Besides teaching, Dr. Zavislak is in high demand for adjudicating, judging, and giving lectures and workshops locally, regionally, and nationally. Before joining her family in Bellingham WA in 2013, Dr. Zavislak was an Assistant Professor of Piano and the Keyboard Area Coordinator at the University of Idaho Lionel Hampton School of Music. In addition, she has held teaching positions at Albion College, Whatcom Community College, and the University of Michigan. She is currently on the piano faculty at Western Washington University. Dr. Zavislak studied piano under the guidance of Arthur Greene, Logan Skelton, Yoshie Kora, and Miyoko Hamamoto, harpsichord with Edward Parmentier, and organ with Marilyn Mason.

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). 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).

SMTA BASKET AT THE WSMTA CONFERENCE

Fruit, Loops & Hoops

Contributions Accepted at the April and May in-person Meetings

'Fruit, Loops & Hoops' is the theme for this year's SMTA Basket to be auctioned at the WSMTA Conference in June. The Conference dates are June 27 – 29 at Gonzaga University in Spokane. (Please go to the WSMTA website – wsmta.org - for information and to register.)

One of the most fun activities at the Conference is the Basket Auction. Please consider donating an item you think fits our theme or represents our wonderful chapter and city. How about hoop earrings? Bangles? Chocolate covered cherries? Knitted or crocheted piece? If you prefer, you may donate cash or check made payable to SMTA, and let us do the shopping. We will collect items and cash donations at the April 19 and May 17 general meetings.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support of WSMTA's grants and student and teacher enrichment funds.

Contact Kathy Mortensen kmortensenpiano@gmail.com
or RoseMarie Tamburri ronyc714@aol.com

2024 SIMON-FISET STRINGS COMPETITION WINNERS

The 2024 Simon-Fiset Strings Competition was held March 4 and 11 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lynnwood. The adjudicator was Eduardo Rios, First Assistant Concertmaster of SSO and winner of the 2015 Sphinx Competition. There were 53 entrants (38 violin, 14 cello, 1 viola) from 18 teachers (12 violin/viola, 6 cello).

The winners of the 2024 Simon-Fiset Strings Competition are as follows:

Division I – Through Age 7 on August 15, 2023

First Place	Morgan Tran, cello	Student of Karen Hemming
Second Place	Iris Wang, violin	Student of Jan Coleman
Third Place	Adeline Gao, violin	Student of Jan Coleman
Fourth Place	Midori Sokolik, violin	Student of Lyudmila Henderson

Division II – Ages 8 and 9 on August 15, 2023

First Place	Olivia Kuypers, cello	Student of Haeyoon Shin Krentz
Second Place	Valentina Starkie, cello	Student of Haeyoon Shin Krentz
Third Place	Espen Walker, cello	Student of Haeyoon Shin Krentz
Fourth Place	Noam Kovacevic, violin	Student of Rose Hashimoto

Division III – Ages 10 and 11 on August 15, 2023

First Place <i>(Jean Kantner Memorial Trophy Winner)</i>	Jessie Wu, violin	Student of Jan Coleman
Second Place	Rito Imaoka, violin	Student of Simon James
Third Place	Winston Yu, cello	Student of Kevin Krentz
Fourth Place	Jayden Walker, cello	Student of Kevin Krentz

Division IV – Ages 12 and 13 on August 15, 2023

First Place <i>(Verna Powell Award Winner)</i>	Angela Xiao, violin	Student of Simon James
Second Place	Tiger Yan, violin	Student of Svend Rønning
Third Place	Elbert Wan, violin	Student of Jan Coleman
Fourth Place	Tova Buerk, violin	Student of Jan Coleman

Division V – Ages 14 and 15 on August 15, 2023

First Place <i>(Kent Coleman Memorial Trophy Winner)</i>	Hana Gottesman, violin	Student of Simon James
Second Place	Jesse Krentz, cello	Student of Kevin Krentz
Third Place	Jeanne Park, violin	Student of Simon James
Honorable Mention	Leyan Gao, violin	Student of Simon James

Division VI – Ages 16-18 on August 15, 2023

Honorable Mention	Karis Kim, violin	Student of Helen Kim
-------------------	-------------------	----------------------

MAP GOLD SEAL STUDENTS

Teacher: Yelena Balabanova

Yiling Sun
Joyce Ye

Teacher: Pamela Chang

Lily Fei

Teacher: Laura Dean

Lily Baliom
Anyu Lin

Teacher: Michelle Huang

Claire Huang

Teacher: Laurie Ketron

Kevin Cheng
Audrey Wang
Marissa Wang

Teacher: Jason Kuo

Weiju Wang

Teacher: Hilary Lim

Derek Chang

Sophia Johnson

Teacher: Ni Liu

Phil Yao

Ian Fung

Teacher: Peter Mack

Isaac Goldstein

Nicholas Grote

Emily Qi

William Wang

Teacher: Marissa Rebadulla-Ramos

Cassandra Ramos

Teacher: Joan Schoepflin

Estelle Kim

Stephen Liang

Brielle Liu

Paolo Moreni

Emily Peng

Sophia Zhao

Teacher: Ann Simonson

Elliot Beck

Teacher: Thom Stuart

Bernice Liu

Teacher: Diane Williams

Avani Shashidhan

SONATINA FESTIVAL

We are preparing for this year's Marsha Wright Sonata 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 28th, starting at 2pm

Location: Wedgwood Presbyterian Church, Seattle

Registration opens March 11th

Best wishes to you and your students,

Tom Lee and Ondine de Mer, Co-Chairs

SMTA 2024 MUSIC LITERACY PROGRAM

Registration is open for WSMTA's annual Music Literacy Program. The Seattle Chapter will again offer the event on May 4 and 5, 2024 at Cornish College of the Arts in downtown Seattle.

Please register soon . . . registration will close at 11:59 PM on Monday, April 1st.

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.

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 \(wsmta.org\)](#)

Please consider participating in MLP. My co-chair, Mona Elsing (mapleleafpiano@gmail.com) and I (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, MLP 2024 Co-Chair

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 (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.

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

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 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) 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