

STACCATO NOTES

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

May 2024

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

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| * 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 |
| * June 1 | SMTA Grant Deadlines: MusicLink Teacher's Stipend,
Conference Attendance, Teacher Education, Safe and Sound |
| * June 2 | Online Student Recital |
| * June 8 | End of Year Celebration |
| * June 27-29 | WSMTA Conference |

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Dear Teachers and Friends, Welcome to Spring!

Change is in the air, whether it's nature waking up around us in all its colorful glory, or the steadier change of human lives as the churn of time continues without apology.

Let us be kind to each other, for we know not what burdens are carried. Even the best of times can weigh us down, to say nothing of the worst, and if we can treat each other with a baseline of warm respect and the belief that we are all of one team (team music education, rah rah rah) then at least we'll have done our best to lighten the load.

To borrow the point from our exiting executive, Dr. Gary Ingle, at the big tent meeting of our annual conference this year, organizations are facing uphill battles these days, of every stripe and kind. Anything we can do to open the door to people is a must if we are to survive, full stop.

Recognizing that, we voted overwhelmingly to simplify the language of our national bylaws to more fluid language, both from a reader's perspective and an inclusive perspective; as 'he' once opened up to 'he/she', so too we now broaden to the universal 'they'. It's worth noting here that our very own Katie Levine played an instrumental role in the process, a story worth pursuing when next you see her, at least to give thanks.

No good idea should go unadopted, so as we pursue our efforts to rekindle a collegiate relationship with local universities, welcome in new members, and generally keep the fires burning bright, the board will present a motion at our May general meeting to update our own bylaws similarly.

I hope to see you there, hands raised and happy to help.

Finally, it is with a melancholy admiration that I must announce the successful conclusion of a long job hunt on the part of our beloved Mariya Lincoln, administrative coordinator extraordinaire, and the consequent departure from her role with the SMTA. Though she's irreplaceable, we must try all the same, so please share the opportunity with anyone in your community that would like to work on their own schedule for a good cause and with good people, mostly online.

Cheers and tears alike, take care in either case,

Ryan

SMTA GENERAL MEETING

Friday May 17, 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>Mack Grout, "Teaching Jazz Improvisation to Beginners"</i>

Description

Teaching improvisation to beginning improvisers and beginning musicians can be a fun, different approach to get music students engaged with the instrument and work on some ear training. In this presentation we will discuss tactics, strategies, and improv games that teachers and students can work on to have a new perspective and diversify their lesson material.



About the Presenter

Mack Grout is a jazz pianist, educator and composer based in Seattle, Washington. Since graduating with a music degree from Cornish College of the Arts in 2008, Mack has travelled and performed extensively throughout the United States and Asia as a soloist, educator, and with a variety of different musical acts. From 2012-2016 he also worked as a musical director for jazz clubs throughout China. Upon returning from living overseas Mack founded Seattle Jazz Academy, a jazz specific music school and community for musicians, instructors, and students. As Seattle Jazz Academy continues to grow Mack is spending more time connecting with the musicians and educators in the region to curate concerts, masterclasses and spread the fun of what it is to study jazz and improvisation.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES: APRIL 2024



SMTA General Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting held at Music Center of the Northwest

ATTENDANCE

SMTA requires 10 members present for a quorum. The quorum was met with 12 members in attendance. Minutes were recorded by Colleen Kennedy, secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Ryan Worswick, president.

MEETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members were treated to a beautiful piano performance by Anne Reese.

Ryan Worswick:

- Members voted on a proposed revision to the MTNA bylaws at the MTNA Annual Meeting, which took place at this year's conference. A large majority voted to replace gender-specific language with gender-neutral or gender-inclusive language in the bylaws, and the motion was passed.
- Our beloved administrative coordinator, Mariya Lincoln, will be leaving her post at the end of April. The Board is putting together a job description. The position offers a flexible schedule of 5-10 hours per week and inquiries may be made to Ryan.
- Open positions for next year:
 - Hospitality chair: responsibilities include procuring snacks and coffee and securing performers for the meeting.
 - Simon-Fiset : Thom Stuart will be on travel and unavailable during Simon-Fiset next year. Mona Elsing will be stepping in, but we still need extra help, especially in upcoming years. Please contact Thom if you are interested.
 - Staccato Notes editor: Gloria Tzuang will stay on as editor until the October 2024 notes, and then we'll need a replacement. The Staccato Notes editor is responsible for gathering submissions and plugging them into a template. There is some formatting involved, but virtually no editing.
- Our final online recital of the academic year will be held on the first Saturday of June.

Karin McCullough:

- The Adult Student Soiree is set for Sunday evening, May 5, at The Point in Kirkland. To register students, contact Karin with the students' names and pieces.
- The March performance at Crossroads Mall in Bellevue was a big success! We will reserve the same spot for next year. Karin and a colleague also played chamber music at Café Appassionata, near fisherman's terminal in Magnolia. The venue would like to host again next year.

GraceANN Cummings:

- Bach to the Future (formerly Bach in the Subways) will be held on July 28, with two participating locations- the Roosevelt light rail station and the Beacon Hill light rail station. All classical music is welcome!

Mariya Lincoln:

- The UW School of Music will present "Piano Power" featuring professors Robin McCabe, Cristina Valdes, Craig Sheppard and guest artist Rachelle McCabe playing arrangements for two pianos, eight hands. Date of the recital is April 30.
- Join us for the new members happy hour/information session Sunday, April 21 at Percy's in Ballard. All members and guests welcome!

Chas Arnold (MCNW):

- Chas has an intermediate level piano student who would love to find a chamber music partner. MCNW also has ongoing chamber music opportunities for adult students. If one of your students is interested, you may contact Ryan, or Chas at chasarnold@musiccenternw.org, phone 206-526-8443.

Tom Lee

- The Sonatina Festival will happen on Sunday, April 28 at Wedgwood Presbyterian Church. Due to the number of participants, there will be two programs- one at 2:00 and the other at 3:30. The program will include a wide variety of works and a performance of the winning commissioned sonatina, a piano quartet by Nathan Zhao (student of Peter Mack).

PRESENTATION

- Today's presenter was Dr. Kay Zavislak, a noted teacher, clinician, and performer who is currently on the piano faculty at Western Washington University. Dr. Zavislak gave a highly informative and engaging talk titled: *When is Stealing OK? Some Thoughts on Rubato*.

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m. by Ryan Worswick.

2024 SMTA BYLAWS CHANGE

The SMTA Board is proposing a small revision to the SMTA Bylaws. We will vote on it at the next General Meeting, Friday, May 17, 2024, in person.

Excerpt from Article VI: Executive Board

The current language states:

"In the case of an elected officer leaving office before the end of his/her term, the Executive Board will appoint an interim replacement candidate that will be confirmed by a vote of the General Membership at the next membership meeting."

The proposal is to use "their" instead of "his/her". The updated paragraph would state:

"In the case of an elected officer leaving office before the end of their term, the Executive Board will appoint an interim replacement candidate that will be confirmed by a vote of the General Membership at the next membership meeting."

We hope you will attend the May meeting, our last one for the 2023-2024 year.

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

SMTA SEEKS ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

SMTA is looking for a new Administrative Coordinator. This is a paid position requiring about 5-7 hours per week, averaged over 50 weeks. Some months are busier. The heaviest months are July-September. The ideal candidate will be self-motivated and able to work independently, have prior administrative experience, excellent computer skills and share a passion for SMTA's mission. Compensation is \$28-\$32 per hour.

More information will be coming out in the next few days.

Please contact SMTA President Ryan Worswick ryan@notesandnumbers.net

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>

UW Faculty Recital: Piano Power, featuring SMTA members Robin McCabe and Craig Sheppard!

Robin McCabe, Craig Sheppard, Cristina Valdés, and guest pianist Rachelle McCabe

April 30, 2024, 7:30 pm

Gerlich Theater, Meany Hall

Fingers will fly, with air traffic control required at the two keyboards when faculty pianists Robin McCabe, Cristina Valdés and Craig Sheppard join forces with guest artist Rachelle McCabe to present dynamic and festive arrangements for Two Pianos, Eight Hands.

Details and tickets at:

<https://music.washington.edu/events/2024-04-30/faculty-concert-robin-mccabe-craig-sheppard-cristina-valdes-rachelle-mccabe-piano>

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.

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).

PROFESSIONAL STUDIO SPACE FOR RENT

Are you interested in having a space to teach away from your home, but not sure where to start? We have beautiful teaching studios for rent and we've done the hard work for you. We are located in Bel-Red area of Bellevue (Zip Code 98005), a prime location for enrolling highly motivated and committed students. We are looking for instrument or vocal teachers interested in renting one day a week for a flat monthly fee.

Amenities include:

- A grand piano or a grand piano action hybrid piano comes with the rental
- Chairs and a desk in each room
- Internet/Wi-fi
- Separate waiting area for students and their families
- On demand hot and cold purified drinking water
- Kitchenette with fridge and microwave
- Climate controlled
- Multiple bathrooms in the building
- ADA accessible
- Secure building accessed with security code

Please contact kristinaleemusic@gmail.com

PIANO FOR SALE

I am retiring at the end of June this year and I have a wonderful Steinway piano, a blackboard for teaching theory classes and lots of materials. My 5'10" Steinway in Maple wood (the most expensive one Steinway works with) has been installed with damp-chasers. If you might be interested please call: **Sharon Van Valin** at 425-324-6639. My husband just passed away and I am in the middle of several surgeries and trying to downsize so calling me fairly early in the morning is usually best for me.

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