

CONCENTO

February 1st, 2019

Vol. 14, Issue 6

Overture

I know this is likely an incredibly unpopular opinion, especially at this time of year in our organization, but I really don't care much for competitions. I always have, to be honest, in part because it was never a part of my musical life growing up. All the teachers I had on both piano and cello into my junior year of high school hadn't even heard of MTNA, and while I did Solo/Ensemble, it still wasn't my favorite musical activity.

To their credit, competitions such as Solo/Ensemble and CHC and all the way up to the International Chopin Competition, etc., have many benefits. Competitions give us something to strive for in the monotony of practice. They encourage us to work for a goal, often one that will require us to stretch. They earn us comments from teachers and adjudicators other than our usual weekly mentor (who students may tend to tune out week after week). If nothing else, competitions are another performance opportunity in front of a new audience.

However, I also count two big negatives: First, competitions encourage students to measure themselves against each other in an often unhealthy manner—something we most certainly want to avoid, especially among younger teenagers. Second, and relatedly, we can often fall into the trap as teachers of encouraging the mindset that the goal of music is to play in the next recital, the next competition, and put so much emphasis on doing well at them that we miss the true point of learning music.

In my humble opinion the goal of music study is not (just) to be good at music, and it most certainly isn't to be better than someone else (an attitude which we, and competitions, can all too easily foster). Competitions are inherently geared towards awarding “the best,” often represented solely by some abstract number

on a scoresheet, but this is a one-way street of perfection instead of the (arguably healthier and more wholistic, if not idealistic) view of music as something done for its inherent joy, and for the communication of that joy between a performer and an audience. Frankly, that is something not easily measured on a judge's scorecard, and requires significantly more time and deliberate energy to encourage than simply enrolling a student in the next competition to perform in.

"525,600 minutes... How do you measure a year? ...How about love!"

How are we teaching our students to measure their success as musicians? How do we measure it ourselves and model that? Something to ponder.

Kevin Peterson, editor

Next Chapter Meeting

There will not be a chapter meeting in February. The March meeting will be on Tuesday, March 12th at Zion Lutheran Church in Kent at 9:30 am.

Chapter Meeting Minutes

Please see the document attached at the end of the newsletter for the minutes of the January chapter meeting.

Scholarship Dinner

Thank you to everyone who helped, donated and brought people to our Scholarship Event on January 12th! It would not have been possible without you!

The community businesses that contributed were: Pacific Food Importers, Paolo's Italian Restaurant, San Gennaro Foods, Kent East Hill Nursery, Trader Joe's Kent, Covington Safeway, Covington Fred Meyer and Covington Costco.

We had about 45 people pay plus 10 more in entertainers (some entertainers actually won Silent Auction items!)

Bonnie Birch and Gino Lucchetti were fantastic entertainment during the dinner and silent auction and the Comedy Court Improv provided some great laughs!!! It sure seemed like everyone enjoyed the evening.

We had about \$150 in donations and the silent auction brought in \$781.00 and attendance brought in \$670.00 for a total of \$1,601.00.

Due to a connection I have at the Covington Air Stream, I was able to procure a \$500.00 donation to the Scholarship Fund. Since it was during the Scholarship Event and I had solicited the donation for the event, all of this amount was added into the event total. The grand total is \$2101.00.

So, the bottom line is after expenses we put \$1401.00 into the Scholarship Fund. (The Comedy Court Improv waived their fee for us since it was a fundraiser). This is amazing since attendance and teachers participating were half of last year and brought in \$665 less also.

Overall, it was a great success and I am excited we will to be able to award students scholarships from our chapter!

I have been happy to serve as Scholarship Chair, however, this is my third year and someone needs to step up now for next year. I am happy to help and provide as much input (I have all the forms ready for you) as possible. Please think about it!

Thank you,

Deanna Dent
Scholarship Chair

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

It is that time of year! Please discuss with any of your High School seniors about applying for the Gibson Music Scholarship Award. The information is in the Yearbook on pages 24 and 25. However please keep the following changes in mind since they were inadvertently left out.

Gibson Music Scholarship

The Gibson Music Scholarship Award was established through a generous gift of music scores from the estate of former member Leaine Gibson, who passed in 2010.

It will be given annually to a high school senior/s who intends to pursue music as a major or minor at the college level. It is open only to students of SKCMTA members.

Students will need to submit an essay as described on the entry form. The essay should be double spaced in 12 point font, not to exceed three pages.

Candidates will be asked to give an oral presentation to a panel of judges. Students should present their case as to why they deserve this award. Should the student not be able to attend, a video presentation will be acceptable.

Students are encouraged to be as creative as possible. It should be emphasized that this is not a music competition, and is not based on performance. However, if a short instrumental demonstration is necessary to illustrate a point, it will be allowed at the judges' discretion.

First, second and third place awards will be given at the discretion of the panel.

Monetary award will be carefully adjusted according to the funds raised at the Scholarship Fundraiser and any other donations to the Scholarship Fund and may vary from year to year.

The essay should be mailed to: SKCMTA, [25446 163rd Pl SE, Covington, WA 98042](#) and postmarked by **March 15, 2019**.

The oral presentations by the students will take place in April at a time announced after all applications are verified.

Gibson Music Scholarship Award Entry Form

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-Mail

Teacher:

College you plan to attend:

Requirement: using one of the following quotes and all questions as a guideline, please write an essay no more than three pages, double spaced in 12 point font.

1. *"Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything.— Plato*
2. *"After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music." — Aldous Huxley*
3. *"I think music in itself is healing. It's an explosive expression of humanity. It's something we are all touched by. No matter what culture we're from, everyone loves music." — Billy Joel*
4. *"Music is the language of the spirit. It opens the secret of life bringing peace, abolishing strife." — Kahlil Gibran*
5. *"Music can change the world because it can change people." — Bono*

1. What interest and excites you about music, and why do you wish to continue your studies at the college level?
2. What are your ambitions in the world of music?
3. Describe how you express yourself in music
4. What ideas do you have for communicating the importance of music in today's world?

Mail your entry, together with this form to:
Deanna Dent, SKCMTA Scholarship Chair
25446 163rd Place SE
Covington, WA 98042

Note: Please be sure to read all details and requirements regarding this Scholarship.

The essay should be post-marked by March 15, 2019.

Chapter Honors Competition

The deadline to submit details for CHC is February 15th. Please email all submissions to Julie Swienty at julieswienty@gmail.com.

Upcoming Concert

Brenda Miller will play a recital at Green River College on February 22 at 7 o'clock. She is the Northwest division winner of MTNA, and is preparing to go to nationals.

Happy Birthday in February!

Sally Ramsden (2/23)

Seattle Pipe Organ Encounter

The Seattle Pipe Organ Encounter is designed for students who have obtained at least an intermediate level of piano proficiency. It is designed to give young pianists (ages 13-18) an opportunity to learn the basic skills for playing the organ and a chance to meet other young musicians with the same interests. There will be one teacher for every two students and enrollment is limited to 28 students total, so early registration is highly advised. Please pass the attached brochure (at the end of this newsletter) on to any students you think might be interest and qualify.

Rita Stoess
Director, Seattle Pipe Organ Encounter
rmstoess@comcast.net
(509) 939-0872

Treasurer's Report

Checking: \$6,096.57
Savings: \$1,573.65
Scholarship: \$2,516.95

Studio Openings

Deanna Dent
Lena Aleksandrova
Julie Swienty
Gwendolyn Koch
Caroline Crabill (violin, viola, and piano)
Lynneette Emme

SKCMTA January Meeting

January 8th, 2019

NO MEETING IN FEBRUARY

9:40 - Call to Order - Elena Aleksandrova

Letter from the state: Increase Washington State's Visibility

Fundraising Dinner Report - Deanna Dent

Help Needed! There is not enough attendance or help to pull it off yet. Please Look below for ways you can help:

- **Invite People!** If everyone brings 5 people over the next 3 days, we will have enough attendance.
- Set Up/ Clean Up Volunteers
- Food prep help (Bring cooked pasta, put together salads day-of)
- Donations for Silent Auction (Baskets, Baked goods, etc)

Notes: If you have sold tickets, please email Deanna and Elena the name of those who purchased. Unable to book comedy group yet, we may ask guitarist and vocalist to perform after dinner. Scholarship fund currently at \$1165.95.

CHC. Map Report - Julie Swienty

47 students participating. Schedule will be sent to everyone when approved by the state.

Make sure you have:

- A **printed** schedule. (Adjudicators will not accept handwritten schedule.)
- Seperate sheet for the student with the name of the piece, composer, *exact* piece length.

Deadline for sending Julie the student sheets [names, piece length, composer] is **February 15th**

May 18th Festival Opening - Lisa Hogg

Room for one more teacher

10:20 Meeting adjourned

PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTERS

Pipe Organ Encounters is an educational outreach program of the American Guild of Organists. Major funding for Pipe Organ Encounters is provided by the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America. Additional support is provided by the American Institute of Organbuilders, the Jordan Organ Endowment, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Permanently endowed AGO scholarships are provided in memory of Charlene Brice Alexander, Robert S. Baker, Seth Bingham, Michael Cohen, Margaret R. Curtin, Clarence Dickinson, Richard and Clara Mae Enright, Virgil Fox, Philip Hahn, Charles N. Henderson, Alfred E. Lunsford, Ruth Milliken, Bruce Prince-Joseph, Douglas Rafter, Ned Siebert, Mary K. Smith, and Martin M. Wick; and in honor of Anthony Baglivi, Philip E. Baker, Gordon and Naomi Rowley, Fred Swann, Morgan and Mary Simmons, and the Leupold Foundation.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Tuition assistance is available through the American Guild of Organists. For more information, contact Rita Stoess, POE Director, to initiate the online scholarship application process.

Travel assistance is available from the Seattle Chapter. For more information, go to agoseattle.com/scholarships-grants.

Applications for travel assistance from the Seattle Chapter must be received before April 1, 2019. Additional assistance may be available from local AGO chapters or religious institutions.

AGO Seattle Chapter
Rita Stoess, POE Director
2514 85th Dr NE Unit E3
Lake Stevens, WA 98258



JULY 14-19, 2019

PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER

**SPONSORED BY THE
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
SEATTLE CHAPTER**



SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
agoseattle.com/poe

AN OVERVIEW

POE is designed for teenagers, ages 13-18, who have achieved an intermediate level of keyboard proficiency. Previous organ study is not required. Special consideration with regard to age and training may be allowed by the POE Committee on an individual basis.



POE HIGHLIGHTS

The Seattle POE will include daily organ lessons (one teacher for every two participants) as well as practice time. Other activities will include recitals, workshops, and masterclasses. Topics covered may include registration, repertoire, hymn playing, choral accompanying, and improvisation.



FEATURED INSTRUMENTS

- Fisk, III manuals, 62 ranks
Plymouth Congregational Church
- Aeolian-Skinner, III manuals, 37 ranks
Seattle First Baptist Church
- Wech Orgelbau, II manuals, 30 ranks
Queen Anne Lutheran Church
- Fritts, II manuals, 36 ranks
Ascension Episcopal Church
- Bond, II manuals, 44 ranks
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

FACULTY MEMBERS

The faculty of distinguished concert organists, university professors, and church musicians will include Joseph Adam, Janet Ahrend, Susan Bloomfield, Douglas Cleveland, Michael Kleinschmidt, Samuel Libra, Sam Peters, Wyatt Smith, and Carole Terry.

Performers, faculty, instruments, and other POE details are subject to change without notice.



ACCOMMODATIONS/TRAVEL

Housing will be available on the beautiful campus of Seattle Pacific University. All rooms are double occupancy. There will be adult supervision at all times.

The registration includes five nights lodging, all meals during the POE, and special event costs. Directions to SPU are available on the Seattle AGO website. Most meals will be at the dining hall on campus. Shuttle service will be provided to the university for those arriving via commercial transportation and to transport students to various venues.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Registration is limited to 28 participants. For more information, contact the POE director:

Rita Stoess, POE Director
2514 85th Dr NE Unit E3
Lake Stevens, WA 98258
Phone: 509-939-0872
rmstoess@comcast.net



STUDENT REGISTRATION

Registration for all POE events is exclusively available online. To register, please visit agohq.org/education/poe/poe.

PAYMENT FORM

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

Parent Name: _____

POE Registration Fee: \$550
\$525 if registration postmarked by May 1, 2019
Final registration deadline is June 1, 2019
Your registration is not complete until full payment is received.

Please make checks payable to Seattle AGO.
Return this form and check to the POE Registrar:

Howard Stoess, POE Registrar
2514 85th Dr NE Unit E3
Lake Stevens, WA 98258

Cancellations postmarked prior to June 15, 2019 will receive a full refund less a \$25 processing fee.

Visit agoseattle.com/poe
for additional information.