

CONCENTO

January 1st, 2019

Vol. 14, Issue 5

Overture

Many of you know I'm an instrument-rated private pilot, which requires extensive training not just in aircraft, but also psychology, weather, mechanics, physics, navigation, and medicine. Safety is the undercurrent in all of this, and I find it noteworthy that the first thing addressed in pilot training (and brought up in every aspect of it) is "aeronautical decision-making" (read: critical thinking).

One of the most commonly referenced ideas in ADM (aviation is full of alphabet soup...) is the group of "five hazardous attitudes of pilots" and the "antidote" to each (read more on pg. 5 of the FAA's handbook, linked [here](#)). These attitudes are not unique to pilots, though, so below is an adapted version of each for music:

1. Anti-authority: "You can't tell me what to do!" "The way I practice works just fine." "Why does the right fingering matter so much?!" *Antidote: Follow the rules; they are usually right.* (NB: Students are allowed to question authority, and pulling rank is the wrong way to answer them.)
2. Impulsivity: "I don't need to practice this piece — it's easy!" "I'll just sightread this without scanning or counting off. It's no big deal." "I'm going to jump from piece to piece instead of really learning something." *Antidote: Not so fast. Think first.*
3. Invulnerability: "I can play this really fast really well, so I don't need to do any more slow practice before the recital." "I can go from practicing 30 minutes a day to five hours a day overnight. No sweat!" "I'm at a higher level than those students, so I don't need to practice as much." *Antidote: [Accidents, mistakes, and injury] could happen to me.*

4. Macho: “I just finished Faber 4 and now I want to play the *Waldstein*.” “I decided to finish the theory for the whole book, even though we’re only two songs in! Did I get it all right?” *Antidote: Taking chances is foolish.*
5. Resignation: “No matter how many times I play this, it’s never right.” “I can’t improve, no matter what I do!” “If only I were as talented as that other kid is.” *Antidote: I’m not helpless; I can make a difference.*

While it would be too much to expect our (adolescent and teenage) students to fully understand these attitudes, it is especially helpful for us as teachers to recognize them. It is even more important that we know the antidotes to challenge these attitudes and shift our students’ behavior and mindsets to those of critical thinking and growth, both musically and psychologically.

Kevin Peterson, editor

Next Chapter Meeting

The next chapter meeting will be on Tuesday, January 8th at 9:30 am at Zion Lutheran Church, 25105 132nd Ave SE, Kent.

Chapter Meeting Minutes

There was no formal business meeting for the chapter in December, hence there are no minutes attached to this month’s newsletter. The chapter meeting in December was replaced by a Christmas party and brunch hosted at co-president Lena Aleksandrova’s home. Thank you, Lena!

Scholarship Dinner Fundraiser

Please watch your email for more details on the upcoming scholarship dinner.

Music Artistry Program (MAP)

Please see the message below from Julie Swienty, MAP chair. Also, as a brief reminder, the \$5 MAP chapter fee (per student) should be mailed to Lisa Hogg and is due at/by the January chapter meeting.

Hi Everyone,
I hope each of you are ready for MAP!

Here are a few reminders:

- You must have a master schedule filled out for your studio before beginning.
- You need to have an evaluation sheet for each student filled out (see <https://wsmta.org/programs-for-students/map/>). You will need to know how old each student is, as well as how long they have studied with you and how long in total they have studied, if they didn't begin with you.
- Be sure to have a copy of the master schedule for yourself so that you can help the visiting artist stay on time, if they ask you to do this!
- Our chapter doesn't require the visiting artist to select students for honors recital. Only ask for this if you have paid extra minutes to have them do this for you.
- If the students playing time is allowed to run over you will lose part or all of your scheduled evaluation/consultation time.
- Measures must be numbered in the LH column of the music.
- Originals PLEASE!! If not, please fill out form below.
- The visiting artist can choose to stop a student during a performance if it is apparent that not enough time was purchased to allow for the adjudicator to do their job.
- Please fill out a visiting artist Evaluation Form, including encouraging points and positive suggestions for improvement. The perfect time to fill this out is while they are writing YOUR evaluation! Please turn this in to Julie Swienty, NOT the Visiting artist, though! If you are only having an oral evaluation, then try to fill it out asap, as once we're done, I'm sure we're all moving on to other projects!!
- The visiting artist will have certificates for each of your students, which they will give you at the end of your evaluations. Remember, there are two

different certificates: One for playing by memory, and the other for playing with music. If you can let me know ahead of time how many you will need of each, that will help me prepare properly.

The above link also includes a copy of the permission slip the state supplies for students who will need to miss school and need to have their absences excused.

If you find that there is anything you don't understand, or need further information on, please do not hesitate to ask! For those teachers who plan to participate in our chapters honors competition, please provide an extra copy of your student schedule so that the visiting artist can verify participated to comply with the state rules.

Try to enjoy this wonderful educational opportunity.

All the best to you,
Julie Swienty

Chapter Honors Competition (CHC)

CHC is fast approaching! Please fill out the registration form attached at the end of this newsletter and return it to Julie Swienty by the general chapter meeting on January 8th at 9:30. We will draw for the order at that time. If you will not be at the meeting, please mail your registration to Julie Swienty ASAP at 29118 152nd AVE SE, Kent, WA 98042.

Treasurer's Report

As there are no significant changes in our financial accounts, there will not be a treasurer's report for January.

Happy Birthday in January!

Margaret Atherton
Dianne Nichols
Sviatlana Riedel
Dorothy Sica
Samantha Yeung

Studio Openings

Joanne Corr: Piano, clarinet; Fairwood, Renton Highlands; travels to students
Deanna Dent
Lynnette Emme
Sally Ramsden
Julie Swienty
Amy Weller
Gwendolyn Koch
Caroline Crabill

Registration Form
WSMTA South King County Chapter Honors Competition
Saturday, MARCH 3, 2018

Please complete the following and return by mail or in person to Julie Swienty
before the start of the January 8th, 2019 meeting (in my hands by 9:30 a.m.)

A random drawing (lottery) to determine playing order will be
conducted during the chapter meeting break.

Only those teachers who have completed the registration forms
(and have paid) will be eligible for the drawing. Results of the drawing are final.

TEACHER'S NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

NUMBER OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATING: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (\$35.00 PER STUDENT): _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

SOUTH KING COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
PRIOR TO JANUARY 8, FORMS AND CHECKS CAN BE MAILED TO:

Julie Swienty
29118 152nd Ave. SE,
Kent, WA 98042

Please contact Julie with questions at julieswienty@gmail.com or 253-266-7804.