

CONCENTO

June 1st, 2019

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Overture

As we near the end of the school year I always like to take time to reflect on my favorite teachers who shaped me, mentored me, and really taught and modeled for me how to teach. The three best pieces of teaching advice I ever received are:

1. Live in their world: We are older than (most of) our students and have had very different life experiences. By taking an interest in *their* interests we can relate music and technique to knowledge they already have (I've used soccer, baseball, Minecraft, and food references more times than I can count). We also build trust, the desire for them to work hard for us, and build empathy. Understanding family dynamics and current situations are also important (last year I had a student whose parents were going through a divorce, which I didn't learn about until months into the proceedings, and of course his practicing was affected).
2. What we say and what they hear are two different things: This is related to #1, of course. As I wrote earlier this year, each of us is hard-wired with different motivations and learning styles, and it is incumbent on us as teachers to make sure we aren't spouting off with whatever we think is important without ensuring our students are actually understanding it.
3. You have to love them all! This should come as no surprise, but can be difficult when not every student practices as much as they should or likes the same pieces we do! This is especially difficult when we see the potential for students when they don't always see it themselves. It is a critical part of our job to see- and mirror back to them- the inherent worth and value of each of our students.

This is my final column as editor of the *Concento*. It has been a pleasure to serve alongside you all in the mission of our local chapter of MTNA.

Kevin Peterson, editor

Next Chapter Meeting

The next chapter meeting will be on Tuesday, June 11th at Elena Aleksandrova's home in Renton at 9:30 am. Her address is 1214 N 26th St, Renton, WA 98056. Lena's house is very close to the Renton Landing and Gene Coulon Park. Take exit 5 or 6 from 405. This is a potluck, so please bring something to share! All officers and committee chairs are expected to be present.

Pedagogy Workshop with Oksana Ezhokina

Please let Julie Swienty know of your interest and available times for a possible pedagogy workshop with Dr. Oksana Ezhokina.

WSMTA Conference Updates

WSMTA still needs door monitors to help during the conference. Please click [here](#) to view the scheduling document and if you can't add your name, email Lena Aleksandrova or other state officers who have editing permission and can add your name. Thank you for volunteering!

Also, our chapter needs to know what pictures you would like to have shown that represent us and our work in the last year. If you have pictures you'd like shown please email them to Lena Aleksandrova.

Food For Thought

You may be interested in the article linked below, sent along by Julie Swienty, titled "The REAL Reason Kids Quit."

<https://www.lassenpiano.com/post/the-real-reason-kids-quit>

Chapter Basket for WSM TA Scholarship Silent Auction

We will contribute a "gardening" theme basket for the WSM TA Conference Silent Auction this year! See the following pictures for ideas. I hope to fill our basket with items such as:

- Gardening gloves
- Small gardening tools
- Small watering can
- Plant pots
- Seeds
- Bulbs
- Succulents
- Decorative items for plants and gardens
- Plant/gardening themed household items



If you would like to contribute anything, please let me know! I will collect items at the May 14th and June 11th chapter meetings. I will then purchase all other items to fill up our basket before bringing it to the conference June 19-21.

- Samantha Yeung



Seattle Piano Institute Showcase Recital

On Wednesday, July 17, at 12:30 p.m., the Seattle Piano Institute is hosting its complimentary 2019 Showcase Recital at the Katharyn Alvord Gerlich Theater (formerly the Meany Auditorium) in Meany Hall on the University of Washington campus. Under the direction of Professors Robin McCabe and Craig Sheppard, the Institute attracts top students from all regions



of the U.S. and several foreign countries, who audition for inclusion in an intensive 10-day curriculum of individual instruction, master classes and associated seminars. We are delighted to share the achievements of our most advanced students with the public in this afternoon of outstanding music! We hope that you will also join us for a short reception following the recital where you'll have the opportunity to meet and talk with some of the students.

The Gerlich Theater and Meany Hall are fully accessible, with parking in the University's Central Garage, which has elevator service directly to the theater. For more info contact amygrinsteiner@gmail.com or Barbara at 253-833-8558. Our own Nyaho is on the board, so this comes highly recommended!

Happy Birthday in May and June!

Gwendolyn Koch
Rosemary Havel
Julie Swienty
Amelia Park
Heather White
Gina Kim

Studio Openings

Deanna Dent
Julie Swienty