

CONCENTO

May 1st, 2019

Vol. 14, Issue 9

Overture

I've written before about our profession's frequent and pervasive obsession with perfection. Consider this: a baseball player can have a batting average of .300 (*failing* 70% of the time!) and be paid *millions* of dollars, whereas we are expected to get 100% of the notes right- and make it sound good! It is easy, then, for our students to be dejected, lazy, or feel like their practicing is not making a difference, all of which are roadblocks to Dr. Carol Dweck's term of a "growth mindset."

MTNA offered a great workshop a couple years ago on the values of positivity and how this can be encouraging to our students, leading them to a growth mindset and encouraging healthy practicing and improvement. Below are some valuable takeaways from that webinar:

- Ask more questions: "What went well?" "How did you succeed?" "Which spots do you wish were easier?"
- Dwell on the positive for at least 12 seconds. At least! And do it first.
- Positivity should outweigh negativity by a 5:1 ratio.
- "Fixing" comments should be framed in terms of "how to tell the story of the piece more effectively" as opposed to "this was bad/wrong/I didn't like it/you need to do it this way." It's not about you; it's about the music.
- Don't call something or someone good. If you do, students will simply focus on pleasing you. Instead, focus on the effort. For example: Instead of "That was good," try "Your phrasing sounds so much better this week." Instead of "You're such a good musician" (which discourages further improvement), say "The story of the piece came alive with your pedaling and articulation."

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- Our students aren't students. They are musicians. Call them and think of them as such.
 - Be humble. Say, "I don't know; let's look it up together."
 - Instead of asking what a student *should* have done, ask what they *could* do, which gives them agency and value.
 - Ask follow-ups to student's questions and ask them to defend their answers (in other words, validate their opinion, and then engage them in critical thinking).
 - Try a variety of techniques and let the student discover which worked best.
 - Ask your students to rephrase their own negativity (and call them on it!).
 - Avoid or outright ban words such as "sorry" and "good" in your studio.
 - Remind students that they do not have to apologize for themselves.
 - Offer choices (and find other ways to give students agency).
 - If a student doesn't like a piece, it's likely because some aspect of it is difficult, so try to find and resolve that issue and see if that improves their attitude.
 - Avoid routine.

Kevin Peterson, editor

Next Chapter Meeting

The next chapter meeting will be on Tuesday, May 14th at Zion Lutheran Church in Kent at 9:30 am.

Chapter Meeting Minutes

Please see the document attached at the end of this newsletter for minutes from the April chapter meeting.

Open Chapter Leadership Positions

Beginning with the June meeting, the following positions will need to be filled:

- Vice President: tentatively Julie Swienty
- Scholarship (potentially co-chair with Deanna Dent): *Your name here!*
- Newsletter editor: *Your name here!*
- MAP (potentially co-chair with Julie Swienty): tentatively Heather White
- Treasurer: tentatively Heather White
- Publicity: tentatively Lynnette Emme

Please let Kevin Peterson and current Co-President and President-Elect Lena Aleksandrova know if you are interested in serving in one of these positions.

South King County Voice MAP

The South King County Voice MAP was held on April 5 and 6 at Zion Lutheran Church in Kent. We had two excellent days of performing for and learning from our visiting artist, Denise Daverso from Olympia. The competition for the Honors Recitals representative was held on April 5. Ms. Daverso chose Allie Orozco to be the South King County Chapter Voice representative to the WSM TA State Conference Honors Recitals. Devan Toomey was chosen as the alternate, and Katie Bruhl received honorable mention. Allie and Devan are students of Nancy Gregory. Katie Bruhl is a student of Darcie Fulkerson.

Julie Swienty in Recital

Julie Swienty will be in recital on Sunday, May 5th with cellist Brian Wharton. Please see the flyer attached to the end of this newsletter for more information.

MAP Evaluations

Please submit your MAP Visiting Artist Evaluation by May 1st.

Chapter Basket for WSMTA Scholarship Silent Auction

We will contribute a "gardening" theme basket for the WSMTA 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*



Job Opening at Zion Lutheran Kent

Organist/Pianist part time position at Zion Lutheran, Kent WA

25105 – 132nd Ave. S.E. Kent, WA 98042-5601; 253-631-0100, zionkent.org

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Select and provide music for the weekly 8:30 a.m. Sunday services and other seasonal church services such as Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter - as well as for funerals and weddings held in the church, when available.
- Work cooperatively with the Pastor, the other church musicians and the Worship and Music committee in planning for worship services.

Skills and Qualifications:

- Ability to work well with others.
- Knowledge of organ and piano keyboard skills, and the ability to play hymns, liturgy and accompaniments at sight.
- Knowledge of basic music theory. Education preference for at least a B.A. in Music.
- Ability to play with accuracy and expression.
- Knowledge of the Lutheran church, matching appropriate keyboard music with themes of the church year.

Interested candidates should submit resumes to office@zionkent.org

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.

Studio Openings

Deanna Dent
Julie Swienty

SKC MTA Monthly Meeting

April 9th, 2019

Nominating Committee

Volunteers needed for Newsletter, Scholarship Chair.

Slate by next meeting.

Pedagogy with Dr. Oksana Ezhokina

We have the opportunity of a Pedagogy class for teachers by Dr. Ezhokina. Please send in your interests and ideas for this potential program: What would you like to see included in the program? What schedule would you be interested in? (Monthly, every other week, a more concentrated time in the summer, etc.)

Next State Conference

We have been asked to provide an auction basket, outright donation, or host a coffee break.

We need a poster for our chapter. (Sharing pictures of our events and programs)

WSMTA has a new logo

There will be a competition for the SKC logo in Fall 2019 with a \$100 reward.

Gibson Scholarship Process

One applicant this year. We will need to have a

Chapter discussions took place regarding whether we need concrete parameters for awarding the scholarship.

Announcement to the chapter: Look into the "Ten Grands" Piano Concert in May!

Northwest Artist Showcase

A Cello and Piano Recital Featuring
Northwest Artists:

Brian Wharton and Julie Swienty



Brian, Wharton, has soloed with many northwest orchestras. He plays in the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra and Principal cello of the

Works by: Tartini, Vitali, Cassado, Stark, and Piazzolla

Sunday, May 5, 3:00 pm

Green River Community College

Performing Arts Building, Bleha Auditorium

12401 SE 320th Street, Auburn, 98092

This concert is free, call 253-833-4941 for information