



CONCENTO

January 1, 2021

Vol. 17, Issue 1

Everyone:

My family has spent these last two weeks of December in Beirut, Lebanon, visiting my daughter who is a humanitarian worker here. From the apartment balcony, I am hearing traffic sounds and vibrant voices and a call to prayer. I am listening to “Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs” from Handel’s Messiah, featured today in my online advent devotional. I am recalling with joy and relief the five zoom recitals that my students performed for their grandparents with my help, a fine substitute for our annual holiday concert visit at the Wesley Homes retirement center and nursing home. On Christmas Eve, we attended a Maronite community’s midnight mass in the mountains above Beirut, among olive and cedar groves. The tonalities used were often surprising and the only strain I really recognized was the Gloria in Excelsis Deo, which we sang along with

the choir. (Have you ever seen the Mr Bean skit when he only knows the Hallelujah part of the hymn? Felt a bit like that!)

Passing into the new year in a country whose economy is absolutely broken but whose people maintain a joy of the present moment, an appreciation of diversity, and a commitment to hospitality both on the personal and national level, inspires me to bring these intentions into my own home and work life when I return. I know I will hit the ground running, planning for the scholarship fundraiser, MAP and chapter student recital, and helping my son stay sane while churning out his college applications, but what I have seen here will remind me to walk on, and embrace, and celebrate the small things, when I feel fear of the unknown or even failure. And I thank God for the musical soundtrack carrying us all along, providing reminders of hope, faith and common humanity.

Happy New Year, SKCMTA! I am looking forward to seeing you and your students this month!

Heather Forbes

If you have any students to refer, please remember that the following people have openings in their studios:

Tim & Cheryl Drews/piano/organ
Late Kindergarten - adult/piano
HS - adult/organ
cherylandtimdrewes@gmail.com

Chris Chapin/woodwinds/piano
Through intermediate
christopher.l.chapin@hotmail.com

Jessica Andrews/online studio only
Jessicaandrewsmusicstudio.com

Frances Hunsberger/piano
franhunsberger@gmail.com

Deanna Dent/piano
buforana@comcast.net

Important: Deadline for entry and payment for CHC is January 12 before 9:00am. Fee is \$35 per student. Please mail payment before January 12 to: Heather White
29118 152nd Ave SE, Kent, Wa. 98042

This month, our presenter will be Dr. Mario Ajero, beginning at 10:30. It will be a Masterclass, featuring three students from our chapter. Here is a bio of our presenter:

Dr. Mario Ajero, NCTM is Professor of Piano at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX where he teaches applied piano lessons, group piano classes, and piano pedagogy and serves as the keyboard area coordinator. He holds Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Music from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA and earned his Ph.D. in Music Education with a concentration in piano pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Ajero has served as Coordinator of Class Piano for Temple University's Music Prep Division and served as Lecturer in Piano for Temple University's Boyer College of Music and Dance in Philadelphia, PA. Internationally recognized as an authority in incorporating technology in piano pedagogy and music education, he is frequently sought as a presenter for conferences around the world. Recent engagements include presentations for The Peabody Institute at Johns Hopkins University, The Royal Conservatory, and The Frances Clark Center. In addition to presenting at every major piano pedagogy conference in the United States, Dr. Ajero has been invited to perform and present in Canada, Australia, Brazil, Germany, and China.

Virtual MAP: February 19-21, 2021

I am happy to report that we have 13 teachers and 181 students participating in MAP this year! I am working on the schedule and will send that out as soon as possible.

Student Evaluation Sheets and Student Schedule:

At our January meeting, I will demonstrate how we will use Google Docs to complete our Student Evaluation Sheets and Student Schedules.

Scanning Music:

You will need to scan your student's music for the Visiting Artist. Please download (and have your students download) a free PDF scanner on your phone. There are many apps available. The one I use is called "Fast Scanner." It's free and it works great!

Visiting Artists:

You can read more about our wonderful Visiting Artists here on our website: <https://www.skcmata.org/2021-map-visiting-artists>.

- Dr. Thomas Otten, NCTM will be connecting with us from Oregon
- Dr. Karen Savage, NCTM and Dr. Jeff Savage, NCTM will be connecting with us from Missouri (two hour time difference!)
- Dr. Mark Stevens, NCTM will be connecting with us from South Dakota (also a two hour time difference!)

It is so cool that we get to have them as our VAs, despite how far they live!

Chapter Fee:

If you haven't already sent in your chapter fee, please do so as soon as you can. SKCMTA charges an additional chapter fee of \$2.50 per student to cover costs of mailing, printing, copying, passing time, etc. anything else that comes up.

Please send your chapter fee checks to Heather White, SKCMTA Treasurer, at:2230 Rapid Lightning Road Sandpoint, ID 83864

Checks should be made payable to SKCMTA but the envelope needs to be addressed to Heather White.

I'm looking forward to our first virtual MAP!

Samantha Yeung, SKCMTA MAP Chair

Everyone:

Since I have physically relocated, I would like to remind everybody of our on-line reimbursement form located [here](#). If people utilize this form and upload/scan pictures of the receipts, I'm sent an email along with the receipts. There is no need to physically mail receipts or anything else to me. I check this email often (southkingcountymta@gmail.com) and watch for reimbursement requests. Also, I have found a local credit union that does co-op banking with BECU; therefore, I'm able to deposit all of our checks through this local credit union and straight into our account. Super easy and convenient!! I'll have financials for you following year-end. I'm already making deposits for the MAPs fees! Thank you to everybody for sending their checks to me.

Happy New Year to all of you!

Best regards,

Heather White, www.southsoundpiano.com

please note (206) 242-1093 has been disconnected as of Feb 2019. Please contact me via email for updated phone number

SKCMTA Concento January 1, 2021

SKCMTA, I hope you are getting excited to participate in our Gibson Memorial Scholarship online auction fundraiser, January 22-25, on [Charityauctionstoday.com](https://charityauctionstoday.com).

We have 20 prizes ranging from piano tuning vouchers to rock climbing passes, spring gardening kits to Starbucks gift cards, professional photos for your walls to professional composition lessons for your studio. You will want to CHECK IT OUT!

How to get set up to participate:

Go to: <https://charityauctionstoday.com>,

select sign in, then select create an account. When you receive a custom URL from me, which I will send out in the first week of January, that will allow you to connect to our specific auction on the site.

Please feel free to share the auction information with studio families only if they live within our South King County or Tacoma region (I will be delivering the material prizes when the auction is over).

Thank you for helping us reach our goal of raising \$1000 for our fund by providing and procuring prizes, and by visiting and bidding in the auction between January 22 and 25!

Heather Forbes, for the scholarship committee

heatherforbespiano@fastmail.fm

SKCMTA MUSIC FESTIVAL

Imagine pre-pandemic recitals happening again in South King County. Our chapter has reserved a wonderful venue with a lovely Boston grand piano for our members to book for their students' performances on **Saturday, June 5, 2021**. The fee is \$100 for 2 hours, payable by May 17, 2021 to SKCMTA. Please see details in the chapter yearbook, p. 17.

Location: Kent First Baptist Church, 11420 SE 248th St., Kent

Two-hour time slots follow:

9:00 – 11:00 AM (reserved by Mary Kaye Owen)

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM (OPEN_____)

1:00 – 3:00 PM (OPEN_____)

3:00 – 5:00 PM (OPEN_____)

5:00 – 6:00 PM (reserved by Jan Irvine)

To reserve a time, please contact chair Mary Kaye Owen (mary.k.owen@att.net).