

CONCENTO

October 30, 2020

Vol. 16, Issue 4

Happy Thanksgiving! (And Happy Halloween, too!)

Last month I wrote about the challenges of having a studio of diverse students, in the sense of learning styles. This month I am thinking of our challenging circumstances. I have a friend in Alabama, one I will be seeing soon, most probably, who commented recently, “Successful, talented people are often frustrated for a simple reason: The world is constantly disappointing them. They expect everyone to be like them, to work as hard as them, to care as much as them, to hold themselves to the same standards as they do. And if not that, at the very least, they expect people to show up and do their jobs.” Ever feel this way about your piano students? And their parents?

My husband is an engineer. These folks tend to be methodical, down-to-earth types. No frills, but definitely accuracy. It has pained him to see people in authority act in insulting, demeaning ways toward employees or clients; we have seen our mail smashed into the box because of a hurried mail carrier; piano students dash into my house without a mask to use the bathroom though I have clear rules about not doing either thing. And more. It’s understandable to not like this, but our feelings often make other people miserable, too. Sometimes in our aggravation we externalize our values on others. Inflexibility can make our world worse.

The point my friend was making was that sometimes the difference between our expectations and reality make us angry. It’s hard going through life feeling that it doesn’t measure up to our standards. While it’s good to have standards, and that is no doubt what makes us excellent piano teachers, it is also wonderful to be patient. And to be flexible and tolerant with other people, wherever they are on life’s spectrum. We shouldn’t let ourselves get away with anything less. Thanks, Leonard!

Best, Jan

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

Our business meeting will take place first this month, at 9:30am. Our presentation will begin at 10:30am on November 10!

"The Secret Lives of Phrases: lies, near lies, and red herrings Why is phrasing so difficult to notate? Find out the reasons and what to listen and look for in the score." by Dr. Deborah Rambo-Sinn. Please send questions to Julie if you have them.

I will send an email Zoom invitation link the day before.

Virtual Music Artistry Program (MAP)

MAP will be held virtually via Zoom this year! The dates are Friday-Sunday, February 19-21, 2021.

The registration deadline for MAP is Tuesday, December 22, 2020. Registration can be completed on www.wsmta.org.

I have received estimates from the following teachers:

Julie Swienty

Stephanie White

Andrea Hildebrandt

Mary Kaye Owen

Deanna Dent

Dianne Nichols

Heather Forbes

William Chapman Nyaho

Sviatlana Riedel

Samantha Yeung

Jan Irvine

Jessica Andrews-Hall

If you are not on this list but expect to register students for MAP, please email Samantha Yeung at c.samantha.yeung@gmail.com.

Our Visiting Artists are Dr. Karen Hsiao Savage, NCTM, Dr. Jeffrey Savage, NCTM, Dr. Mark Stevens, NCTM, and Dr. Thomas Otten, NCTM. Please read on for their biographies!



Dr. Karen Hsiao Savage, NCTM

Praised as a "tour de force" (Santa Barbara News-Press), for the "breathtaking beauty and pure lyricism" of her playing (Le Soleil, Vancouver), and for her "fearless performance" (The Straits Times, Singapore), Karen Hsiao Savage is Associate Professor of Collaborative Piano and Chamber Music at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) Conservatory. She holds a doctoral degree and two master's degrees in both solo and collaborative piano from Juilliard, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Victoria (Canada).

Active as a collaborative pianist, she has performed internationally in such venues as Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall, Merkin Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Shanghai Grand Theatre, and the

Perlman Music Program in New York and Shanghai. Her performances have been broadcast on internationally syndicated NPR programs, and Vietnamese and Chinese national television. Her diverse collaborations include recent performances with the Spokane String Quartet, violist Masumi Rostad, oboist Keri McCarthy, clarinetist Shannon Scott, and euphonium player Chris Dickey. Committed to working with living composers, Karen has given international and recording premieres of works by Daniel Ott on Navonna/PARMA Records (2019) and will perform Matthew Fuerst's new piano trio with violinist Hyeyoung Yoon and cellist Gregory Beaver in 2020.

Karen's piano duo 88SQUARED with husband Jeffrey Savage received critical praise for international premieres of Liebermann's Sonata for Two Pianos, and were invited by the composer to record his complete works for two pianos on Albany Records. The duo won the Ellis Duo Piano Competition, the Abild Prize in American Music, and second prize and a special mention award at Concours Grieg International Competition (Norway).

Dr. Savage is in demand as a presenter, adjudicator, and guest teacher. Her students are active in the field as performers and teachers, and have been awarded competitive graduate assistantships at major programs. She previously served on the faculty of Washington State University. Her recent performances, master classes, and presentations include those at Indiana University, Eastman School of Music, Musi-Quest National Piano Festival (India), Ho Chi Minh Conservatory (Vietnam), and Yong Siew Toh Conservatory (Singapore). Karen's major teachers include Jonathan Feldman, Veda Kaplinksy, Margo Garrett, Sam Sanders, Robin and Winifred Wood and Edward Parker; additional studies were with Anne Epperson and Robert McDonald.

Dr. Jeffrey Savage, NCTM

Jeffrey Savage is active internationally as both soloist and chamber musician and has been praised as “fearless” (Straits Times, Singapore), “joyful and inspiring” (American Record Guide), and “breathtaking” (Navona/PARMA). Recent performances include China’s Wuhan Conservatory (Liszt’s Totentanz), premieres of Daniel Ott’s Fantasy on a Falling Line in New York and Vietnam, and broadcasts on national NPR stations.

His piano duo 88SQUARED recorded the complete two-piano works of Daniel Ott (Navona/PARMA) and Lowell Liebermann (Albany Records), produced by the composers. Jeffrey has also worked with Tania León, Laura Schwendinger, John Corigliano, Charles Argersinger, Eric Ewazen, and Alex Shapiro, among others.

Savage has performed in Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie’s Weill Hall, at festivals across the United States, and with orchestras in New York, Pennsylvania, Louisiana and in the Pacific Northwest. He has given performances and master classes nationally and at major conservatories throughout Asia, including China, Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, and India. Jeffrey has won top prizes and been recognized in national and international competitions, including the Missouri Southern International, Fort Collins, Wideman Competitions, Ellis Piano Duo Competition, the Abild Prize in American Music, and second prize and a Special Mention Prize at Concours Grieg International Piano Competition (Oslo).

Students of Jeffrey Savage have been accepted at prestigious festivals and programs across North America and Europe, awarded Fulbright fellowships, and presented at national MTNA and Collegiate Piano Pedagogy Symposium conferences. Previously, Dr. Savage was professor and keyboard area coordinator at Washington State University and in both the college and pre-college divisions at Juilliard. He holds master’s and doctorate degrees from The Juilliard School and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Colorado. His major teachers include Angela Cheng, Yoheved Kaplinsky, Robert Spillman, Martin Canin, and Rudolph Barta. He frequently presents workshops, and adjudicates at regional and national festivals and competitions.



Dr. Mark Stevens, NCTM

Dr. Mark Stevens enjoys a dynamic career as a solo pianist, collaborative artist, teacher, adjudicator, and arts administrator. He is thrilled to join the School of Performing Arts faculty at South Dakota State University beginning in August 2020! Dr. Stevens' experience as a pianist ranges from traditional piano repertoire to contemporary music, including living composers. As an advocate for 20th and 21st century music, he performs a diverse range of repertoire, with a special affinity for American composers. In recital, he engages audiences through thematic programming, juxtapositions of unique repertoire, and colorful insights about music, composers, and cultural context. An active collaborative pianist, he routinely coaches and performs with both vocalists and instrumentalists. His passion for chamber music leads him to blend chamber and solo repertoire to create concert programs of unusual variety and depth.

An active and passionate teacher for almost two decades, Dr. Stevens has repeatedly been awarded for the quality of his instruction. His students have won nearly 20 prizes in competitions including the Seattle Young Artists Music Festival, and the Northwest Bach, Viennese Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary Piano Festivals. He is regularly invited to adjudicate and teach throughout the Pacific Northwest. He has recently adjudicated for the MTNA, WSMTA, OMTA, WMEA, and the National Federation of Music Clubs. He has given masterclasses and workshops for universities, music teacher organizations, private studios, and music academies throughout Oregon and Washington. As a graduate student, he received the University of Oregon's 2017 award as the Outstanding Graduate Performer in Piano Pedagogy as well as MTNA recognition for his teaching excellence while earning a Masters of Music degree in Piano Pedagogy at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His academic teaching experience includes piano literature, piano pedagogy, aural skills, opera coaching, recreational class piano, and keyboard skills.

Dr. Stevens holds graduate degrees in piano performance and piano pedagogy from the University of Oregon and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He completed his undergraduate studies in piano performance at Whitworth University in Spokane, WA. He has served as a member of the faculty at Washington State University, the University of Oregon, the Chopin Academy of Music, as an instructor of piano, class piano, and aural skills at Cornish College of the Arts, and as a graduate teaching fellow in collaborative piano and piano pedagogy at the University of Oregon and University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His primary teachers include Dean Kramer, Paul Barnes, Peter Mack, David Riley, and Judith Schoepflin, and he has performed in masterclasses with artists including Jon Nakamatsu and the Chiara String Quartet.



Dr. Thomas Otten, NCTM

Thomas Otten, a California native born of German-American parents, has been hailed by the New York Times as “an extremely original player who puts a formidable technique at the service of his ideas.” He made his debut at age seventeen with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center, and has since developed a global profile through performances in New York, Washington, Los Angeles, St. Petersburg, Sydney, Munich, Frankfurt, and Milan, including such venues as Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Severance Hall, the German Embassy, and the National Press Club. He has given guest artist recitals and masterclasses at top music schools and conservatories, such as the Rimsky-Korsakov St. Petersburg State Conservatory in Russia, the Munich Hochschule für Musik in Germany, as well as the Eastman School of Music, The Juilliard School, and Oberlin Conservatory in the U.S.

A recipient of numerous national and international awards, Dr. Otten has studied with artist teachers John Perry and Nelita True, and worked intensively with biomechanics

expert Barbara Lister-Sink. He has been on the faculties of the International Young Artists Project (Italy), Saarburger Serenaden International Music Festival (Germany), the American Institute of Musical Studies (Austria), and the Kent/Blossom Festival (Ohio), as well as concerto soloist at the Chautauqua and Brevard Summer Festivals. He has been a member of competition juries in the U.S. and abroad, and was founder of the Kent Piano Seminar in Ohio, as well director of the UNC Liszt Festival, UNC Etude Festival, and the Ginastera Centennial Celebration in North Carolina. His discography includes transcriptions of Franz Liszt and a premiere recording of etudes by African American composer Leslie Adams. He is committed to diverse music of our time, having also premiered works by electronic music expert Frances White and jazz pianist/composer Joe Utterback.

Dr. Otten is Professor of Piano at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he is currently on leave; previously he was chair of piano at Kent State University. His former students include prize-winning concert artist Andrew Tyson, along with other professional musicians who are active throughout the country. His collaborations include the Miami and Vega String Quartets, violinist Richard Luby, as well as baritone Marc Callahan and soprano Louise Toppin.



CHC: currently 26 have been estimated to participate. By **November's meeting**, I hope to have a more set estimate, as well as more details on how the competition will be run. Some key things to remember:

- Please remember that to participate, you must also enroll in MAP!
- There is a limit of 8 minutes of total playing time.
- Currently, the plan is to have every student play on the same instrument, using the same recording device, so that the playing field is even.

The actual entry deadline is **January 11th** (the day before our meeting). For this deadline, teachers are making a commitment to an exact number of students participating. I must receive

your check (no cash or checks from students, please) by the 11th too! Mail your check or drop it off to me at 29118 152nd Ave SE, Kent, WA 98042. Please be aware that currently it is taking more than 5 days for local mail to get to me (several of my students mailed their checks prior to October 1, and I didn't receive them until October 14!). Do not wait until the last minute!!

All the details, such as student's names, list of compositions/composers, and accurate estimates of how long it takes for the student to play each of their pieces (in minutes and seconds) **will be submitted by February 1** (email only please!). I will then have a schedule for everyone by the February 9th meeting, so that students and parents can plan accordingly.

Thanks, everyone!

SKCMTA Online Auction, January 22-25

Our 2020 Gibson scholarship recipients are hard at work in their freshman college music classes right now. And we are already beginning to raise money for the next scholarship award season - looking forward to blessing another student or students this spring with college tuition assistance.

This month, I would like our members' assistance in securing donations for our 2021 fundraiser, which is an online auction to be held January 22-25.

Please consider what you can donate, and please ask your studio community if they have something they can share as well. So far my studio has donated a case of wine, a professionally decorated cake for any occasion, and a piano tuning. We teachers can donate our skills (a master class, for example) or a selection of like-new teaching books. What else? Maybe a gift certificate to your favorite restaurant, or to a massage therapist, or a weekend away at your Airbnb. Please send me a description, a photo and an estimate of the value of any items you are able to give/find. Please put the word "auction" in the subject line; my email is heatherforbespiano@fastmail.fm.

Do invite your studio communities to both contribute an item for the auction and to plan on participating in it on January 22-25. The more the merrier!

Thank you,

Heather Forbes, heatherforbespiano@fastmail.fm

Minutes for October meeting:

Diana discussed the recent district conference. Thank you, Nyaho for your contributions to it!

Diane Hidy gave a wonderful presentation with tips and ideas for us.

YAMS: Julie said the response has been lukewarm due to Zoom.

Mary Kaye mentioned that there are no mailing addresses in our yearbook.

Music Festival will be June 6 in 2 hour increments. \$100. It will be held at 1st Baptist Church in Kent. Please contact Mary Kaye if you are interested. Deadline is the 17th.

MAP - will be held February 19-21. \$2.50 per student due to Zoom.

Fine Arts Recital will be in March. Details following.

Heather Forbes is organizing Bidding Owl for our June 22-25 auction. Families, as well as teachers need to be thinking about what they can contribute.

Steve Nehrenburg says there will be an extended signup for the theory test due to Covid.

Svetlana says there will be information on the student recital next month.

Congratulations to Stephanie White for her new baby!

Congratulations to Dorothy as our new NCTM.

Upcoming chapter meeting will be on phrasing on November 10. Deborah Rambo-Sinn will give it.

