

# Tuning Up!

The Rockland County Music Teachers Guild

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## *“Out Damn’d Spot. Out I Say”*

### **Creative Solutions to Those Disagreeable Problem Passages in Piano Repertory**

Sondra Tammam invites us each to bring some piece or pieces that give us and our students agita. You can email her directly before we meet, or just bring the piece along - it can be a teaching piece or from standard repertoire. She will walk us through various problem solving techniques to banish our woes or at least give us some ways to improve technique and make it easier to concentrate on music-making. This will be a ‘hands-on’ workshop enhanced by the approach of the late Dorothy Taubman, world –renowned pedagogue. Sondra Tammam has been a long time friend of the RCMTG, presenting programs for us on the Taubman Technique and most recently on Beethoven Sonatas. We always find her delightful and informative.

If you have missed her in the past or enjoyed her programs, don’t miss this meeting-it should be a lot of fun!

Send her your piece to: [tammams@mail.montclair.edu](mailto:tammams@mail.montclair.edu)

Her impressive bio is on the Montclair State University website.

*April 8, \* 2015*

*Wednesday, 10 A.M.*

*Rockland Conservatory of Music*

*Pearl River, New York*

*\*note date is the second Wednesday of the month  
due to religious holiday.*



Recognized internationally as a performer and pedagogue, Sondra Tammam has received enthusiastic acclaim for her performances in North America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. A graduate of the Manhattan School of Music and the Juilliard School, where she received Bachelor and Master of Music degrees respectively, her teachers have included the late Edwin Hughes, Jeannette Haien, Dora Zaslavsky, Constance Keene and Rosina Lhevinne. Ms. Tammam has served as Associate Professor at the Manhattan School of Music, Classical Music Coordinator of the Summer Arts Institute at Rutgers University, Visiting Professor at Tunghai University in Taiwan, and guest lecturer at Amherst College, Dartmouth College, Georgia State University, Montclair State University and others.

## *President's Message*

As I write this message we are finally experiencing a thaw in temperatures and I watch the snow retreat. Snowdrops and silvery pussywillow buds are peeking out. By the time this message reaches you I assume that ice and snow will be a condition we have gladly put aside.

Why is it I feel like someone who's going on a hike and stumbling because she's looking behind her? It's definitely time to turn around and look ahead at the path - like those essential rules in sightreading - look ahead, eyes on the page, stay on the beat. Not only can I feel that the air is warming up, I should be making sure students are building music-making into their summer plans. It isn't icy sidewalks that keep me from moving forward, but a tendency to ignore something sitting right in front of me: the calendar. Trying now to find a recital date in June that everyone can come to I am face-to-face with failure. And yet...

I'm reminded of my dear old friend, Ferdinand the Bull, who "liked to sit just quietly and smell the flowers..." Despite all efforts to prod him into battling in the bull ring he ends up on his little hillside under a cork tree surrounded by a field of flowers, and "he is very happy." Blessings on Munro Leaf and Robert Lawson for writing that little book.

Are we busy? Yes. Are our students busy? Yes? Do we all have to rush around madly? No. But after you sniff that daffodil, take my advice and do a little advance planning.

**Hospice** would like to find one or two volunteers to play piano at the Joe Raso Hospice Home perhaps once a week for an hour, for patients and their families. They have an okay upright piano in working order in a large and modern living room space.

This could be a worthwhile volunteer job. Contact Noell Goldberg: noellgoldberg@gmail.com.

The Hospice is located at 415 Buena Vista Road in New City. This is NOT for student performers.

**Rockland Symphony Orchestra** is presenting the Young People's Concert - with winners of the 2014 Rockland County Music Teachers Guild Concerto Competition: clarinetist Neerav Kumar and pianist Hannah Lin. Concert is at the Rose Concert Hall at Green Meadow Waldorf School on Sunday, April 12 at 4 pm. Please come and support these marvelous young performers! Ed Simons will be conducting.

### **Guild Audition Applications**

should be arriving on Bette Glenn's or Rhoda Forte's desks by the April 3rd deadline. Once these applications are checked, students will be assigned a number and a time and place for their audition on May 3rd. This information and the forms to bring (to be filled out by the teacher) will be mailed to each teacher. Once you receive your packets, make sure your students read the directions and bring all forms and music to the assigned location on May 3rd. We wish all our students a wonderful experience this year and hope they have enjoyed preparing their programs! Teachers - we need volunteers to help on Auditions Day - please contact Bette Glenn at 845-627-2588.

Our member **Barbara Farruggia** announces that her children...Cristina and Robert Farruggia, wrote a musical called *On the Air*, and they are doing it in concert version on April 12th at 3 PM at Antrim Playhouse in Suffern, NY. The show is based on the lives of Jack and Loretta Clemens, a real life Vaudeville sibling duo that went on to star in Radio and TV. The score pays homage to the golden age of Broadway, and the story has the adventure of *Annie Get Your Gun*, the drama of *Gypsy*, and the heart of *Funny Girl*.

For more information, visit: [www.ontheairthemusical.com](http://www.ontheairthemusical.com)

Kay Swensen's son, Ian, a **Naumberg Award-winning violinist**, will be performing on Monday, May 23rd at 8 PM at Weill Recital Hall. The program is Bartok Solo Sonata for Violin, Debussy Sonata for violin and piano (with pianist Jeffrey LaDeur) and Chausson concerto for violin with piano and string quartet (the Telegraph Quartet). Ian and his colleagues for this concert all work at the San Francisco Conservatory. The Quartet has recently won the Fischhoff Competition. Kay is offering comps to RCMTG members if you contact her ASAP - she has access to only a certain number of them - so be quick if you're interested! It will surely be a beautiful concert. You can contact Kay by phone: 735-5928, or email: [kikuesw@yahoo.com](mailto:kikuesw@yahoo.com).

### **Calendar**

**April 3...**deadline for Audition Applications

**April 8....**General Meeting at Rockland Conservatory 10 a.m – 'Out Damn'd Spot' ...Sondra Tammam

**April 12...**Young People's Concert 4 pm. Rose Concert Hall at Green Meadow Waldorf School.

**May 3 ....**RCMTG Auditions- see reminder

**May 6....** General Meeting at Rockland Conservatory 10. a.m. .. 'Becoming a 'Techie' Teacher' with Aleksei Stevens

**May 17....**Blue and Gold Recital at the Nyack College...more details to be announced.