

A Newsletter of the Rockland County Music Teachers Guild

Tuning Up!

June, 2016 volume 55 no.6

rcmtg.org

P.O. Box 283, New City, NY 10956

End of Year Luncheon

An end of year celebration of the wonderful programs we presented and a look ahead to the next year and how we can answer the needs of the teachers who have joined our ranks. This year we honor our valued member George Bryant who is the only charter member of the Guild still serving in an active position on the Guild board. We will also elect new board members and vote on the new changes to our constitution.



Wednesday, June 1st at 11:30 a.m.

Lynch's Restaurant-Route 9W-Stony Point NY details inside newsletter

Letter from the President.....



I am ready to make a toast to another amazing year of teaching, learning and making music. Everything else that makes life worthwhile: family, friends, the natural world - all coalesce and inform your artistic endeavors. Keep enriching your lives whenever you can this summer: a walk in the woods, a meal with friends, a tender hug for the someone you love - it all will make its way seamlessly and vitally into your musical life, if you keep your heart open.

-Tedo

Letter of Thanks and Audition Report.....Marie Cowen

Audition year 2016 took us back to the Rockland Conservatory of Music but this time to its Pearl River location. Our piano students had the opportunity to perform their selections on Steinway Grand Pianos. Our instrumentalists and vocal students were able warm up and/or tune their instruments with little interference with the performance of those being adjudicated at the time.

My special thanks to all members of the guild who graciously volunteered to help.

Our president, Fredrica Wyman deserves a special medal for the countless times I called upon her to clarify or mediate a particular issue. She spent weeks contacting judges which is one of the most difficult aspects of the audition process. A special thank you to our Hospitality Chairperson, Suzanne Coletta who came early on Sunday to bring breakfast treats and set up the luncheon for our judges and monitors who were with us all day.

I'm grateful to Rhoda Forte and Kikue Swensen who helped at the Conservatory and with the programs for our Blue & Gold Recital. Special thanks to Barbara Malagraph for the Blue & Gold Recital Program along with my appreciation to Victoria and Yuri Persion who designed and printed the certificates for all participating students.

With special thanks to the following members who gave of their time to make Audition Day 2016 a success: Bette Glenn, Marilyn Hazan, Arlene Linke, Elaine Swaebe, Lana Tonkoschkur, Rosemary Waltzer, John Ward and Helen Wolff.

Thanks to all the teachers who had their students participate in the auditions this year.

The beautiful sounds emanating from Simon's Hall and Studio #10 brightened a very gloomy, rainy Sunday.

-Marie Cowen, Audition Chair

OUR NOMINATING BOARD PRESENTS THIS SLATE

Vice President: Jennifer Eyges

Treasurer: Rosemary Waltzer

Corresponding Secretary: Carole Tilson

LUNCHEON DETAILS

Luncheon cost: \$22. (includes tax and tip) You may pay your dues with your luncheon fee at the door.

Entree choices:

Eggplant Rollantini

Chicken Franchise

Blackened Bass with Mango Salsa

Carved NY Strip Steak

Lynch's Restaurant is on Route 9W in Stony Point. If you are traveling North, the restaurant will be on your LEFT hand side, (before bridge)

Phone # [845-553-9300](tel:845-553-9300)

Please RSVP to Suzanne Coletta by May 25th (Wed) at:
SuzanneColetta@gmail.com or call 845 638 2554

Please find our Dues form enclosed with this newsletter. You may send your dues to our Treasurer: Rosemary Waltzer at 16 Sandusky Road in New City, NY 10956

We will also vote on our revised Constitution at the Luncheon. So please read it. Any questions you have or clarification you need will be answered so that a vote can go forward at this time.

Impromptu:

Last month we asked how you respond to an inquiry from a prospective family who is interested in piano lessons for their child, but has neither a piano nor a keyboard.

Here are a few responses:

Marie Cowen:

- 1- I suggest the parent rent a piano from a reputable dealership with the understanding that if the piano is purchased the rental fee will be refunded
2. Looking in local newspapers where "piano for sale" ads can be found. Sometimes, pianos are being donated for free with the understanding that recipient will pay for the cost of moving, tuning, etc.
3. Purchasing an electronic keyboard with a full 88 keyboard. I usually remind parents that the pedals should be fully attached to the instrument and that the bench be included in the price. (Many parents are unaware of hidden costs, etc.)
4. I had a call from a parent who wanted her two children to begin lessons. The family was looking for a used piano but had not found one yet. The question posed was: "Can't you start the children with note reading, rhythm exercises, just to get them started?" Hmm.....I could lose two students because this parent was intent upon getting her children started. I decided to give them a few lessons using a "paper keyboard," purchased at a local music store. I started their lessons with basic theory work, notes, and rhythm exercises, along with playing simple tunes on my piano which they then practiced on their paper keyboard. Amazingly, it worked! They loved coming here and finding that they could play as well as hear what they succeeded in learning at home at the kitchen table. This is their second season of study with everyone enthusiastic about their progress. Yes, they have a piano now.

Victoria Persion:

I have a spare full size keyboard in my studio that I loan to a new student for a month in case they have no piano, but would like to start lessons. I usually help only with advice. In case they are looking for a used piano, I always recommend consulting a professional piano tuner. Lately I had parents who were ready to buy a good new keyboard, used piano in good condition, but not a new piano.

From the very first conversation I make sure that parents understand that they will have to purchase a piano or a good keyboard. I provide my keyboard only in the situation when parents are not sure how serious the child is about taking lessons, and afraid that after a couple of lessons will lose interest and quit. After a month I don't mind if they keep my keyboard a little longer, if I know that they are looking for a piano to purchase. So far, it worked :)