

A Newsletter of the Rockland County Music Teachers Guild

# Tuning Up!

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rcmtg.org

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

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## BEYOND THE PAGE

This workshop is a sweep through elements of improvisation of the Carl Orff Schulwerk inspiring creativity in young musicians in all studies of music.

## OUR SPEAKER: JUDITH THOMAS

As a frequent piano teacher, throughout her long career, Judith Thomas has seen the need for elemental improvisation (side by side with reading) in the early training of young pianists.

Her workshop will focus on improvisation relating to rhythms, meters, harmonies, elemental forms of speech play, movement, drama and relation to masterworks to further bring children to the realization of their musical talents.



**Dress comfortably and bring your fingers and creative spirit**

**Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, at 10 a.m.**

Rockland Conservatory of Music 45 S. Main St. Pearl River NY



Letter from the President.....

I know I'm supposed to pass along pearls of wisdom here, but my head is swimming with music from too many projects. My arms and shoulders are aching from recent over-enthusiastic garden efforts, not, alas, from practicing for the above musical projects. I can't bring myself to think beyond mid-May when my first grandchild is due to be born. It's a good thing I keep a reliable calendar. I am showing up. Woody Allen says that's 80% of success, so I guess I'm doing okay Tedo Wyman

About our Speaker, Judith Thomas

Judith Thomas holds a BME from Illinois Wesleyan University, and an MM in piano performance and conducting from the U. of Illinois. A teacher of the Orff Schulwerk approach in the Nyack Public Schools for 37 years, Judith is an internationally known author and music educator, having taught in over 45 universities as an adjunct professor for 5 decades, among them UCLA (World Music) New York University (Orff Schulwerk Certification) and at Symposia at the Orff Institute in Salzburg, Austria and Dartington, England. She most recently presented in Prague at their International Orff Conference in 2014, and this past January, 2015 was invited to teach in Taipei at their Arts University and Taichung at the Orff Schulwerk headquarters in Taiwan.

Her publications include a college text, "The Word in Play: Language, Music, and Movement in the Classroom", Thomas/Katz, Brookes; "The Raccoon Philosopher", Thomas/Gagne, Schott; a musical for upper grades based on a story by Martin Buber featuring modes and mixed meters; "Greek Myths in Modes", Thomas/Gagne, Beatin Path and two "music minus pine" beginning soprano recorder books with beguiling composed accompaniments by Judith's son, Christopher Thomas: "Three to Get Ready" and "Here and Now".

Judith continues to play classical concerts at numerous venues in the Capital area where she resides: hospitals, libraries, and independent and assisted living centers in NY, and Vermont. She is also the current Music Director of the UU Church in Saratoga Springs.

Special attention: A revised copy of our Constitution is enclosed with this newsletter. Please read it and see the changes, ask questions at next meeting if you have any, and be ready to vote on it at our annual Luncheon in June when all matters of business concerning the Guild are discussed.