

# Tuning Up!

*A Newsletter of the Rockland County Music Teachers Guild.  
Volume 54, No. 4. www.rcmtg.org. PO Box 283, New City, NY 10956*

**Greg Hesselink**, esteemed cellist, will conduct a master class with the youth quartet of Nyack High School in a performance of a movement of Borodin's String Quartet.

**Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at 10 a.m.**



Any teacher who has students who make music with other people - accompanying, singing, duet playing, making music in any ensemble setting knows - it requires special skills in communication and shared group interpretation. How musicians make those choices and how they come together is something all teachers can learn. We hope you will attend.



## **About our Speaker: Greg Hesselink**

Greg Hesselink has been teaching and performing in New York City for more than 20 years. Before moving to New York, he studied chamber music with the Cleveland Quartet, as well as members of other quartets including Juilliard, Alban Berg, Tokyo, Prague, Bartok, Emerson, Mendelssohn and Orion. He also coached with other notable chamber musicians : Gilbert Kalish, Julius Levine and Jan DeGaetani. He attended the Interlochen Arts Academy, and holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and SUNY Stony Brook. His primary teachers were Steven Doane, Timothy Eddy and Crispin Campbell, as well as summer studies with Janos Starker, Aldo Parisot, Orlando Cole and Stephen Geber.

Known for his musical flexibility, Mr. Hesselink has distinguished himself in the world of new music as a member of the Naumburg winning New Millennium Ensemble, the Locrian Chamber Players, Sequitur, Newband and the League of Composers Orchestra. He is also a former member of Argento, the Manhattan Sinfonietta and the Bang on a Can "Spit" Orchestra, and has performed with many the Flux Quartet, the Group for Contemporary Music, Talea, and with the dance companies of Mark Morris, Cedar Lake, Merce Cunningham, Nai Ni Chen and Cherylyn Lavagnino Dance.

He has premiered more than 150 works including concertos by James Tenney (on the tenor violin), Ross Bauer and Daniel Weymouth. Mr. Hesselink also performs more traditional music as principal cello of the Riverside Symphony, the Mosaic Quartet, as a former member of New York Philomusica, many summers at Monadnock Music, and performances and tours with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.

Performance venues include Lincoln Center, the Library of Congress, Donaueschinger Musiktage (Germany), Spoleto Festival (Italy), Salihara Festival (Indonesia), Klasik Keyifler (Turkey) and other festivals throughout North America, Europe and Asia. He currently teaches at Mannes prep and Hunter College, and during the summer at Apple Hill. Recordings Koch, Albany, Wergo, Innova, PPI, Point Records and NY Philomusica Records.

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

"It was so heart-warming last weekend to hear our two winners of the Concerto Competition perform with the Rockland Symphony. Not only was it exciting for them and wonderful for us to hear, but it demonstrated the value of this high goal we offer to our teachers in their work with skilled students. I would have wished that more applause could have been directed towards the two teachers this year, Fei Zhao and Carole Tilson, as we all know how much energy, time and focus is required to bring a student up to an advanced level. That said, I applaud all of our teachers for their on-going dedication, year after year, helping students aim toward their greatest potential. Not all students will perform a concerto. For some of our students, gaining some level of musical fluency and appreciation for music will be the lofty goal. Hats off to us all!"

**Tedo Wyman**

Stay tuned to our RCMTG Facebook page - we are about to initiate a "Members Only Forum" which will provide all our teachers with a place to share ideas, inspiration, questions and dialogue about issues of pedagogy. Barbara Malagraph has generously offered to moderate the forum. We will let you know when it's "up and running" ... a great opportunity for members who cannot get to the programs on Wednesday to share their perspectives. You need to join Facebook to be involved. It doesn't cost the Guild any money and the site will be open to those members who sign up for it.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### A letter from Tammy Lum

Dear Friends,

I am happy to share with you that my solo CD, "Ballades and Ballads" has been released on 9/15/15. It is now available on Amazon . -Tammy

A passionate narrative and sensitive poetry on the piano, including the complete set of all four Chopin Ballades, and those by Granados and Ponce. Sentimental love songs by Gershwin/Wild, and a beautiful original composition by Chiang/Lum.

### Accompanist Needed

The Rockland County Catholic Choir needs an accompanist as soon as possible. Rehearsals are in Nyack on November 3, 15, 29 and December 6. - culminating in a concert the weekend of December 18.

Contact: Scott Walters at 845-558-1225 or scottthetenor@yahoo.com

### Carnegie Concert Series at the Nyack Library presents:

The IRIS String Quartet in music of Mozart, Jerome Kern (Smoke Gets In Your Eyes) and Smetana. Sunday, November 1, at 2 PM. \$10 Donation to Nyack Library.

Register for this program by calling 358-3370 ext. 214 or go to nyacklibrary.org

This is a wonderful new group with some members who live here in Rockland-Désirée Elsevier and Annamae Goldstein. All quartet players perform at the Metropolitan Opera. Friends of Nyack Library are sponsoring it. We highly recommended you attend and send a message to Nyack Library that they continue their support for classical music through presenting concerts.

## MEET YOUR BOARD

### Officers:

President: Fredrica Wyman

Vice President: George Bryant

Treasurer: Rosemary Waltzer

Recording Secy.: Arlene Linke

Corresponding Secy.: Elaine Swaebe

### Committee Heads:

Membership: Marilyn Hazan

Auditions: Marie Cowen

Hospitality: Suzanne Coletta

Marathon: Marilyn Hazan

Newsletter: Rhoda Forté/Will Rich

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### November 4 (Wednesday at 10 a.m.)

"Chamber Music & the Art of Togetherness" with Greg Hesselink

### December 2 (Wednesday at 10 a.m.)

Rockland Conservatory of Music "Am I Allowed To Do That" with Martha Mooke

### December 5/6 (Sat and Sun. -all day)

Annual Marathon at Palisades Center beginning at 10.30am until 5:30pm - to benefit "Helping Hands of Rockland"

### January 23 (Saturday at 6 pm)

Jamboree Pot Luck Dinner at the home of Rosemary and Adrian Waltzer, New City

### March 2 (Wednesday 10 a.m.)

Rockland Conservatory of Music "Round Table on Pedagogy" ... members participate

### April 6 (Wednesday at 10 a.m.)

Vocal Program in preparation (details in next newsletter)

### May 1 (Sunday)

All Day RCMTG Auditions at the Rockland Conservatory of Music

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## May 4 (Wednesday at 10 a.m.)

"Beyond the Page" with Judith Thomas

## May 15 (Sunday Afternoon)

Blue and Gold recital of Audition winners

## June 1 (Wednesday at 11:30 a.m.)

Annual Luncheon - Place to be announced.

### IMPROMPTUS

A page for music teachers: Your page for comments and discussion. Please share with us items of interest that you have found inspirational, educational and fascinating.--also ask a question of our 'Roving Troubadour' and see what your fellow teachers think or how they handle certain situations and also chime in with your ideas which might help your colleagues. You can remain anonymous, or not, but this page is yours...let's all participate. Send submissions to [Rhoda.Forte@verizon.net](mailto:Rhoda.Forte@verizon.net)

### Wish I Said that: (something you read or heard that you want to share)

When Lisa Yui, teacher and pianist at Manhattan School of Music and Montclair State University, was interviewed for the Alberta Piano Teachers Association, she was asked: Are there any words of advice you have for the members of APTA?

Lisa Yui: Stay curious. Stay curious and passionate. If you aren't curious, you can't inspire curiosity in another person. The best teachers I've had were people who were constantly learning, and so their lessons with me would often be a mutual discovery, exploring music together. That's the way I think it should be. Music is a very organic, living thing, and it changes over time with each student, each pianist. A teacher must always be humble enough to remain a student.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Rosemary Waltzer writes:

### Rhoda Forté, Honored by AAUW

The Rockland County Branch of the American Association of University Women honored our own member, Rhoda Forté. She received its Woman of Achievement Award for 2015 in recognition of her as a woman who has affected a positive change on the community.

Rhoda was selected for this honor for her lifelong dedication to the teaching of music, the fostering of appreciation of music as well as her invaluable contributions to the Rockland County Music Teachers Guild. Rhoda has been an unparalleled leader in the RCMTG, serving as president or advisor in the guild's every endeavor, both innovating and working behind the scenes. She regards other teachers as colleagues rather than competitors and has helped many new teachers get started while maintaining her own roster of students.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is a nationwide association of women and men who have in common a baccalaureate degree and a desire to think and act upon issues and needs facing the community, the nation and the world. AAUW is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since its founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day - educational, social, economic, and political.

The Woman of Achievement Award was presented to Rhoda at the annual gala dinner.

Her comments to the AAUW membership and guests were gracious and insightful which led several members to remark how glad they were that they had chosen Rhoda and how pleased they were that the award went to someone in the arts. Brava, Rhoda!

### What would you say? Our roving troubadour, Will Rich asks:

How involved would you like your student's parents to be at home?

Please send responses to Will Rich at [WRich21@gmail.com](mailto:WRich21@gmail.com)