

A Newsletter of the Rockland County Music Teachers Guild

# Tuning Up!

November, 2016 opus 55 no.8

rcmtg.org

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

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## Topics in Pedagogy

A Roundtable Discussion with Four Teachers:

Melissa Alexander, Barbara Malagraph, Peter Tarsio, Tedo Wyman.



**These four teachers will lead discussion on 4 unusual aspects of teaching at the piano and beyond:**

- .Providing piano students with the skills to learn to accompany and how "Brain Gym" can help.
- .Preparing students for the demanding ABRSM exam.
- .Helping students put together all the pieces for college entrance as piano majors.
- .Dealing with the issues of personal space respectfully to adjust posture and technique at the instrument.

Please join us! We always have so much to share with each other - here's an opportunity to do so!

Wednesday 10 a.m.- November 2 -Rockland Conservatory

# Remembering George



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of George Bryant. George had been a tireless member of the Guild since it began in 1962. As a charter member he helped establish an organization which would uphold high professional standards and promote music education in Rockland County. He had been an active member serving as president for many years and always on the Board of the Guild for the past 55 years.

Those of us who knew him well, knew him to be even tempered, enthusiastic, innovative, ethical, gentle and a gentleman. He was a brilliant musician and we loved to hear him perform. His musical ideas were always 'right on' and offered with great generosity. We enjoyed his wry sense of humor and will miss him terribly.....**Rhoda Forte**

**John Lampkin:** Sad news indeed.

Jane and I extend our condolences to all.

For quite a few years George and I had our students get together at his studio for pre-audition run throughs and we critiqued each other's students. He had a wonderful knack of encouraging the positive aspects while giving sharply focused suggestions for improvement. I learned a lot from the experience and my students always left feeling motivated to achieve more musical performances. RIP George.

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**Marilyn Hazan:** George was the consummate musician, teacher and colleague. He was generous of heart and always willing to share his knowledge with others. His leadership and dedication to the Rockland County Music Teachers Guild will transcend our history. He was a great contributor to the cultural community. May he rest in peace.

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**Barbara Malagraph:** I remember coming to meetings when my first child, Conor was born. George was a strikingly robust man whose entire world was lit up through music. He moved through any space where his colleagues were gathered with a complete sense of belonging. He was a commander of proceedings, a thought provoking contributor and a comforting presence for me. At book club meetings, his attendance was a crucial part of the success of any gathering we had. He would take his seat in Rhoda's living room and immediately I knew that all would be well.

I once went to George for a lesson. I was struggling with parts of a Beethoven Sonata I was teaching. George sat beside me for more than an hour. He worked hand in hand with me without a trace of ego. He was there in service to the music and that was all. I will never forget that lesson.

As George became more frail, I would hold his arm as we walked up his stoop together following a book club meeting. It was a complete honor to share that time with him.

I will miss George. He inspired me to be a better person and a better teacher.



## Calendar for 2016-2017

**\*November 2<sup>nd</sup> 10 a.m.**

**Roundtable: on Pedagogy**  
Rockland Conservatory

**\*December 7<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m.**

**Members Roundtable: TBA**  
Rockland Conservatory

**\*December 10/11**

**MARATHON** at Palisades  
Center Mall....10 to 5 pm.

**\*January 21<sup>st</sup>....., 6:30 pm**

**Winter Pot Luck Dinner**  
Home of the Waltzers,

**\*March 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m.**

Dr. Steve Moshman on  
**Composers' Secrets**  
Nyack Library, Nyack NY

**\*April 5<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m.**

**Roundtable TBA**  
Rockland Conservatory

**\*May 3<sup>rd</sup> 10 a.m.**

Margarita Zeleniaia-  
**On Composition**  
Rockland Conservatory

**\*May 7<sup>th</sup> Auditions- all day**

Rockland Conservatory

**\*May 21<sup>st</sup> 1 p.m. Blue/Gold**

**Recital** Rockland Conservatory

**\*June 7<sup>th</sup> Luncheon** location

TBA

### **Letter from the President .....**

Every organization is lifted by the energies of its members: their varied abilities and willingness to share them, the support they offer each other, their efforts to uphold high standards and to promote them and their long-term commitment to withstand the inevitable changes of time. The loss of one member might not seem like a big deal, but the loss of George Bryant is a loss of someone whose energies were very directed towards RCMTG in every way I listed. He cannot be replaced. Let's hope we will all be inspired by him to re-dedicate some part of our energies to enrich RCMTG as the excellent organization he helped to create and sustain. ....**Tedo**

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### **Greetings from the Director of the Chappaqua Orch.:**

We are happy to announce The Chappaqua Orchestra's Second Annual Concerto Competition. Auditions will take place on March 30, March 31, and April 1, 2017 in White Plains, New York at the Music Conservatory of Westchester. The competition is open to Piano, Strings, Brass, Winds and Guitar players ages 12-17 (Junior Division - NY Metro Area) and 18-25 (Senior Division - no geographical restrictions)

We have included an Application Form, the Rules & Regulations and a flyer. For additional materials to print go to: [www.chappaquaorchestra.org](http://www.chappaquaorchestra.org). Deadline: Feb.1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

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### **Notice to Members of the RC Music Teachers Guild:**

**Starting with January of 2017, we will print the newsletter online only.**

**Our president will send out a monthly link to our website and you can download, print, or just peruse the online version, just as you would have had it in your mailbox.**

**Those of our dear members who are either not able to download or for any reason don't wish to, can still receive a printed version by notifying our corresponding secretary: Carole Tilson at 845-638-6658- and letting her know you prefer to receive Tuning Up via mail.**

# **ROCKLAND COUNTY MUSIC TEACHERS GUILD**

**proudly presents**

## **MUSIC MARATHON 2016**

**to benefit**

**HELPING HANDS OF ROCKLAND**

[www.helpinghandsofrockland.org](http://www.helpinghandsofrockland.org)

**Weekend of DECEMBER 10th and 11th  
Palisades Center Mall**

**Give your students the opportunity to  
showcase their talents as they help raise funds  
to support a local charity.**

**Teacher and Student Volunteers Needed**

**Visit [www.RCMTG.org](http://www.RCMTG.org) for more information**

**Further Questions or Concerns?**

**email Marilyn Hazan <[mbhazan@mac.com](mailto:mbhazan@mac.com)>**