



May, 2011.

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Over 40 teachers representing SLAMTA and PTRT gathered last week to listen to **Karen Kushner** perform a lovely program of Chopin works. Karen's performance was sponsored by SLAMTA, PTRT and Steinway Gallery. After the performance we enjoyed a wonderful buffet lunch sponsored by Steinway Gallery. It was a wonderful opportunity for us teachers to meet, grow, enjoy beautiful music and get to know each other a little better. I would like to thank Karen Kushner for taking time out of her busy schedule to do this performance for us. I would like to thank Jennifer Spohr for coordinating this event. What a treat! I would also like to thank Judy and Jerry Malzone for their efforts, for the wonderful luncheon and desserts, and for the continued support of Steinway for our organizations. Without their support we would not be able to do what we do.

The MMTA conference is just weeks away and I hope that MANY of you have registered and will join us at Webster University June 10-11 for what promises to be a very informative, fun and exciting event. Not only will we have the pleasure of the company of Christopher O'Riley who will conduct a Master Class and perform for us, but we will also have many varied and interesting sessions, including a faculty performance by Webster University faculty. Martin Kennedy will present his duo piano piece at a commissioned composer event. Hal Leonard will also be presenting a Showcase. Please refer to the most recent copy of NOTES for details regarding registration. **Deadline at the \$75 level is May 15th**. I look forward to seeing you all there! Please show your support.

Congratulations to our winners of the **Young Artists Competition** held on Saturday April 16th, at Missouri Baptist. Prize money was provided by The Marjorie Balafas Memorial Music Student Award Fund through a generous donation by Drs. Sandra and Joseph Hoffman. I would like to thank Annette Burkhart and Anne Nagel for chairing and coordinating this wonderful event, and also Cathy Benton for facilitating the use of the facilities at Missouri Baptist.

I am pleased to announce the results and the winners:

Division I (7th-8th grade)

Venkatesh Sivaraman, Student of Marlita Weiss, Gold Medal

Lily Xu, Student of Marlita Weiss, Silver Medal

Sara Ory, Student of Zena Ilyashov, Bronze Medal

Jonathan Lin, Student of Laura Schindler, Honorable Mention

George Liu, Student of Laura Schindler, Honorable Mention



Division II (9th-10th grade)

Haeun Yang, Student of Irina Svirnovskiy, Gold Medal

Adam Wang, Student of Shen Wen, Silver Medal

Jeffry Lu, Student of Zena Ilyashov, Bronze Medal

Joseph Siegal, Student of Mark Laverty, Honorable Mention

Division III (11th-12th grade)

Robert Esrock, Student of Zena Ilyashov, Gold Medal

Catherine Toben, Student of Cathy Benton, Silver Medal

Pamina Lin, Student of Laura Schindler, Bronze Medal

Silas Hsu, Student of Jennifer Spohr, Honorable Mention

Erin Cox, Student of Marlita Weiss, Honorable Mention

Finally we are looking ahead to next year and already have some wonderful ideas for visiting artists, speakers and performances. I would like to encourage each and every one of you to become more involved. It is by participating and contributing that we allow ourselves to grow and expand our knowledge to come even better teachers and performers.

HOSPITALITY CHAIR NEEDED:

We are looking for someone to do hospitality for next year. Please contact Laureen if you are interested.

Wishing you all well in the busy weeks ahead and also a wonderful and relaxing summer.

Sincerely,

Laureen Di Bisceglie

President: SLAMTA