



ST. LOUIS AREA
MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER, 2010

Dear friends and colleagues,

Fall has arrived and with it a flurry of activities! I hope your year has got off to a good start. We have had a most wonderful month of musical “feasts” and I hope that you took time out of your busy schedule to attend some of the events.

Our opening meeting with Eric Zuber was fantastic, and it was wonderful to see the Jane Allen Recital Hall filled. Thank you to all who came. Our programs can only be successful if you attend! I would like to thank Grace Yin who spearheaded the idea, and to Jennifer Spohr, Vice President for Programs for SLAMTA, Cheryl Stewart and Vera Parkin, Vice Presidents for Programs for PTRT who followed through, and organized the opening event. Thanks also to Jerry Malzone and Steinway for their help in sponsoring the event and also for generously allowing us to use the recital hall. For those interested, you can follow the International Chopin Competition on-line. You can go to <http://en.chopin.nifc.pl/institute/> where you will find a wealth of information about Chopin, the Competition and the Competitors.

District Auditions ran smoothly thanks to the efficiency of Marlana Strasburg who once again pulled it off with patience and dedication. She had her fair share of nightmares when the website crashed, but did a stellar job, working to the early hours of the morning, to get the job done. Thank you Marlana!

Over 350 students participated and many of those will be going on to State in November. I hope that despite the website issues you were able to register your students. Please take time to thank Marlana Strasburg for everything she did to make District Auditions possible. I would also like to thank our new hospitality chair Laura Leigh for organizing all the food and the lunch for the judges and staff. Thank you Laura! Thanks also to all who volunteered, monitored and offered help – your commitment is much appreciated!

We were so fortunate last Friday to be in a position to have the legendary pianist Ruth Slenczynska run a master class for students in St. Louis. I would like to thank Gwen Peiper who initiated the idea and made many phone calls on our behalf to facilitate the event. A huge thank you to Jennifer Spohr, Vice President for Programs SLAMTA who did much of the organizing and planning, and also to Cheryl Stewart, Vice President for Programs PTRT who assisted her. This was another joint venture between SLAMTA and PTRT and five students

were chosen by audition by a joint panel of judges. Thanks also to Jerry Malzone and Steinway for their help in sponsoring this event. What a marvelous opportunity for us all to be in her presence and to grow as teachers.

UP-COMING EVENTS:

- Andre Watts' performance with the SLSO on October 8-10. We have 34 members going to the matinée performance on Sunday October 10th.
- State Auditions are November 4-7, 2010 at Trumann State University, Kirksville, MO. Check on-line for more information: <http://missourimta.org>

EXCITING NEWS FROM JENNIFER SPOHR, VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROGRAMS

I am very pleased to announce that our February meeting will feature Dr. Hugh MacDonald, musicology professor at Washington University and frequent pre-concert lecturer at the St. Louis Symphony. We are trying out a book club idea with this meeting in mind. Dr. MacDonald has offered us a fabulous book suggestion and opportunity subsequent to our meeting. His recommendation is a book by Kenneth Hamilton, called "*After the Golden Age: Romantic Pianism and Modern Performance*", which was received with rave reviews by the NY Times and Washington Post, etc. The book is very, very relevant to our lives as pianists and teachers. Our February meeting will take place on Friday, February 25, 2011 (place to be determined) at 10:00 a.m. Not only do we have the fantastic opportunity to have Dr. MacDonald come and lead our discussion of the book/speak to us on that topic, but the following day, Saturday, February 26, Kenneth Hamilton will be at Washington University to give a symposium/discussion and an evening lecture-recital, to which our members would be invited!

I have made special arrangements for the book to be ordered for our membership at a 10% discount (bringing the total before tax to \$26.95) and held for us behind the Mall entrance Checkout at the Barnes and Noble Booksellers in the West County Mall store. It will be held for us under the name "St. Louis Area Music Teachers Association", and should be there by 10/7/2010. I encourage everyone to participate in this unique and exciting opportunity!

I look forward to seeing you in the upcoming weeks!

Musically yours,
Laureen Di Bisceglie
President: SLAMTA