



Newsletter

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2012-2013 Chapter Officers

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Joanna Zagelow
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Becky Hedman

Happy Birthday!

November

1—Bonita MacPhail
11—Joanna Zagelow
21—Becky Hedman

November Meeting

Featuring
Dr. Yelena Balabanova
“Tips and Tricks for the
Magic Hat”

Our November 13th meeting will be held at Judith Pearson’s studio, located at 17255 W. Big Lake Blvd. in Mount Vernon, (360) 422-6115.

Gathering time is 9:15 a.m. with the program starting at 9:30 a.m.

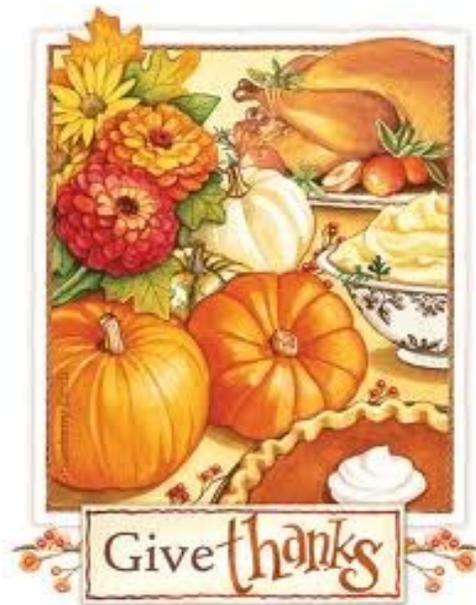
This would be a wonderful opportunity to invite a teacher who is not yet a member!

Adjudications Estimates Needed

At the November meeting our adjudications chair, Marilyn Brossard, **needs to know the number of students, and their levels**, who will participate in WSMTA Piano Adjudications. **Please have your estimates ready!**

Also, there has been some con-

PRAISE in PUBLIC,
CRITICIZE in PRIVATE
~Vince Lombardi~



fusion about repertoire and which levels to register students for, so Marilyn will share the most up-to-date information about adjudication “levels” during our business meeting. You don’t want to miss this!

December 15th is the deadline to have all registration materials and payments to Marilyn.

Master Lessons

Registrations and payments are due to Barb Van Vliet at the December 4th meeting.

Guidelines and registration forms can be found on our chapter website.

Do you have a special musical memory to share?

What (or who) has influenced you as a musician, performer, or teacher? Perhaps it was a special concert, a person, or a funny or poignant event that you experienced.

Please email your thoughts to beckyhedman@gmail.com and I will try to include them in our future newsletters, as space allows.

A Musical Moment:

In February 1940, Sergei Rachmaninoff performed at the Penny Theater in Boise, Idaho. My father, Robert Nelson, was 14 years old at the time and attended the concert. This excerpt is taken from a recording I made of our conversation on 11/3/12, and includes his memories of the concert:

I had been working on the Prelude in C# minor. At my piano lesson each week my teacher would go out in the

hallway and start up the old Victrola and play a recording of Rachmaninoff that he had made himself, that they sold throughout the United States. She would play the recording over and over again - it was pretty fresh in my mind.

It was kind of heady (the concert) I remember. I wasn't that up into musical repertoire and stuff at that time, but I was working on Rondo Capriccioso and played Pathetique and Moonlight Sonata, you know, and Chopin.

When Rachmaninoff came out on stage he sat down. Then he



Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

glared. He looked up into "Penny Heaven" where the poor people went up there to sit, because they rustled around. In 1940, Boise was just becoming aware of the finer ramifications of concert going. It was still considered like a little village in Montana, you know.

~ ~ ~ What are you thankful for? ~ ~ ~

I can't remember all of the pieces, but he did play his rendition of Rimsky-Korsakov's Flight of the Bumblebee, which was world famous. And then of course, I will never forget, after they clapped and a lady ran down to the platform with flowers and in it was a note that said "Please Mr. Rachmaninoff won't you play your Prelude in C# minor?" He played the prelude and of course to hear him play was great.

Well he didn't throw up, even though he came to detest the piece (the prelude) because people kept wanting to hear it. I think the other reason was he gave the royalties outright (Russian publishers did not pay royalties). Now the piece became so popular, can you imagine what he could've made from the royalties? Why he'd

be up there with some of the guitar players today like Diamond (Neil)!

He was born in 1873, so he must have been 67 years old at the time. He had a wonderful estate in Russia that he had to leave because of the communists. He finally came to America and had an apartment in New York.

He was very tall, and it was strange to see his hair cut short like a convict. Beethoven was very shaggy and of course Bach, they all had hair and to see this guy come out like he was getting ready to be electrocuted. As a kid, 14 years old you're not still with it, and there are things now I would think differently, but I remember that my parents took me and at least I was old enough to appreciate it.

My father later went on to earn a B.A. in Music and Master's in Piano Performance and Composition at the University of Idaho. He taught music for many years and was a judge for the National Guild of Piano Teachers.

At age 87, he still practices 2-3 hours a day, loves Ragtime, and has devised exercises to keep his mind sharp – one of which is to play through old classical repertoire a half step higher (or lower).

My mother is a singer and music teacher as well, and I am very thankful for the wonderful musical legacy my parents have given me!

Becky Hedman, NCTM