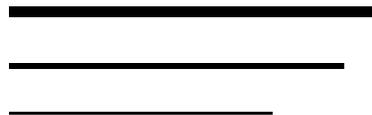


CON BRIO



Oregon Music Teachers' Association, Inc. Eugene District

Affiliated with the Music Teachers' National Association, Inc.



Opus 190

March 2008

page 1

March Meeting

Dr. Hui-Ying Lui-Tawaststjerna
*Rachmaninoff's Interpretation
of his C# Minor Prelude*

Dear Members,

Distinguished Doctor of Music Ms. Hui-Ying Liu Tawaststjerna will be visiting Eugene from far-away Finland. As the guest of the University of Oregon's Piano Pedagogy Department through Dr. Claire Wachter's invitation, we will also share in the good fortune of hearing her address our teaching community. On March 10th, in the home of Fern McArthur, she will be discussing Rachmaninoff's interpretation of his C-sharp Minor Prelude.

Ms. Hui-Ying is highly regarded as one of Finland's finest classical musicians of this day. Her impressive background includes: academic studies at the Sibelius Academy, the Peabody Conservatory of Music, New York University, and piano studies with Martin Canin, Konrad Wolff, and Pierre Sancun. She has also been coached by Leon Fleisher, Karl Ulrich Schnabel, and Rosas Sabater. Her official American debut occurred in New York's Carnegie Hall as a winner of the Artist's International Management's auditions. Her musical expertise covers a wide range of areas. To name only a few: an ardent piano teacher whose students have won international awards, solo recitalist, chamber musician, duo performer with her husband; lecturer, adjudicator, and recording artist. In 2006, the President of Finland awarded her with the White-Rose-Cross for Outstanding Service.

Please come and welcome Dr. Liu, at 10 AM, following the business meeting at 9 AM. The address is 2128 Elysium Ave, Eugene.

Musically yours,

Marti Csonka

Eugene District Vice-President

Hult Center Festival

The festival, "Around the World with Music" is rapidly approaching. Please remember the entry deadline of March 29, 2008. What an exciting and wonderful opportunity for our students and their families as we look forward to hearing the experiencing a musical world tour!

Musically,

Carol White

Hult Center Festival Chair



University of Oregon School of Music & Dance

DEPARTMENT OF PIANO PEDAGOGY

Dr. Hui-Ying Liu-Tawaststjerna
Visiting scholar in Piano Pedagogy

SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 11, 10-10:50 AM - "Editorial Problems concerning the piano music of Jean Sibelius (Room 203)

Tuesday, March 11, 3-5 PM, Beall Hall - Piano Masterclass

Wednesday, March 12, 12 noon-1:20 PM - "Rachmaninoff's Interpretation of his C# Minor Prelude as related to the manuscripts and printed editions"

Thursday, March 13, 10-10:50 AM - "Proper Score-Reading: A Must for Performers" (Room 203)

Thursday, March 13, 2-4 PM, Beall Hall - Piano Masterclass

Friday, March 14, 3 PM, Beall Hall - Student Recital - "Piano Music of Jean Sibelius"

Treasurer's Report

Checking Account balance on 02/01/2008: \$1,842.77

EXPENSES

February 1, 2008 - March 1, 2008

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
02/09/2008	Feb. 2007 Con Brio & Directory	56.47
02/11/2008	February Program	50.00
02/11/2008	PEAK Internet	19.90
02/11/2008	Qwest	49.12
02/25/2008	Wildish Theater (Dist. Recitals)	735.00
	TOTAL	\$ 910.49

INCOME

February 1, 2008 - March 1, 2008

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
American Children's Institute donations	255.00
TOTAL	\$ 255.00

Checking Account balance on 02/01/2008: \$ 1,187.28

Respectfully submitted,

Wyatt L. Burger

Eugene District Treasurer



Spring Syllabus

All forms and fees for the upcoming Spring Syllabus are due March 21, 2008.

Please print all information on the forms from the website. Please double check that all fees are correct and equal the total.

Lucy Clevenger

District Syllabus Chair.

Phone number correction for Kaori Noland:

(503) 381-9937



Con Brio

March 2008

Con Brio is the newsletter of the Eugene Chapter of OMTA, published and distributed monthly, except July and August.

President: Carolyn McHan Corresponding Sec: Virginia Buhn
 Vice-President: Marti Csonka Recording Sec: Ellen McQuilkin
 Treasurer: Wyatt Burger Past President: Claire Wachter

All materials for publication are due on the Saturday preceding the first Monday of each month.

Con Brio is mailed to all members on the Wednesday prior to the monthly meeting.

Wyatt L. Burger, editor
 e-mail: westlanepiano@hotmail.com

Composition Celebration

There are a total of 7 entries from 3 teachers, in this year's Composition Celebration. The compositions have been sent to Dr. Gary Noland for adjudication, and teachers should receive their student's scores and evaluations by March 14.

Since the total performance time for these students is under 10 minutes, the District Composition Celebration recital has been cancelled.

In past years, when there have been too few composition students for a separate recital, we have used the Spring District Recitals as an alternative for these students to perform their compositions and receive recognition for their work. Unfortunately, that option is not available this year.

Teachers will also be notified if their students have been selected to perform their original composition in the OMTA Composition Celebration Honors Recital on Saturday, May 17, 2 PM, at Michelle's Pianos, 530 SW 5th Ave., Portland.

Thank you to the students and teachers who participated in this event.

Wyatt Burger

District Composition Chair



Change in e-mail address for *Con Brio* and Wyatt Burger

westlanepiano@cvcable.com

Please send all *Con Brio* materials to this new address.

Recording Secretary's Report

Minutes of the February 11, 2008 District Meeting

OMTA Minutes, February 11, 2008

Home of Virginia Buhn

President Carolyn called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM. The January minutes and treasurer's report were approved as published in the *Con Brio*.

Membership secretary Delores Tiktin welcomed two new members: voice teacher and vocal coach Judy Powell from California, and pianist David Creighton, a former student of Virginia Buhn.

Junior Bach Festival: Christy Matheson reported that four recitals were held. There were 21 non-competitive students (five in Division I, 13 in Division II). The actual number of participants turned out to be smaller than the number of students who officially entered the festival. In the competitive division there were two upper division recitals, and half a recital of lower division students. Winners are announced in this issue of the *Con Brio*. Christy will mail the comments that weren't picked up after the recital. The Junior Bach Festival final event will be held Sunday, March 9th here in Eugene at the First Christian Church. There will be two recitals.

Composition recital: Wyatt reminded members that the deadline is February 22. Dr. Gary Noland will be the adjudicator this year. The festival is scheduled for March 16th at Cascade Manor if there are enough entrants for a recital.

Spring Theme Festival, "Music Around the World:" All students are invited to participate and will be most welcome. Descriptive musical titles are desirable, but all music is acceptable.

Syllabus: The deadline for submission of the time request form is today. Fees and forms will be due March 21st. Lucy will e-mail or phone when times are set. There was a lengthy discussion about the new forms to be used by syllabus adjudicators and the effect they would have on scoring. The adjudicators present agreed that the new markings for the technique portion of syllabus are intended to make the adjudication process easier for the judges and to make it easier for teachers and students to read. There will be no overall effect on general scoring. (Syllabus is Pass/No pass with roughly 70% is needed to pass.)

Nominating Committee: Virginia, Janie, Carol are making phone calls and welcome suggestions.

Fall program: Marti Czonka is looking into bringing Gabriel Chodos of the Eastman School of Music (and former UO professor) to come to Eugene in the Fall. The proposal is for him to come Sunday and Monday November 16-17 to present a recital and give a masterclass. Eugene district would collaborate with the U of O and perhaps other Oregon districts to raise funds. It was noted that the State Ensemble Festival will be held that weekend and may present a conflict.

The **State Board Meeting** will be held on February 23. Fern McArthur and Carol White will be there to represent Eugene District.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 AM for a wonderful presentation by Virginia Buhn titled "Style and Interpretation for the Young Pianist."

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen McQuilkin

Recording Secretary

Con Brio *Newsletter of the*

OREGON MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION - Eugene District

Wyatt L. Burger, Editor

P. O. Box 307

Cheshire, OR 97419-0307

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District Telephone Number

for teacher referrals: **242-1024**

Visit the OMTA website at

www.oregonmta.org

where you will find

Music News online

Forms for OMTA Syllabus and festivals

Directory of Oregon districts

Calendar of events

**The deadline for submitting
materials for the April 2008**

issue of *Con Brio* is

Saturday, April 5, 2008.

Send to **westlanepiano@cvcable.com**

Visit our website at www.oma-eugene.org

March Meeting & Program

Monday, March 10, 2008, 9:00 AM

Fern McArthur residence

2128 Elysium Ave, Eugene

Dr. Hui-Ying Lui-Tawaststjerna

***Rachmaninoff Interprets Rachmaninoff's
C# Minor Prelude***



Music Teachers National Association

122nd Annual CONFERENCE

DENVER, CO

March 29-April 2, 2008

Hui-Ying Liu-Tawaststjerna

BIOGRAPHY

Ms. Hui-Ying Liu is generally regarded as one of Finland's best-known classical musicians of today. Born in Taipei, she had subsequently lived in Buenos Aires, New York and Paris before settling down in Helsinki in 1982.

She began her piano study at age 7 and won the first prize in Taipei's Young Pianist Competition at age 13. Her official American debut took place in New York's Carnegie Recital Hall as a winner of the Artists International Management's annual auditions. As a recitalist, chamber musician and soloist with orchestra, she has given concerts on five continents. She has appeared under the batons of Esa-Pekka Salonen, Okko Kamu, Eri Klas, among others, and she has collaborated with cellists Steven Isserlis, Paul Tortelier, flutist Patrick Gallois, and violinist Jean-Jacque Kantorow, to name just a few. She also performs regularly with her pianist husband Erik T. Tawaststjerna. She is a recording artist for the Finlandia Records and the Finnish Radio & Television Broadcasting Company. She has recorded, for example, the complete Debussy *Etudes* for piano, Sibelius's complete music for cello and piano, and Sibelius's late works for violin and piano.

A Passionate piano teachers, she and three of her students were the main subjects in one of the 6-part documentary series, *The Cutting of Diamonds*, produced by

the Finnish Television in 2006. Her present and former students (Irina Zahharenkova, Juho Pohjonen, Antti Siirala, Uki Ovaskainen) have won first prizes in various international piano competitions such as the Enesco, Leipzig's Bach, Jaén, Nyborg (Denmark), Casagrande, Beethoven (Vienna), among others. She has given master classes, served on competition juries, and lectured on a broad variety of musical subjects. In addition, she has co-authored the popular piano method *The Piano Key*, and served as consultant for the Critical Edition of the complete piano works of Jean Sibelius, currently being published by Breitkopf and Härtel. She has also been the manager and artistic director of various concert productions.

Since 2004, Liu has been the head of the Piano Department at the Sibelius Academy, and the chairman of the Chopin Society in Finland. She was awarded the White-Rose-Cross for Outstanding Service by the President of Finland in December 2006.

Doctor of Music, Sibelius Academy; M.M. the Peabody Conservatory of Music; B.A. New York University (Magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Founder's Day Scholar); piano studies with Martin Canin, Konrad Wolff, Pierre Sancan, also coached with Leon Fleisher, Karl Ulrich Schnabel, and Rosa Sabater.

President's Message

Dear Members,

All of you would have been proud of our district students who participated at the Regional Bach Festival February 17, in Corvallis. Susan Smith, adjudicator, from Marylhurst College complimented the students saying she had never adjudicated a recital of such high caliber playing. In Group I, grades 3-7, Hannah Larson, student of Christine Mirabella, will advance to the State recital to be held here in Eugene on March 9. In Group II, grads 8-12, the following students will advance to the March recital; Daniel Ayers, student of Virginia Buhn; David Goodman-Edberg and Eric Larson, students of Christine Mirabella, and Rachel Bigley, student of Sophie Therrell. Honorable mention was given to Madeline Everett, student of Carolyn McHan, in Group I, and Tristan Hediger, student of Christine Mirabella in Group II. Congratulations are in order to these students and their teachers!

Another treat is in store for us on Monday March 10 with Dr. Hui-Ying Liu-Tawaststjerna of Finland's Sibelius Academy when our meeting will convene at the home of Fern McArthur. We so appreciate Claire Wachter's willingness to alert us to special talent brought in by the music department of the U of O and special thanks again to Marti for her diligent work in bringing us such outstanding programs.

The month of March will take Jim and I to Loma Linda University Medical School for postgraduate meetings and a 50 year anniversary for Jim. This means play time for me; with 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren, a trip to the Salton Sea to visit "snow bird" friends and the marvelous opportunity to reconnect with our many friends from medical school days. I will return relaxed, rejuvenated and ready to sprint to the end of the school year.

May we all find activities that keep us inspired and energized so we'll have enthusiasm and vibrancy to pass along to the students whose lives we touch.

Musically Yours,

Carolyn

Q: Does the location of the piano in my studio have any effect on the instrument? Should I avoid positioning it along an outside wall? Should my piano be placed away from windows and doors?

PIANO DOCTOR



Probably the most common question about piano location concerns whether or not the instrument should be placed near an outside wall. With today's modern building construction and use of insulation, this is seldom a concern anymore. There are other, far more important factors to consider:

1. Avoid placing a piano near any source of heat or moisture. This includes air conditioners, drafts from doors and windows, and locations near a kitchen or laundry area.
2. Never place a piano where it can receive direct sunlight. Besides damaging the finish, it can dramatically raise the temperature inside the instrument. I recently recorded the temperature inside a Baldwin grand, receiving direct sunlight through a window, at 115 degrees Fahrenheit! This can have an adverse effect on both tuning stability and the action.
3. Consider the acoustics of the room. A room with hard surfaces such as paneling and hardwood floors will give the piano a brighter tone. Carpeting, drapes, and other soft objects in the room will "mellow" the tone of a piano considerably. Placing a piano in or near a corner of the room will enhance the bass. An upright should always be positioned at least three to four inches out from a wall to sound its best.
4. The piano size should be appropriate for the size of the room. A 9' concert grand does not sound good in a small apartment. Neither is a small upright adequate in a large performance area, church or auditorium.
5. Try to keep the piano's environment stable. Avoid sudden, frequent changes in temperature, and humidity. A piano is happy when the humidity remains between 40% and 50%. A climate control system for your piano is an excellent investment.

Recommended Books About Pianos and Pianists

David Crombie

Piano: A Photographic History of the World's Most Celebrated Instrument

GPI Books/Miller Freeman Books

Larry Fine

The Piano Book: A Guide to Buying a New or Used Piano

Brookside Press

Miles Chapin & Rodica Prato

88 Keys: The Making of a Steinway Piano

Clarkson Potter Publishers

Arthur Loesser

Men, Women and Pianos: A Social History

Dover Publications, Inc.



PLEYEL, Paris, 1928 Duoclave

The "Duoclave" or "Double Grand Piano" was one of several examples of pianos with more than one keyboard. It consists of two overstrung pianos, sharing just the same soundboard, lid and rectangular case.