

# STACCATO NOTES

The official newsletter of the Seattle Music Teachers Association  
[seattlemta.org](http://seattlemta.org)

## MAY 2018

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### UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

- May 5-6**      **Music Literacy Program**
- May 15**      **SMTA General Meeting** 9-11:30a.m. at Music Center of the Northwest
- May 20**      **Adult Soiree**
- June 3**      **Teacher Performance Showcase** 5-7:30PM at Caffé Musica
- June 21-23**      **WSMTA and OMTA Joint Conference**

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear SMTA Members,

It seems that spring has finally come to us in Seattle! I am so grateful for the last week of sunny days after having so many dreary rainy days this spring! This is my last month as your president for the SMTA and I would like to say that it has been a great adventure and I am so grateful! I have learned so much about leadership, about our organization and how we keep the wheels turning as a team. It isn't a big mystery either; we are simply regular teachers volunteering and creating a space for teacher and student opportunities and

development. I used to wonder who were the “they” people that keep all these things running? Then I realized that there is no “they” but that we all work together to keep our association going! We all need each other and each have different strengths and passions to bring to the table that help make the SMTA great. I want to encourage you, if you have not thought of yourself as someone who can contribute to the SMTA leadership, please think again! We all have something to give. Even as a newer teacher, the best way to grow is to get involved. I remember my first meeting with the SMTA board in 2012; I was so nervous and felt so young and naïve. I was, of course, but I was able to get to know the organization and to contribute new ideas. I came to the realization that the other SMTA members on the board were happy to get to know me and wanted me to be there! Since then, I have learned so much, been able to grow my skills as a teacher and made new friends! Teachers, working together and sharing ideas, are what makes the SMTA a great association that I am proud to be a part of! Volunteering and getting involved is awesome, if you haven’t, you should really try it ☺.

Motivational Memo of the Month:

“Alone we can do little; together we can do so much.”

~Helen Keller~

## GENERAL MEETING AGENDA: MAY 2018

### SMTA GENERAL MEETING

**TUESDAY, May 15th 2018 – 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**MUSIC CENTER OF THE NORTHWEST**

**901 N. 96<sup>th</sup> Street, Seattle, WA 98103 (corner of Linden Ave. N. & 96<sup>th</sup> St.)**

**Please leave 4-5 parking spaces available near the MCNW back door for a class that is going on during our meeting, thank you.**

Join your colleagues for the general meeting on **Tuesday, May 15th**. We will have coffee and refreshments from 9:00 – 9:30am and a musical treat to kick-off the meeting.

**Presentation: SMTA Member Thom Lee**

#### **TOPIC: Evoking, Suggesting, and Murmuring At the Piano: Franz Liszt and the Seeds of Impressionism**

How exactly did the modern piano--a percussive instrument which produces its sound through the force of hammers striking strings--come to be called upon to conjure up vivid sights, sounds, scents, and sensations? To evoke the atmosphere of pagodas in the Far East, to paint reflections in the water, to stir up the sounds and scents whirling in the evening air, and to murmur a seductive siren song? Today, we often take this miraculous evocative ability of Impressionistic music for granted, and while Debussy and Ravel are largely credited for opening up these imaginative musical possibilities, the groundwork for their achievements were actually laid half a century before by Franz Liszt. The presentation will take us through an exploration of the evocative writing of Liszt’s nature pieces and his pioneering techniques in achieving vivid sensory and pictorial suggestion at the piano. Highlighting various works from the *Années de pèlerinage*, various etudes, and the *Franciscan Legends* as case studies, we will discover the innovative characteristics of Liszt’s evocative language before drawing connections to selected works by Debussy and Ravel, ultimately uncovering the ways in which Liszt sowed the seeds of the pianistic Impressionism.

#### **About the Presenter:**

Born in Hong Kong and raised in the Pacific Northwest, pianist Thomas Lee enjoys a diverse career as a performer and teacher of the instrument. As both a solo and collaborative pianist, he has performed extensively around the region and on King FM radio, as well as throughout the United States and abroad. Notable engagements include performances at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, as well as concerto performances with the UW Symphony Orchestra and the Kostroma Symphony in Kostroma, Russia. Thomas has claimed top prizes at the National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist Competition, Buono & Bradshaw International Piano

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Competition, American Fine Arts Festival International Concerto Competition, along with many regional competitions.

Thomas holds degrees from Rice University, Indiana University, and the University of Washington, where he studied piano under the tutelage of Jon Kimura Parker, Andre Watts, and Craig Sheppard, respectively. As a teacher, Thomas has enjoyed working with students across the spectrum both privately and in university programs -- from the youngest beginners to advanced teens and adults, including a number who have gone on to become university piano majors. Thomas currently teaches out of his private studio in North Seattle, and for the Pugets Sounds Piano School.

### **General Meeting Agenda – May 15th, 2018**

- 9:00-9:30      Coffee, Conversation & Music  
9:30-10:00    Welcome, Introductions, Announcements, & Votes:
- a. New Member Introductions
  - b. Vote to Approve Proposed Budget for 2018-19
  - c. WSM TA/OM TA Conference Announcement/Basket Donations
  - d. Music Literacy Program Report
  - e. Sonatina Festival Report
  - f. October Festival 2018 Announcement
  - g. Other Member Announcements
  - h. Vote to approve the April 2018 General Meeting Minutes
  - i. Vote for Elected Board Officers 2018-19
- 10:00          Presentation: Thomas Lee: “Franz Liszt and the Seeds of Impressionism”  
11:30          Adjourn

*Looking forward to seeing you on May 15! - Evelyn Hartwell*

## **SMTA AUCTION BASKET AT WSM TA/OM TA CONFERENCE**

### **Last Call for “Berries Jubilee” Basket Items!**

**Donations Accepted  
May 15th**

The May 15 General Meeting will be the last chance for you to donate an item or money for the SMTA “Berries Jubilee” Themed Basket which will be part of the Auction at the WSM TA/OM TA Annual Conference in June.

We already have a lovely kitchen towel , Seattle coloring book and berry-flavored tea. There’s plenty of room in the basket for more items! Use your imagination or you may donate cash or check (made payable to SMTA) at the May 15 general meeting.

The proceeds from the auction go toward supporting WSM TA student programs.

Thank you in advance!  
*RoseMarie Tamburri*

## **SMTA CHAPTER POSTER AT WSM TA/OM TA CONFERENCE**

**Do you have photos of SMTA events?**

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If so, please send them to Katie O'Rourke at [Katie.orourke@gmail.com](mailto:Katie.orourke@gmail.com). Katie is putting together our SMTA chapter poster which will be displayed at the upcoming WSMTA conference. This years poster theme is "Berries Jubilee."

## STUDENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS SEEK DONATIONS

### Seeking Donations at May 15<sup>th</sup> General Meeting

Please bring your sheet music, gently used or new method books, CDs or music related items to the General Meeting. Any donations we receive will be added to our Student Education Programs. We will have a table set up in the foyer facing North 96th Street.

## 2018 SIMON-FISET COMPOSITION COMPETITION WINNERS

The winners of the 2018 Simon-Fiset Strings Competition are as follows:

### Myrtle Noble:

First Place	Vanessa Barnett	Student of Sharon Van Valin
Second Place	Simon Chor	Student of Paul Swenson

### Vie Husted:

First Place	Noelle Paek	Student of Sharon Van Valin
Second Place	Elaina Miller	Student of Sharon Van Valin
Third Place	Naomi Popa	Student of Sharon Van Valin
Honorable Mention	Rachel Kim	Student of Sharon Van Valin

### Laura Jensen:

First Place	Nathan Paek	Student of Sharon Van Valin
Second Place	Carson Ling-Efird	Student of Sharon Van Valin
Third Place	Simon Kwon	Student of Sharon Van Valin
Honorable Mention	Luke Chen	Student of Sharon Van Valin

### Lockrem Johnson:

First Place	Gannon Forsberg	Student of Sharon Van Valin
Second Place	Akira Nair	Student of Sharon Van Valin
Third Place	Sophia Chen	Student of Sharon Van Valin
Honorable Mention	Sarah Wang	Student of Sharon Van Valin

## BRINGING THE FUTURE INTO THE PRESENT

### Seeking Volunteers for 2018-2019 Projects

The Dorothy Woodcock Oversight Committee has proposed two projects for early 2019. The Board is enthusiastic about these ideas, but we need Chairs and Committee members to help accomplish them.

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♪ Master Class/Workshop with Joanne Haroutounian, founder of MusicLink, who is also a dynamic presenter. We want to collaborate with the Kitsap Chapter, possibly with other chapters.

♪ Commission an original composition for the Sonatina Festival. We have some guidelines and a framework in mind.

Please contact Kathy Mortensen, [kmortensenpiano@gmail.com](mailto:kmortensenpiano@gmail.com), or call 206-525-2113.

*"Planning is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now."*

— Alan Lakein, author

## SMTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

### SMTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Elected Board of Directors – Term: July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

The following nominated slate of Board Officers will be voted into office at the May 15 general meeting:

President – Eric Branner

Secretary – Kirsten Carlson

Treasurer – Ann Simonson

Board Member At Large – Pamela Chang

Board Member At Large – Katie Levine

Immediate Past President – Evelyn Hartwell

In addition, the following members have volunteered to fill very important Vice President positions:

VP Membership – Open

VP Teacher Development – Nancy Kern

VP Student Development – Kathy Mortensen

VP Competitions – Soonmee Kim

VP Marketing & Communications – Josie Zocco

VP Recitals – Thom Stuart

These Officers and VPs join many other committee chairs and volunteers to provide a vital service to SMTA. Their efforts support a wide range of programs that further the professional development of our members and provide our students with opportunities for performance, education and competition.

Please join me in thanking the current, former and future Leadership Teams for their valuable contribution to the SMTA community.

Learn more about how you can contribute to making SMTA's mission a reality – we are always looking for volunteers to support an event, join a committee, share ideas for new programs or become part of the future leadership team. Contact any of the Board members listed above or Kathy Mortensen, Volunteer Engagement Chair, or myself, RoseMarie Tamburri, Past President.

Respectfully submitted,  
*RoseMarie Tamburri, Chair*  
*Nominating Committee*

## SMTA EVENTS AND NEIGHBORHOOD HIGHLIGHTS

**Adult Soiree**  
**May 20th, 2018**  
**6:30PM**

All adult students of any level are invited to participate in the next two Adult Soirees. Please contact Marti Garrett at [marthajgarrett@comcast.net](mailto:marthajgarrett@comcast.net) to register your students. Only ten students will be able to play at each event, so don't delay!

**Music Matters Jazz Festival**  
**Saturday, June 2nd**  
**5:30PM - 7:00PM**

Music Matters Foundation is holding a Jazz Festival on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Resonance at Soma Tower in the downtown Bellevue from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm. We would like to promote the understanding and appreciation of Jazz music to our community. This is a good educational and pure-performance opportunity for all Jazz music lovers – students and teachers!

The event will be split into two sessions, a Student's Concert from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm and Musician's Concert from 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The fee is \$5 /per student to sign up for the performance. Each student will be given a small goodie bag after the students' concert. The Musician's Concert will start at 8:00PM. It's free admission for all students, and \$15/Adult (light refreshments will be served). We will be very pleased to welcome teachers to join us or to perform at Festival.

The Music Matters Foundation is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating a dynamic community through innovative programming and live performances.

**Resource Opportunity**  
**Local Composer Offers Sheet Music**  
<http://myroyalady.com>

Alfred Williams, ASCAP, a retired teacher and composer living in Shelton, Wa, is making available a small collection of music he has written for his students over the years. His website contains sheet music and orchestral audio accompaniment that one can download and play along with. It's all free, of course, and his sole purpose is to have it out there as resource for those who wish to use it.

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Staccato Notes is the official Newsletter of the Seattle Music Teachers Association. The Newsletter is distributed monthly and **submissions are due by the 20th of each month**. Please e-mail information for the Newsletter to [smtanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:smtanewsletter@gmail.com). Staccato Notes welcomes articles on topics of interest to members – please consider writing an article on a relevant subject – the more content we receive, the better!

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