

DUET

Newsletter

November 2020

**ROCHESTER PIANO TEACHERS GUILD, INC. &
GREATER ROCHESTER MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOC.**

Tribute to Janet Stadt

Our friend Janet Stadt was never more at home than in her piano studio. A gifted teacher, Janet made it a point to know each of her students well enough to meet them where they were on their road toward mastering the piano. Janet worked hard at establishing relationships with the parents of her school-age students, knowing that every child's progress depends as much on family support as on the efforts and encouragement of his or her teacher.

Janet was interested in all aspects of running a piano studio. From her early years, when she studied piano and pedagogy skills with Polly Schaffner at The Hochstein School, Janet had a thirst for learning. She never stopped reading about techniques other teachers were trying, watching podcasts on new repertoire, or attending pedagogy conferences such as NYSMTA and MTNA events, where she could meet and learn from other teachers from around the world. Her students benefited directly from her lifelong professional learning. A number of Janet's students, such as Jon Madden, went on to establish

their own professional music careers.

Janet was unselfish in sharing her own knowledge and experience with other piano instructors. For decades she participated in the Rochester Piano Teachers' Guild and in NYSMTA's District 12, where she eventually served as District Chair, and she was an active member and regular contributor to the Fairport Teachers group as well. Many remember Janet's key role in making the Patriotic Piano Fest, in 2015, a rousing reality.

Perhaps Janet's biggest project, less than two years ago, was to help establish the RPTG/ NYSMTA's District 12 Gold Cup Festival, funds from which are given to the RPTG's scholarship fund. It was largely due to her patience, perseverance, and planning skills that the Festival came to fruition; Janet worked tirelessly with more than forty teachers, four hundred students, thirty adjudicators, multiple venues, a hard-working core staff, and a technical advisor to make the Festival happen. As a tribute to her work, the Festival committee has established the "Stadt Star" – special recognition for



Janet with granddaughters

those students whose performances merit a 35/35 rating at the Festival. Janet expanded the scope of her leadership to the state level when she was elected in October 2018 to serve on the NYSMTA Administrative Committee as Co-Vice President for Professional Activities.

Janet was an excellent teacher whose lessons will be remembered by hundreds of her students not only for the piano pieces she helped them learn and the skills that equipped them for a life of music-making, but also for their relationships with her. Janet was a treasure, and we will all miss her.

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Special points of interest:

- Gold Cup Festival on Sat., Jan. 30, 2021
- New Additions to the Junior All-Star Competition: Classical Prize and newly expanded Level IV
- RPTG Student Recitals dates, times and places

Gold Cup Festival

Saturday

January 30th

2021

Online Registration for the 2021 Gold Cup Festival

As you help your students prepare to perform on the RPTG Gold Cup Festival on Saturday, January 30, you will find detailed information online at <https://www.rochesterpianoteachers.org>. There, click on the "RPTG GOLD CUP FEST" button to advance to the Festival HOME page. From there, you can click on the buttons for Parent Information, Guidelines, Application, Rating Sheet, Honors Recitals, and More (including "FAQ" and the "Contact Us" link to send an email with questions and comments). There is also a convenient direct link to the "Contact Us" email form on the HOME page.

"Guidelines" contains 3 pages of extensive information on establishing student performance levels, piece length, music

scores, events, student fees and teacher payment due date, entry applications, awards, and more. There's a PDF icon at the bottom of each page if you want to download and print the document.

"Applications" presents a Google form. Starting November 1, as soon as you can before the deadline of December 19, complete one form online for each student. Make sure you click on the **SUBMIT** button at the bottom of the completed form for each student. If you need a reminder of your teacher ID from previous years, use the "Contact Us" email form to ask for that information. You'll receive a reply within two days.

"Rating Sheet" provides the categories on which each student's performance is adjudicated.

This is useful as you ensure each student is prepared in all areas.

If you're new to the Festival, the "FAQ" page under "More..." is worth reading to provide answers to common questions.

Additionally, there is information about the Noteworthy Achievers program and for students with special needs.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the location of the 2021 festival auditions and Honors recitals might need to be changed. The festival planning committee is working on determining alternate sites. The committee is comprised of Sigrid Britton, Sally Forgensi, Ria Senobroto, and Jeanne Strong. Jeanne will respond to your questions posted via the "Contact Us" google email form on the website.

New Additions to the Junior All-Star Competition

For the 2020 Jr. All-Star Competition, which had to be canceled, a new segment was added, which we will move into the 2021 competition. This new segment is the inclusion of an extra prize: the Classical Prize for the best performance of a sonatina/sonata movement, variations, or short work performed by Level II and Level III students. There will be a \$25 prize for each of those levels. The application has a listing of appropriate composers.

Additionally, this year we will try a newly expanded Level IV, which will include students born in 2006, 2005, and earlier to include those in their high school Junior year. This will allow pianists who lost their final year of competition in 2020 because of cancellation. Additionally, as we move into the future, this expansion will continue to include the Jr. All-Star Competition high school Juniors. In the past, there was never any local program like this for this age group.

We will also be inviting past winners of Level IV who are not yet in their Senior year to perform in the Winners' Recital. As always, past 1st prizewinners are not eligible to compete again in the same level.

We hope that these new additions to the Junior All-Star Competition, a program that was founded in 1995, will help promote our outstanding students and give more opportunities to those who may be interested in pursuing music at the collegiate level.



Welcome New Members of RPTG

Anna Ahlquist
81 Blackwell Lane
Henrietta, NY 14467
200-0254

Nicole Camilleri
4 Wheaton Circle
Fairport, NY 14450
388-5688

Siena Facciolo
4 Blakeney Place
Rochester, NY 14620
(802) 371-7830

Alla Kuznetsov
16 Ten Eyke Circle
Pittsford, NY 14534
355-0587

Ian Mutch
2 Colony Circle
Fairport, NY 14450
314-6260

David Pacific
PO Box 30147
Rochester, NY 14603
(315) 383-5603

Amanda Von Rathonyi
450 Tanton Way Apt.
A Webster, NY 14580
(607) 857-4462

Jean Sandquist
247 Watson Road
Fairport, NY 14450
627-1596

Shiuen-Huang Suen
857 Bridle Lane
Webster, NY 14580
309-3758

Welcome to RPTG!
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Address Updates for RPTG Members

Olivia Colomaio
(formerly Bradstreet)
18 Windsorshire Drive
Apt. C
Rochester, NY 14624

Wendy Henrickson
400 North Drive
Rochester, NY 14612

Douglas Humpherys
14 Franklin Street
#1401
Rochester, NY 14604

Evan Ritter
505 University Ave.
Apt. #109
Rochester, NY 14605

Marilyn Sheehan
c/o Sheri Delong
370 McCall Road
Rochester, NY 14616

Harriet Zimmerman
24 Carriage Court
Pittsford, NY 14534

Recent Activities

1) If you missed the NYSMTA 2020 Virtual Symposium, you can still catch the "Lightning Talks" online! Go to: <https://www.nysmta.org/symposium-2020>

2) RPTG Program featured Josh Massicot's informative presentation about "Online Teaching" and Teddy Carr's long list of "Pupil Savers" from 2009-2020 in Clavier Companion and Piano Magazine.

3) Barbara Noval once again graciously hosted RPTG's opening meeting featuring Amy & Raymond Feng in a beautiful program of works by Beethoven, Chopin and Rachmaninoff.



Amy & Raymond Feng

**ROCHESTER PIANO TEACHERS GUILD, INC. &
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**DUET is also on the Web at:
rochesterpianoteachers.org**

**RPTG Student Recitals Information
*from Tasha George-Hinnant, Chairperson***

Our annual Holiday Student Recital will take place on **Sunday, December 13th, at 2:00 pm, at 75 Stutson Street**. Please send your applications and fees of \$5 per student to Tasha George-Hinnant, 67 Shepard St, Rochester, NY 14620 by **Saturday, November 28th**. Checks should be made out to RPTG, Inc.

The next recital will be **Saturday, January 16th, at 2:00 pm, at the Rochester Music Hall of Fame at 25 Gibbs Street**.

Please send applications and fees of \$5 per student to the address listed above by **Saturday, January 2nd**.

Both standard repertoire and holiday tunes are welcome at the December recital! For those participating in the Gold Cup Festival, the January recital is an excellent opportunity to warm up those audition pieces! Steps have been taken to ensure that these events will be COVID-safe.

About our recitals:

Student Recitals are open to any student of any guild member. (Students may play any instrument or sing, provided their teacher is a guild member. Multimedia and ensemble performances are welcome). Please coach your students to give a polished performance that includes a bow at the end!