

# DUET

Newsletter

September 2020

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

## ***from Diane Habeeb, RPTG President***

Hello All! September brings the beginning of the teaching season. It's my favorite time of year! I love the promise of a new year ahead, especially since the past five months have been so challenging for many people. I feel September gives us a fresh start!

The board members have been working to schedule our coming events and to be in compliance with New York State safety rules for covid. I have been working on

the RPTG 2020 handbook and will have it ready for you soon.

The opening meeting of RPTG 2020-2021 will be Friday, September 18th at the home of Barbara Noval, 43 Parker Drive, Pittsford, NY 14534. Our feature artists this year are Amy and Raymond Feng, students of Elier Suárez, who will perform works by Beethoven, Rachmaninoff and Chopin.

We will gather at 9:45 AM with

the recital at 10:00 AM. Weather permitting, we will have an outside reception following the recital.

We will close the morning with our RPTG membership meeting. Remember to bring your mask!

**Please RSVP this event to Barbara Noval's email:**

[billnoval@aol.com](mailto:billnoval@aol.com)

Thank you, Diane Habeeb

## ***from Tasha George-Hinnant, GRMTA Chairperson***

Hello, my name is Tasha George-Hinnant, and while some of you may know me as the Recital Chairperson for the RPTG, I've also recently taken on the role of District 12 (Greater Rochester) Chairperson for NYSMTA. My main duty as chair is to facilitate communication between members of NYSMTA, both within our local district, and across the state, as well as to make reports of our activities in District 12 to the NYSMTA board. I would also

like to assist members in making the most of their membership in NYSMTA. Our District has been fairly inactive over the last several years, and this is partly because we have such an incredibly active local guild - the RPTG!

However, over the next two years, I believe we can create new, original opportunities unique to NYSMTA that complement the invaluable offerings of the RPTG - and I welcome your

input! If anyone has any thoughts on what they might like to see in terms of programming and opportunities, please feel free to reach out and share your suggestions. Wishing everyone a successful start to an unusual school year!

Best,

Tasha George-Hinnant

[tghinnant@gmail.com](mailto:tghinnant@gmail.com)

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### **Special points of interest:**

- Amy & Raymond Feng, Guest Artists First RPTG Program
- 2019 Nazareth College Piano Competition Winners
- 2020 NYSMTA Virtual Symposium
- 2021 Gold Cup Festival

## Hanson Application Instructions

Online  
applications  
ONLY  
at  
RPTG's  
website

At RPTG's website, first save the form with "Save As" for each student (on Apple products "Copy to Books"), then fill out and email the application form with student's name on "Subject" line to Mrs. Janet Wisniewski, Secretary-Hanson Committee, at the following address: [epstardust@gmail.com](mailto:epstardust@gmail.com) no later than November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

The teacher will submit, as proof of recommendation, the parents' check for the non-refundable \$25.00 application fee made out to RPTG, Inc. to be postmarked and mailed no later than November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to: Mrs. Janet Wisniewski, Secretary-Hanson Committee, 30 Woodfield Dr., Webster, NY 14580.

In 1970 the RPTG, Inc., established the annual Howard Hanson Awards to honor graduating high school senior pianists who exhibit meritorious musicianship in the performance of classical music. Recipients of this prestigious award are chosen on the basis of an audition and appear on a winners' recital sponsored by the RPTG, Inc.

### Requirements

1. Applicant must be a high school senior (graduating 2021) at the time of auditions and recommended by his/her teacher or high school music supervisor.

2. For the audition the applicant must perform three memorized solos. Two of them are chosen from the following categories: Baroque-, Classical, Romantic and Impressionistic. **The third piece**

**must be a Contemporary work** (that is, a 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century composition that is not traditionally tonal). Pieces must be of three contrasting periods and moods. One of these pieces or a substantial portion thereof must be of a slow, sustained and expressive nature (if the indicated tempo is Allegretto or faster, it probably will not qualify). Any period may be used for this slow piece. It is suggested that teachers call Roberta Honadle, Chair of the Hanson Committee, if they are unsure about a composer's placement. A maximum of 15 minutes playing time will be allotted each student. **Repeats need not be taken.** The submitted program is subject to the approval of the committee. An audition time will be assigned to each student whose program is approved. At audition time all pieces should be at a well-prepared performance level; the program will be presented for a panel of judges.

3. Music must be originally written for piano solo. Arrangements, concertos, movie and popular music are unacceptable. One copy of each piece is to be provided for the judges' use since editions vary. Please number the measures in each piece. **Photocopied music may not be used. Its use will automatically disqualify a student.**

4. Programs should be indicated on the enclosed application blank. Be sure the title of each piece is correctly listed, including key and opus number. Indicate specific sonata

and sonatina movements (i.e., I. Allegro con brio). All programs must be approved by Monday, January 4, 2021. If unusual music is programmed it is suggested that you send a partial copy with the application. **Programs may not be changed after Friday, January 15, 2021.**

Changes should be sent to the Secretary (see #6). Both student and teacher must sign the request. Only written requests postmarked by Friday, January 15, 2021 will be permitted. **Changes in repertoire at audition time will disqualify the student.**

5. Be sure all blanks on the application are properly filled in. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

### Audition Dates

Auditions will be held in the Rehearsal Hall at Nazareth College on Sunday, February 7, 2021. If weather conditions necessitate a change in the schedule, students will be notified by phone or email. Winners will be posted on the RPTG website at [rochesterpiano-teachers.org](http://rochesterpiano-teachers.org) after all auditions have been completed.

Winners will perform in a special recital on Sunday, March 7, 2021 at 7:30 PM in Wilmot Hall at Nazareth College. The judges will specify which of the audition piece(s) each winner is to perform. All winners are expected to perform. Failure to appear may result in forfeiture of the award.

Two additional judges are **(continued on page 6)**

## First RPTG Program

**Amy Feng**, an incoming junior at Pittsford Sutherland High School, has studied piano with Elier Suarez since age 5. Amy is a top prize winner of piano competitions including the Duquesne National Young Artist Competition, Nazareth College Piano Competition, Ithaca College Piano Competition, and Empire State Piano Competition, among others. Earlier this year she was selected as the winner of the 2020 David Hochstein Recital Competition in piano. As a concerto competition winner, Amy has been a featured piano soloist in

concerts with both the Genesee Symphony Orchestra and the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra (HYSO). She was invited twice to perform at the NYSSMA Conference All-State Piano Showcase concert, in 2017 & 2019. Also a cellist studying with Kathy Kemp since age 7, Amy is the principal cellist of HYSO and served as the principal cellist of the 2018 NYSSMA Junior High Area All-State Orchestra. As a winner of the 2019 HYSO concerto competition, Amy was the featured cello soloist in the 2020 Hochstein Cen-

tennial Orchestra concert. Amy also plays chamber music as the cellist of the Hochstein Saturday Scholarship String Quartet. Outside of traditional concert halls, Amy is deeply engaged in giving back to community, organizing and performing in the student-run project Music for Love's outreach concerts and fundraisers since 2015, bringing live music to seniors, hospital patients and young children. Aside from music, Amy loves math and science and plays tennis on the Sutherland varsity team.



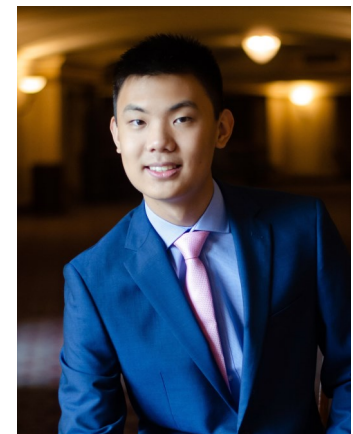
Amy Feng  
Guest Artist

**Friday, Sept. 18 at Barbara Noval's home, 43 Parker Drive in Pittsford  
Gather at 9:45 AM for a 10 AM Piano Recital by Amy & Raymond Feng  
Students of Elier Suárez followed by a Reception & an RPTG Meeting**

**Raymond Feng**, a rising sophomore at Harvard University, studied piano with Elier Suarez since age 5. He has been a top prizewinner of international and national competitions since age 9, such as the Kaufman Center International Piano Competition, Thousand Islands Chopin International Competition, David D. Dubois Piano Competition, MostArts Piano Competition, Arthur Fraser International Piano Competition, and West Virginia International Piano Competition, among others. As piano soloist, he has collaborated with orchestras in Italy, Bos-

ton, Chicago, Texas and upstate New York. His concerto performance with the Rochester Philharmonic was broadcast on NPR's From the Top. Raymond was selected as a 2016-2018 Lang Lang International Music Foundation Young Scholar and was invited to perform at the Grammy Salute to Classical Music concert in honor of Bernstein's 100th birthday. Major concert venues Raymond has performed at include Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium, Eastman Kodak Hall, Merkin Concert Hall in NYC, Sanders Theatre at Harvard University, and Pritz-

ker Pavilion at Millennium Park in Chicago. Raymond's love of music expands to chamber music, violin, and conducting. He was the former concertmaster of the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra (HYSO), the pianist of the Capriccio Trio and the Amici Trio, and the 2017-2018 conductor apprentice of HYSO and the Virtuosi Scholarship Chamber Orchestra (VSCO). He is currently a violinist with the Harvard Bach Society Orchestra. In his spare time, he enjoys composing and making fun and/or humorous arrangements for piano and more.



Raymond Feng  
Guest Artist

## Nazareth College Piano Competition 2019 Winners

### Young Pianist Division

1st Prize - Lindsey Shen, Rochester, NY, student of Tamari Gurevich

2nd Prize - Wenzhang Vazquez, Buffalo, NY, student of Violeta Arakelova

Honorable Mention - Charlotte Anderson, Rochester, NY, student of Elier Suárez

### Junior Division

1st Prize - Rebecca Lee, Rochester, NY, student of Jacob Ertl

2nd Prize - Emily Yu, Rochester, NY, student of Brian Preston

Honorable Mention - Milo Anderson, Rochester, NY, student of Elier Suárez

Honorable Mention - Matthew Barry, Rochester, NY, student of Howard Spindler

Honorable Mention - Julian Chumacero, Farmington, NY, student of Elier Suárez

Honorable Mention - Weijun Wang, Rochester, NY, student of Alla Kuznetsov

### Senior Division

1st Prize - Maxwell Sun, Rochester, NY, student of Elier Suárez

2nd Prize - David Munechika, Rochester, NY, student of Gary Fisher

Honorable Mention - Giorgi Kharchilava, Buffalo, NY, student of Rasa Stalygiene

Honorable Mention - David Su, Buffalo, NY, student of Violeta Arakelova

Honorable Mention - Katherine Yun, Buffalo, NY, student of Mary Handley



Wilmot Hall, Nazareth College  
School of Music

## RPTG / NYSMTA District 12 2021 Gold Cup Festival

The RPTG / NYSMTA District 12 GOLD CUP FESTIVAL is slated for **January 30, 2021** at Nazareth College's School of Music.

Festival teachers should plan on the online registration to be open by November 1, 2020 and the application fee will be \$26.00 per student.

Visit the Gold Cup Festival website at:

[www.rockesterpianoteachers.org](http://www.rockesterpianoteachers.org)  
for guidelines and information.



## NYSMTA Information and Dates

In lieu of the bi-annual State Conference, NYSMTA will be offering on Zoom an event designed to allow members to maintain the personal connections for which the in-person gatherings have so well excelled. In the space of a few hours, one will be able to listen to very short presentations on a wide array of topics offered by the members, hear the premier performance of an engaging chamber work by the 2020 Commissioned Composer, survey a variety of poster displays, attend the NYSMTA General Membership Meeting/Celebration, and participate in a moderated topic-oriented discussion.

We sincerely hope you will consider setting aside a few hours on Saturday, October 17 to join together with your state-wide colleagues and friends in this unique event. Perhaps give thought to inviting a fellow musician who may not yet be a member of NYSMTA, so they can see what our organization has to offer.

### Heddy Killian Empire State Competition (Virtual)

Registration Deadline:  
September 9, 2020  
3:00 PM Eastern Time

Video Upload Deadline:  
October 16, 2020  
11:59 PM Eastern Time

### MTNA & NY State Competitions (Virtual)

Application deadline:  
Wed., Sept. 16, 2020  
3:00 PM

**2020 Virtual Symposium**  
Sat., Oct. 17, 2020  
2:30—5:30 PM

### 2020 NYSMTA Virtual Symposium

**Saturday,  
October 17th**

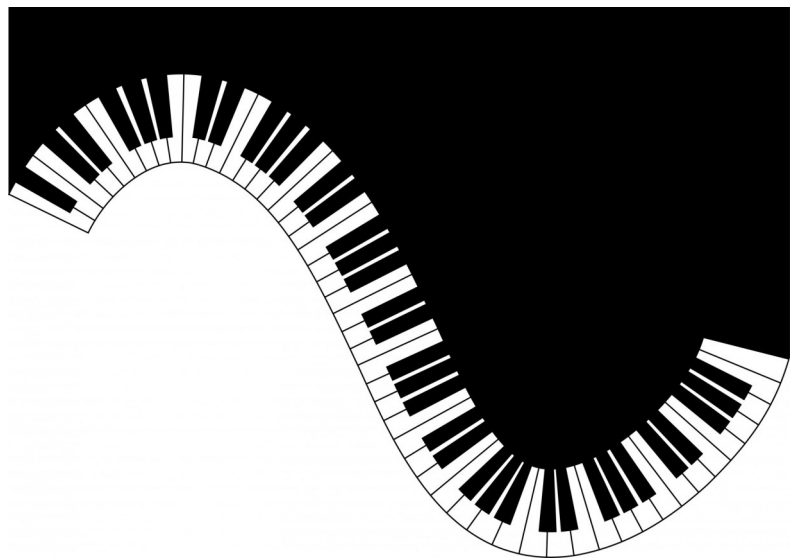
**Details at  
[nysmta.org](https://nysmta.org)**

## News from Denton's

Gary Schurr is doing fine and the East Rochester store is open. Stop in to say 'Hello'.

Their new hours are: Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays 10 AM to 4 PM. If you need something they are also available by appointment: 586-3020.

At this time they are not able to accommodate any requests for meetings or recitals.





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

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**DUET is also on the Web at:  
[rochesterpianoteachers.org](http://rochesterpianoteachers.org)**

### **...Hanson Application Instructions (*continued*)**

chosen each year in addition to the core committee. The criteria for judging will be the degree of musicianship shown in a student's playing, not the difficulty of the material presented.

#### **Composers**

There have been many questions concerning the make-up of the programs for auditioning students. It is for this reason that we are including the following list of composers for each period. We wish to emphasize that this list is not a complete list and there are many other composers in each category. It is also possible that an individual piece by any composer might be acceptable in a different period. If you have questions about repertoire call the chairman as early as possible.

**BAROQUE:** Bach, Handel, Purcell, Rameau, Scarlatti, Telemann and Zipoli

**CLASSICAL:** Beethoven, Clementi, Haydn, and Mozart

**ROMANTIC:** Albeniz, Brahms, Chopin, Grieg, Heller, Liszt, MacDowell, Mendelssohn, Palmgren, Schumann, Sibelius, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff and Cyril Scott

**IMPRESSIONISTIC:** Debussy and Ravel

**CONTEMPORARY:** (Not all works by the following composers demonstrate 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century compositional techniques. Teachers should choose only works by these or other composers that demonstrate some modern techniques.) Adams, Barber, Bartok, Bloch, Copland, Dello

Joio, Diemer, Gershwin, Ginastera, Hanson, Hohvaness, Kablevsky (Preludes), Kachaturian, Liebermann, Muczynski, Pinto, Prokofiev, Rorem, Schwantner, Shostakovich, Starer, Tcherenin, Toch, Turina and Villa-Lobos

**NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR CONTEMPORARY:** (These composers are acceptable only in Romantic or Impressionistic categories.) Alexander, Debussy, Gillock, Griffes, Rachmaninoff, Ravel, Rollin and Vandall

#### **Core Committee**

Jane Faust, Gary Fisher, Patricia Hanson, Roberta Honadle (Chair), Barbara Noval, Gary Palmer, Brian Preston, Gail Weinstein and Lynnann Wieringa