



Keynotes

A Newsletter of Pittsburgh Piano Teachers Association

FEBRUARY, 2016

**FEBRUARY 17, 2016
HAPPY 80th ANNIVERSARY, PPTA!**

**Christ Church at Grove Farm
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Student of the Month
Caitlin Mulvihill**

**In Celebration of Black History Month
“A Tribute to Duke Ellington and Ella Fitzgerald”
Presented by PPTA Member
Marsha Goulding**

**Winners of the
2016 Student Composition Competition**

**Program
“Quality Technic Materials That Get Results”
Presented by PPTA Member
Dee Ann Symington**

Hospitality Table

Please sign in at the Hospitality Table when you arrive on February 17.

**Happy 80th Birthday, PPTA!
Cake will be served at our February
meeting, in observance of our Founders’
Day.**

SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER

PPTA is proud for the 16th year to be offering a College Scholarship Award. Please see our website for application details, and/or contact Chairman Michael Miller. The deadline for application is April 1st

2016 Student Composition Competition Winners

PRIMARY

FIRST PLACE “My New Best Friend”
Emma Blodgett, student of Pat Rossi
SECOND PLACE “Minion March”
Mason Briggs, student of Karen Elstner

ELEMENTARY

FIRST PLACE “Spring Into Autumn”
Dylan Byersdorfer, student of Pat Rossi
SECOND PLACE “Bad Dream”
Noah Reaoch, student of Kim Jamison
THIRD PLACE “Moody Weather”
Maera Williams, Student of Pat Rossi
HONORABLE MENTION I “Feelings”
Andrew Byersdorfer, student of Pat Rossi
HONORABLE MENTION II “Jumping Jack”
Toby Crytzer, student of Pat Rossi

JUNIOR

FIRST PLACE “An Autumn Walk” -
Gabrielle Howell, student of Pat Rossi

SENIOR

FIRST PLACE “Generic Ragtime”
James Fenn, student of Anne Lin
SECOND PLACE “Furiosity”
Jonah Glunt, student of Scott Anderson
THIRD PLACE “Come and Go”
Cindy Hsieh, student of Harry Coleman

PERFORMANCE COMPETITION REMINDER

For those of you who have students entering the Solo and Duet Performance Competitions for 2016, entry forms must be *postmarked no later than March 15th*. Forms for all competitions can be found on the PPTA website under “Student Activities.” Any questions or requests should be directed to the Chairperson of the specific competition your student is entering.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Caitlin Mulvihill is a 9th grade student at Shadyside Academy. She has studied piano for 10 years. She has participated in the PFMC Jr. Festival and has 3 Gold Cups. She has also participated in the National Guild Auditions performing National programs for 8 years.

Caitlin is a member of the jazz ensemble at school where she arranges and composes music. This summer she plans to attend a music production workshop at Berklee College of Music in Boston. She is a student of Marilyn Louttit. Caitlin will be playing Three Waltzes by Rebikoff.

GPS Great Performers Series Sunday Recital in March!

We are truly pleased to announce the addition of a Spring GPS recital! It will be held at 3:00 pm on Sunday, March 20th at The Pittsburgh Piano Gallery (formerly the Steinway Gallery) in Pittsburgh's West End neighborhood, 445 South Main Street, 15220. Please contact Andrea Doyle for more information, or contact our host for this event, Sha Wang (wang@pghpianoacademy.org) and/or her administrative assistant Nikki Jones (nikkij133@gmail.com) to ask for a spot for your student(s). Looking forward!

Pa Federation of Music Clubs News

**From Joan Stanisha,
Federation Secretary**

Parade of American Music, celebrated in the month of November-- due March 1. Check the PFMC website for the report form. Send report to Priscilla Day, Chairman.

Musical Theme Artwork Contest. Due March 1st.

Membership in the Federation is not required. Winning art will be featured on the front cover, second place on the back cover of the Junior Winners Music Composition Book. The other entries will be printed throughout the book. Send to Priscilla Day.

Senior Club Report and the **Junior Rating Sheet** will be coming in April and May

The PFMC Biennial Convention will be held on April 23--26 in Sayre, PA. (Northeastern PA)

Charlene Hubbard, Joan Stanisha and Linda Alisesky will be attending from PPTA. Contact one of us if you would like to join us on the PFMC Board. More information may be found on the website: www.pfmc-music.org

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This just in!.....

Three winners of the young artist auditions for this year's Pittsburgh Concert Society are piano students of two PPTA members. Rebecca Chen and Emma Grace Kim are students of Marina Lupinacci, and Michal Hajlasz is a student of Jeffrey Harris.

Congratulations to teachers and students alike!

Dr. Sha Wang will host a summer camp in Wexford for Students. Please see this website for more information:

<http://pghpianoacademy.org/programs>

HAPPY 80TH ANNIVERSARY TO PPTA !!

FEBRUARY 19, 1936-2016

Charlene Hubbard, with a little help from Carnegie Public Library, and others, prompts us to remember some facts about our history as an organization. Watch for more interesting facts in upcoming Keynotes as we celebrate our anniversary year!!

A group of women who were piano teachers in the Pittsburgh area gathered together in January of 1936. They met at Volkwein's Music (Store) located at 632 Liberty Ave., downtown Pittsburgh. Leading the discussion was Laura K. Wilson along with Mr. Jacob C. Volkwein who encouraged the group of women to go forward with their idea of forming a piano teachers organization. So the Pittsburgh Piano Teachers' Association (PPTA) was born and was organized under the leadership of Laura K. Wilson who became the PPTA's first President.

The first meeting of the PPTA occurred on February 19th, 1936 with 90 teachers present. The meeting was held at the Baldwin Recital Hall, 819 Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh. It was decided that meetings would continue on the 3rd Wednesday of each month beginning at 10 a.m. (and is still the same to this day - 80 years later!).

The newly elected officers for the 1936-38 years were:

Mrs. Laura K. Wilson - President

Miss Idella Kretchman - Vice President

Mrs. Grace P. Tower - Program

Mrs. Della B. Van Sickle - Social

Miss Lillian Erickson - Membership

Miss Emma Bishop - Advisory

The second meeting to be held in March of 1936 was cancelled due to the Great Flood of 1936. Many downtown buildings and businesses suffered damage due to the high water levels of the rivers. In 1937 PPTA became a Federated Senior Club under the Pennsylvania Federation of Music Clubs (PFMC) and a member of the National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMC). The NFMC has a Junior Composer Award for Piano named in honor of Laura K. Wilson.