

# AMTA Newsletter

## President's Corner

**Feb. 13, 2015:** Meeting and Coffee: 10:00 at Piano Distributors. Please volunteer to bring some light refreshments.

- **Program:** 10:30 Dr. Martha Thomas Presenting "Discover the Music of Max Reger."

Happy Valentine's Day! Hope to see all of you at our meeting and Program this Friday, Feb. 13, 2015, at Piano Distributors. It promises to be an interesting program regarding a composer not heard as often as he should.

**Music Fest:** was held Feb. 8 at England Piano. Elena Dorozhkina, chair, will give a final report of the Music Fest at our meeting.

**Local Auditions:** A quick synopsis of Anne Sun's earlier email to the group:

- **March 1, 2015:** Local Auditions will be held at Georgia State (Standard Building on Fairlie Street). Since the Streetcar is operational, no more detours!

There have been numerous emails forwarded to you concerning the GATE Theory test which students must take for the first time this year. This is a trial test only, and sample tests are on the GMTA website. Anne Sun is chair of the auditions and the administration of the GATE Theory test as well. Please bring your questions with you to the meeting.

- **March 28, 2015:** Students who advance to the Regional IV Auditions will compete at Perimeter College.

**April 10, 2015:** Meeting at 10:00 at Piano Distributors.

- **Program:** Dr. Joanna Kim Doyle and Dr. Soohyun Yun "Intermediate and Advanced Duet Repertoire".

**April 18, 2015:** GMTA State Auditions for Pre-College Piano and Piano Concerto held at UGA

**May 8, 2015:** Meeting and Luncheon with Program TBA. We need a host for this luncheon!

- **Program:** Dr. Elena Dorozhkina "Intermediate Russian Piano Music".

## President's Corner - continued



**Romantic/Impressionistic Festival and Competition: Date is set for Saturday Oct. 24, 2015 at Steinway Galleries in Alpharetta.**

If you did not attend the meeting in December, we have made some exciting changes to the festival, simplified the levels. I think you will be happy with these changes:

**Contestants may choose from these three categories of literature:**

1. Two Romantic Compositions
2. Two Impressionistic Compositions
3. One Romantic and one Impressionistic Composition

**There will be six levels for the competition:**

1. Second grade and below
2. Third and Fourth Grades
3. Fifth and Sixth Grades
4. Seventh and Eighth Grades
5. Ninth and Tenth Grades
6. Eleventh and Twelfth Grades

The RIFC committee spent many hours of reviewing past RIFC events, and doing some basic Cost to Benefit Analysis, especially considering the size and resources of AMTA. The RIFC Committee concluded we could better serve our students and our local community if we focus on pre-college level students. College students have opportunities to perform and compete elsewhere. Therefore, **we will no longer include the Adult and College Level Entrants** in RIFC events in the near future. We will focus our resources on the students we teach, and be able to increase the Prizes awarded to the Pre-College Level Entrants. We want to encourage everyone to participate and hope to increase participation in this wonderful event.

AMTA members thoroughly enjoyed Dr. William DeVan's Master Class. We all agreed, it was one of the best Master Classes we have attended. The students improved before our eyes, able to respond to Dr. DeVan's musical suggestions – which were often humorous – putting everyone at ease.

I was thinking this would be a short Newsletter, but we had more News than I first realized...

See you Friday,

*Kathy*



## Presenter Biographies

### Dr. Martha Thomas

Associate Director of Academic Programs at University of Georgia.



Dr. Martha Thomas, has been on the piano faculty of the University of Georgia School of Music since 1986. A native Texan, she holds degrees through the doctorate in piano performance from the Universities of Texas and Wisconsin. Her major piano professors include William Race, Danielle Martin, and Howard Karp. Dr. Thomas has appeared in master classes with nationally renowned pianists Leon Fleisher, John Perry, and Ronald Turini, and has coached with such acclaimed pianists and pedagogues as Marylene Dosse, Lee Luvisi, and Jack Radunsky. She began her teaching career in 1977 at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Dr. Thomas maintains an active performance schedule appearing as a recitalist, chamber musician, and orchestral soloist throughout North America. Recent programs include a chamber music recital in New York City as well as live broadcasts on the Texas, Georgia and Wisconsin public radio networks. Last year she was a guest soloist with the Athens Symphony, and this year she will be performing with the Danville Symphony and the Dekalb Symphony Orchestra. Touring schedules for solo and chamber music recitals have taken Dr. Thomas across the country to many different venues. She has performed as a solo and collaborative guest artist on concert series at the Universities of Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Minnesota, and Texas. She has also appeared in recital at Texas Tech University, Furman University, Ohio State University, and Florida State University as well as at numerous colleges and universities throughout Georgia including Dekalb College, Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University, Georgia Southern University, and Emory University.

Dr. Thomas recently released her first solo compact disc recording, *Rochberg: Four Decades of Piano Music*, to critical acclaim. She is currently working on several new projects, including a chamber music recording featuring music for strings and piano, a collaborative recording featuring music for saxophone and piano, and a recording of a solo piano sonata written by Roger Vogel, a UGA composer.



**Riley Osborn**, student of **Shirley Irek**, will give her Senior Recital on March 1, 2015, 3:30 pm at Piano Works in Duluth.

The program includes the Beethoven Sonata for piano and violin #4 in A minor, with **Caroline Wu**, violin, as well as the Rachmaninoff Suite #1 for two pianos, with Ms. Irek.

All are invited to this free event.

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