

ATLANTA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Happy New Year, members of the AMTA! I am your new president, taking over for Kathy Ackerman, who generously agreed to remain in the office until I was finished with my MTNA Competitions duties. I'm looking forward to working with the other officers, and to meeting those of you who I have not had the pleasure of meeting yet!

We have an exciting 2017 planned for our group, beginning at 11:00 a.m. next Friday, January 13, with the Master Class at Piano Distributors. Liza Stepanova, Assistant Professor at UGA, will be our featured clinician. The business meeting will be at 10:00 a.m., and you are welcome to attend. As a reminder, you can visit our website to find out about upcoming events, entry deadlines, and application forms for student competitions and festivals:

<http://www.atlmta.org/calendar/>

(Any corrections or additions to the website should be sent to me.)

If any members are interested in leadership or other volunteer positions in our organization, contact me to discuss possibilities. It would be wonderful to see more members involved in the operation of this association.

Please feel free to call me with any concerns or suggestions you may have, and I hope to see you next week at the master class!

Sincerely,
Carol Payne, President

**OUR NEXT PROGRAM - FRIDAY JAN 13
MASTERCLASS
LIZA STEPANOVA of UGA PIANO FACULTY**

WE will hear the following works performed by students of AMTA teachers.

**Bach Partita in c Minor - Sinfonia - student of Nancy Elton
Bach Partita in c Minor- Allemande/Courante student of Mary Williams
Mendelsohn Spinning Song - Student of Beverly Bradley
Chopin Etude 10 # 9 - Student of Laura Gordy**

**10:00 AMTA Meeting
11:00 Masterclass Begins**

LOCATION: Piano Distributors - Cobb Parkway

LIZA STEPANOVA

Praised by *The New York Times* for her “thoughtful musicality” and “fleet-fingered panache,” Liza Stepanova is in demand as a soloist, collaborator, and educator. She has performed extensively in Europe, most recently, as a soloist with the Southwest German Philharmonic and in chamber music performances at the Berlin Museum of Musical Instruments and Belgrade’s Kolarac Hall. In the United States, she has appeared in Weill and Zankel Recital Halls at Carnegie; Alice Tully Hall, Merkin and Steinway halls in New York City; at the Kennedy Center and The Smithsonian in Washington, DC; and live on WQXR New York, WFMT Chicago, and WETA Washington.

Stepanova has twice been a soloist with the Juilliard Orchestra led by James DePreist and Nicholas McGegan and was a top prizewinner at the Liszt-Garrison, Juilliard Concerto, Steinway, and Ettlingen competitions. As a member of the Lysander Piano Trio, she won the 2012 Concert Artists Guild Competition and received the Grand Prize at the 2011 Coleman Competition. The Trio has given its Kaufman Center and Carnegie Weill Hall recital debuts in 2014 to enthusiastic reviews in *The Strad* and *The New York Times*. The ensemble has commissioned two world premieres and has recently released a debut CD “After A Dream” that has garnered positive reviews with features in *The New York Times* Classical Playlist, on WQXR, and the Minnesota Public Radio.

Highlights of the 2014-15 season include performances of music by Franz Liszt at Yamaha Salon in New York and at the American Liszt Society’s 50th-anniversary conference, a new-music residency at UC Davis, and recitals with the Lysander Trio at the Krannert Center at the University of Illinois, San Francisco’s Morrison Artists Series, and Chamber Music Tulsa, and with members of the New York Philharmonic at Lincoln Center’s Kaplan Penthouse.

Stepanova has performed as a soloist and chamber musician at the international festivals at Castleton, La Jolla, Music @Menlo and Davos (Switzerland), where she had opportunities to collaborate with seasoned artists including violinist Cho-Liang Lin, violist James Dunham, soprano Lucy Shelton and mezzo-soprano Susanne Mentzer. Deeply committed to new music, she has worked with the AXIOM, New Juilliard, and Mimesis ensembles. Stepanova collaborated with many distinguished composers, including Robert Beaser, Gabriela Lena Frank, John Harbison, Lowell Liebermann and John Musto, and premiered new compositions by Jennifer Higdon, Libby Larsen, Jakub Ciupinski, and Tom Cipullo.

Liza Stepanova studied art song collaboration with Wolfram Rieger in Berlin and was invited by the late Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau to perform in several of his masterclasses including the Hugo-Wolf Tage festival in Austria. Between 2011-2013, she was a founding member of the innovative SongFusion ensemble, for which she curated several programs combining music with visual art and recitation. Between 2013-2016, Stepanova served as Associate

Artistic Director and Piano Program Director at SongFest at The Colburn School in Los Angeles.

Stepanova received her DMA from The Juilliard School with a Richard F. French Award for an outstanding dissertation. Previously a graduate of the Hanns Eisler Academy in Berlin, Germany, she studied with Joseph Kalichstein, Seymour Lipkin, Jerome Lowenthal, and George Sava, and performed in masterclasses for Alfred Brendel, Daniel Barenboim and Andras Schiff. Stepanova previously taught at The Juilliard School and Smith College and joins the faculty of the Hugh Hodgson School of Music at the University of Georgia for the 2015-16 academic year. For more information, visit liza-stepanova.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) WE WELCOME our NEW PRESIDENT, Dr. CAROL PAYNE! Carol is no stranger to us!! She is head of the Preparatory School at Clayton State University. **THANK YOU SO MUCH, Carol!!**

2) GMTA ANNOUNCEMENTS. Please note that the GMTA State Auditions date has been changed to April 15, rather April 22 as originally planned. I am copying the following email that you all should have received from GMTA. I have included other announcements that were in the same email as shown below:

GMTA Auditions

There has been a change to the state Pre-college Piano and Piano Concerto date. These Auditions will now be on April 15, 2017 rather than the previously stated April 22, 2017. This change has been made due to the G-Day game event that will take place on campus that day.

We want to highlight the addition of our new College Piano Concerto Event this year. Students will compete for an opportunity to receive a cash prize. We are hopeful that in future years a performance prize with an orchestra can be offered. The date for that event is April 8, 2017. The registration deadline to enter is March 20. See the GMTA website for more details. ([College Piano Concerto Information](#))

All audition registrations will be done online this year. Please see the following link for instructions for registering online: [Instructions for Online Auditions Registrations](#).

Contact your local association audition chair for local registration deadlines. Please try to register early as the online system will not accept registrations past the deadline. Contact Mandy Reynolds (georgiamta@gmail.com) if you have any trouble creating a teacher account or registering for GATE, GMTA Theory Tests, or Auditions.

MTNA Grants

The Deadline to apply for MTNA Grants is January 3. For more information regarding these grants please refer to the grant page on the MTNA website ([MTNA Grants](#)). Many of you can benefit from this opportunity. Apply now!

GMTA/MTNA Teacher of the Year

It is our pleasure to announce to you a very exciting development. Our very own Susan McDuffie, this year's recipient of the GMTA Teacher of the Year award, has been named the 2017 MTNA Teacher of the Year! We are so thrilled for her and wish her many congratulations. She will receive her award at the 2017 MTNA Conference in Baltimore. Susan, we salute you and are thankful for the many, many ways that you have impacted your students, your community, Macon MTA, GMTA, your family and those around you through music. Congratulations and Best Regards from your GMTA family!

3. Announcement from our Program Chair, Shirly Irek:

MEMBERS,

Our April 14 meeting at Piano Distributors, will be a public " First Rehearsal" with a musical partner. Perhaps you would like to learn a piano duet, or a voice and piano piece.....now is the time to think about the repertoire you would like to play and reach out to a member to join you.

Learn your parts individually and your first rehearsal will be with a friendly audience!

Our group discussion can then include points that we can make with our students, as we invite them to learn duets with us, or with their friends.

We can discuss more details at the next meeting.

Shirley Irek

Calendar of Programs and Events 2016-17

December 9, 2016 – AMTA Holiday Luncheon at Shirley Irek's home

January 13, 2017 – Piano Distributors. MASTER CLASS with Liza Stepanova, UGA Professor of Piano.

January 27, 2017 – Deadline for AMTA Local Auditions application

Feb. 10, 2017 – Piano Distributors. Meeting and Program TBA

February 26, 2017 – AMTA Local Auditions at GSU Standard Building

March 10, 2017 – Piano Distributors. Meeting & Program: Jeremy Samolesky, Auburn U.

March 18, 2017 – GMTA Regional Auditions

March 18-22, 2017 – MTNA Conference in Baltimore, MD.

April 14, 2017 – Piano Distributors. AMTA Members Ensemble "First Rehearsal".

May 12, 2017- May Luncheon TBA

THE END!

