

Greetings, Colleagues!

May 1, 2024

### MAY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, May 17, 2024 at Yocum Institute, Studio 5  
3000 Penn Ave, West Lawn 19609

9:00 am/Executive Committee Meeting; 9:30/Social; 10:00/General Membership Meeting  
10:15/Presentation ~ "Teaching Composition - where to begin"  
with Terry Cocci, Ginny Thorpe and Carmen Carpenter.

**BYOB!!** Bring your own beverage; we'll supply snacks.  
Please join us, and bring a friend! Non-members are welcome at no cost.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Our Slate of Officers for the 2024-2026 term is:

President – Millie Eben  
Secretary – Holly Altenderfer  
Treasurer – Lindsay Evans  
Past-President – Barbara Lanza

After we approve the new Executive Committee, Barbara will be retiring. We thank her for getting us through the election process and for her many years of service. Sandy Sittler has agreed to take her place as Past-President for the 2024-2026 term. We will confirm that as well. Thank you, Lindsay and Sandy, for saying 'yes' to service for RMTA.

**MAY MEETING AGENDA** will include a review of the last years events and brief discussion on the future. If you want anything discussed, please email me your items by May 10th. Detailed discussion regarding the next year, however, will take place at the June planning meeting mentioned below. Minutes of the last General Meeting will be sent to members in a separate email along with a Treasurer's Report. Please review them prior to the meeting so we can expedite our discussions and focus on the fun stuff!

**"PARTNERS IN MUSIC" RECITAL ....** was a huge success and lots of fun to boot!  
Participating teachers were Holly Altenderfer, Dorinne Bilger, Sandy Sittler, Millie Eben, Barbara Lanza and Lindsay Evans, along with 23 students. Thanks also to the Berks Piano Quartet and their coach Jim Neher for participating. The freewill offering brought in \$200 which will go to the IUCC music fund as a small thank you. We hope to do this again next year. Program can be found on the website.



**WELCOME NEW MEMBER!** Join me in welcoming new member Anna Gutzler, a music major at West Chester University who will be entering her senior year this fall, AND....my former student! Please add her contact information to your member list: AG971428@wcupa.edu, 610-823-9298.

**SAVE THE DATE! SUMMER PIANO PEDAGOGY WORKSHOP...** is in the works for Wednesday, July 31st! Stay tuned for details!

**PMTA STATE CONFERENCE:** June 14-16, 2024 at KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY!! I will be attending if anyone wants to join me.

**ANNUAL MEMBER SURVEY:** Keep an eye on your email box for the annual member survey. Please take time to complete it as this helps your Executive Committee in planning future events.

**PLANNING MEETING** will take place Wednesday, June 19 @10am at my home – 2052 Cleveland Ave., West Lawn 19609. Members are welcome to attend, but please RSVP so I'm sure to have enough chairs. And if I know you are coming, I'll forward the agenda to you ahead of time. Also FYI, I have three senior dogs -- two will ignore you, the other will bark and then want to be your best friend.

**RANDOM** 🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵

◇ **DID YOU KNOW?**

◇ **MUSIC APPRECIATION CLASSES AT YOCUM INSTITUTE:** Yocum is developing a series of classes for our 55+ population. Being offered this summer are two four-week classes, "Nature in Music", and "Remarkable Women Composers." Click [HERE](#) for more information.

◇ **TEACHING TIP:** Lately, I've had some students come to lessons so overwhelmed and exhausted from the school day that their brains could barely function. (Yes, it's standardized testing session...) So, we broke out the blues, learning the C blues scale; then we turned on a simple rhythm track with iRealPro and started some improvisation, first with some by-copy with me using two notes, then three, then gradually expanding into the full scale. I found all age students enjoyed this and it seems to revive their spirits and send them off smiling! I sent them all home to listen to BB King's "One Shoe Blues" - <https://youtu.be/J8rLuk2PoMA?si=7WaQDbdSjssNf8h> (Millie)

◇ Send me YOUR teaching tips to include in future newsletters!

Stay inspired!

Millie

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