



Sept 1, 2025

Greetings, Colleagues!

Fall General Membership Meeting – Friday, September 19

Yocum Institute, 3000 Penn Ave., West Lawn | Studio 5

9:00 am/Executive Committee Meeting; 9:30 am/Social & Goodies

10:00 am/Brief General Membership Meeting

10:15/Teacher Forum:

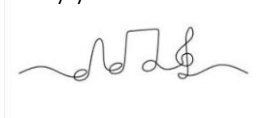
“What’s in Your Piano Bag? ~ A Method Book Show & Tell”

Everyone bring an example to share.

Also bring your own beverage and a small plate of finger food to share.

At our lunch gathering on August 22nd, 14 members, past and present, came together to present an **RMTA Honorary Membership to Rosemary Fraley**. It was during Rosemary’s first term as President that RMTA saw a shift in focus to educating teachers about the business aspects of private teaching, including in 1987 RMTA’ participating in a National Video Conference sponsored by Baldwin Piano Company entitled “Is Independent Studio Teaching a Viable Career?” It was quite the event at the time! This in addition to other Teacher Forum topics -- “How to Start, Run and Stay in Business,” “Studio Management”, “Let’s Look at Electronic Keyboards” -- helped independent music teachers understand they are not just musicians and teachers, but also small-business owners.

While Rosemary has officially retired from teaching, she has hardly retired from the Berks County musical community as she continues to serve as Chair of the RSO League’s “Know Your Symphony” lecture series, leads The Highlands Singers and Bell Choir, and serves on the boards of several Berks music organizations. As they say, musicians never really retire. Rosemary continues to be a sounding board for me personally and professionally, someone with whom to collaborate and commiserate, and I cherish our many years of friendship.



DSPF has been postponed for this year. Join us for a **new student recital** celebrating the season with **“Harvest Harmonies”** Sunday, October 19, 2025, 3:00 pm at Immanuel UCC. We’ve adopted some **Student Recital Guidelines** to help expedite to the registration process while allowing more teachers and students the opportunity to participate in the recitals without having them run too long. They are attached FYI. Since our first recital is coming up quickly, if you know you’ll have students ready to participate please email me your first performance time estimate ASAP.

In celebration of RMTA’s **100th Anniversary**, we’ve commissioned an intermediate piano duet with composer Phillip Keveren, with funding from the Reading Musical Foundation! The piece will be premiered at our April 2026 **Partners in Music** community recital. That recital will also feature RMTA’s three past commissions: “Spirals” by Robert Vandall (intermediate), “Blue Parrot Rag” by Martha Mier (early intermediate), and “Midnight Horseman” by yours truly (late elementary). Ideally, we could accommodate two duos as IUCC has two pianos available for our use. If you might have a student duo who might like to participate, please let me know. I’ll email you a pdf of the scores.

MISSING MEETING MINUTES: We are missing meeting minutes from June 2009 through April 2012. If anyone has anything from the time period, please let me know.

AN UPDATED MEMBERSHIP LIST is included with this September email. This month does include Friends for the 2024-25 fiscal year. A revised list will be distributed with the October newsletter reflecting the renewals for 2025-2026.

The [2025-2026 Calendar of Events](#) is now posted on the RMTA website. Hope you'll join us as we begin our celebration of 100 years of music teaching and performing in Berks County!

IN RETROSPECT: In honor of our 100th year, our monthly newsletters will include an excerpt from the RMTA minutes of past. Here's our first:

"Saturday, September 11, 1976 will go down in the records of the Reading Music Teachers Association as the evening that forty-one members and guests celebrated the golden anniversary of the founding of their organization. It was most fitting that the current president, Mrs. Angela Haage Ganster, daughter of the founder George D. Haage, preside over the meeting.

"Mrs. Ganster called upon Claude Dundore to give the invocation, after which dining ensued. The guest of honor, Mrs. Allison Drake, former director of the Philadelphia Conservatory of Music, then gave a short complimentary talk mentioning the many activities of RMTA down through the years.

"The entertainment of the evening was provided by a flute trio composed of Anne Weiser and two of her students, Nancy Swavely and Beth Andes. They performed a Prelude by Bach (arr. Wilks), Allegro by Quantz (who was Frederick the Great's flute teacher), Jeannie with the Light Brown Hair, and Ciribiribinbin. The concert was greatly enjoyed by all present.

"...In closing, a commemorative booklet "The First Fifty Years" was presented to each member."

Stay cool!

Millie Eben, President RMTA

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1926 - 2026

Celebrating our 100th anniversary!

RMTA is an affiliate of Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association and Music Teachers National Association.

RMTA is a 501c3 non-profit educational corporation. All donations are tax deductible.

Visit readingmusicteachers.org for more information

RMTA 2025-2026

STUDENT RECITAL GUIDELINES

- General guidelines regarding repertoire and memorization for student performance events may vary. Refer to the event webpage for complete details.
- Recitals are approximately 60 to 90 minutes in duration.
- Students of all ages, levels and abilities welcome at all recitals.
- Memory encouraged but not required; but music must be performance ready.
- Registration will be in phases:
 - First call: Teachers submit an estimated performance time. This first call is limited 10 minutes per teacher. Any number of students may use the 10 minutes.
 - Second call: If registration has not filled 60 to 90 minutes, teachers will be invited to submit additional students.
 - Registration deadline: This is when all online registrations must be received. Check event for specific date.
 - Email your recital participate estimates to Millie Eben at mgeben@mac.com.
- If participation is sufficient, two recitals will be planned on the same day. On the flip side, if a program of at least 35 minutes cannot be guaranteed, the event will be canceled and teachers will be notified within 48 hours of the registration deadline.
- All recital registrations will be electronic and must include complete information. If you need assistance with the online registration, contact Millie.
- Instrumentalists and vocalists will supply their own accompanist and page turner.
- Should two students be prepared to play the same selection, the teacher who has registered first may use the piece.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVENTS 2025-2026

All events take place at Immanuel UCC, 99 S. Waverly St., Shillington PA 19609

“Harvest Harmonies”

Sunday, October 19, 2025, 3:00 pm

- *Open to all students who study with RMTA members or Friends. All repertoire genres welcome. Solos and ensembles welcome.*

Registration:

First call: September 5, 2025

Second call: October 3, 2025

Registration deadline: Friday, October 1, 2025

“A Touch of Jazz”

Sunday, February 15, 2026, 3:00 pm

- *Open to all students who study with RMTA members or Friends. Repertoire focus is on jazz/popular music, including jazz standards, jazz-style, musical theater, popular arrangements. Solos and ensembles welcome.*

Registration:

First call: January 1, 2026

Second call: January 15, 2026

Registration deadline: February 8, 2026

“Partners in Music”

Sunday, April 27, 2026, 3:00 pm

- *Open to all students who study with RMTA members or Friends. Community members also invited to participate. Repertoire focus is on ensembles – one or two pianos, instrumental, vocal.*

Registration:

First call: March 1, 2026

Second call: March 27, 2026

Registration deadline: April 10, 2026