

## Karina's Korner

Happy New Year, everyone! We were fortunate to have a somewhat mild winter this year. It sure was nice not being stuck at the house for ten days like last year and to be able to easily get to our Christmas gatherings this year. Let's hope it stays like this and there are no crazy surprises at the end of February or March! We are also very fortunate to have a talented editor like Gary Hind, who is still recovering after a few major surgeries. It's great to hear that you are doing better, Gary! We would be lost without your expertise and wouldn't have these wonderful Newsletters. Thank you!

In anticipation of a very busy spring (yes, I know I'm jumping the gun here, but how could one month of the new year be gone ALREADY???) I would like to get the word out in this newsletter on a few upcoming events which might be several months away but for which it would be wise for everyone to start planning for now and mark them in their calendars.

First and foremost, of course, is our upcoming and highly anticipated **Master Class with Dr. Yelena Balabanova** this **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6<sup>th</sup>** at the Christ Memorial Church in Poulsbo from 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. We are happy to welcome Dr. Balabanova back after having her visit us in October and present a very intellectually stimulating lecture on the Russian teaching method.

## Adjudications & State Honors Recitalist Competition

Right around the corner it will be time for Adjudications for the North end of our chapter on February 26 and 27<sup>th</sup> and for the South end on March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Immediately following that, on **SUNDAY, March 7<sup>th</sup>** we will hold **State Honors Recitalist Competition** to select a representative of West Sound Chapter to perform at the Washington State MTA Conference in June. Irene Bowling is graciously opening up her studio once again for this event. It will be held at the Bowling Piano Studio at 2:00 p.m. and Yelena Balabanova will return to our neck of the woods once more this year to be the judge for this competition. Dr. Bowling is the chair for this event and will need to have the eligible participants' names and their repertoire e-mailed to her at [irenerbowling@wavecable.com](mailto:irenerbowling@wavecable.com) by February 28<sup>th</sup>. Watch your e-mail for more details to come.

The reason there is a little more advance notice of this annual event this year is because there was very poor turnout at last year's competition and the chapter wasn't very well represented, with only a couple of teachers supplying all of the participants and support for those performers. So, as Adjudications approach and all the students try to prepare their two memorized pieces, I would like to stress again that all teachers should try to encourage more students to participate in this event, which is one of the benefits of West Sound Chapter membership. With so few participation requirements (having to play two memorized pieces for Adjudications and giving a performance of under five minutes at the competition), it gives many students another goal to work for and another great performance opportunity. And for those who are just a little bit too young to compete, their attendance would inspire and motivate them to work harder. So, I hope to see all the teachers there this year, showing their support for the wonderful talent we have in this chapter and for many of their students participating or attending.

OK, I think that was sufficient for giving the "motivational speaker" in me a chance to come out. Have a great rest of the year and hope to see everyone at all of these wonderful programs.

*Karina Gordievich, President*



## Future Events

### Craig Sheppard Benefit Recital

There is some great news! Professor Craig Sheppard, an internationally acclaimed pianist, will once again grace us with his wonderful playing, and to top it all off

he is willing to do it as a benefit recital for our chapter once more. This year's program is not light by all means (something we have come to expect from Professor Sheppard). He will be performing the three posthumous Schubert Sonatas. We are so honored to have an artist of such stature share his amazing talent with us and be so generous to our chapter for many years. **I think it's a given that we must show our appreciation by providing the biggest and warmest audience Professor Sheppard has ever seen here.**

We have also been fortunate to have Irene Bowling host this annual event at her beautiful recital Dome for so many years now. Her current facility arrangements, however, don't allow for a big crowd, so we will hold the **Craig Sheppard Benefit Recital at Christ Memorial Church on SATURDAY, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** Please mark this on your calendar and invite everyone you know to this "not-to-be-missed" concert. Watch your e-mail for more details to come.

## Membership

### General Membership Meeting May 14th

Although it's scary to already be thinking about our annual end of the year planning meeting, I would like everyone to mark the date of **FRIDAY, May 14<sup>th</sup>** as that's the day Jani Peterson, the WSMTA President, will be visiting our chapter for the first time. Let's show her a warm welcome. I hope to see all of the members at this meeting, especially because we've lost a few members since last year, so we pretty much need to have 100% attendance. Time and place TBA.

And, speaking of a shrinking membership, Elizabeth Foster finally got the permission to go to Australia to complete a research project. She left for the much sunnier Australia last Sunday. We'll miss you, mate! Don't forget to write from Down Under.

## Bulletin Board

### Calendar of Events

**Master Class with Dr. Yelena Balabanova** this **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6<sup>th</sup>** at the Christ Memorial Church in Poulsbo from 9:00 a.m. -1:30 p.m. This is a collaborative event with KMTA, and the audience will get to hear such marvelous Russian piano repertoire as *Lyric Waltz* by Shostakovich, *Elegie Op. 3 No. 1* and *Prelude in C# minor Op 3 No.2* by Rachmaninoff, and Sonatas No.2 and No. 7 by Prokofieff, as well as some Chopin and Beethoven, performed by students from both chapters. It's free to attend, so please encourage all of your students to come to this wonderful master class. The program will be split up into two sections, with a half-hour break from 11:00 -11:30 a.m. Dr.Balabanova's bio was given in the October "PRESTO", but if you would like

more information, go to [http://pianoatsky\\_music.com](http://pianoatsky_music.com). For directions to the church, please visit [www.christmemorial.net/about/servicetimes/](http://www.christmemorial.net/about/servicetimes/).

### **2010 Adjudications:**

North end - February 26-27 on Bainbridge Island.  
Jee Wong, Adjudicator  
South end - March 5-6 at Bowling Studios.  
Dr. Milica Jelaca-Jovanovic, Adjudicator

**March 7:** Honors Recitalist Competition. (see article)

**April 24:** Craig Sheppard Benefit Concert. (see article)

**May 14:** West Sound Music Teachers meeting. (see article)

**June 21-25:** WSMTA 2010 Conference in Olympia.



Happy Valentines Day!