

# QUAVERS

## Kitsap Music Teachers Association Monthly News

*January 2020 News Digest - Find Full Event Details at our Website,  
[kitsapmusicteachers.org](http://kitsapmusicteachers.org).*



### **President's Message: "What's In Your Toybox?"**

One of my favorite KMTA guest speakers has been Bonnie Blanchard, Seattle-area flute teacher extraordinaire. When she visited several years ago, I had recently read her book “Making Music and Enriching Lives” and had her sign my copy. I still remember her original rubber chicken demonstration, among other fun and wacky lesson props. She brought them out again at last year’s visit, along with some new ones, guaranteed to get you stopped at airport security if you travel with them! (Screaming figurines, namely.)

Inspired by Bonnie, I started collecting props for my own studio “toybox.” In my new studio space, I would like to have more open shelves where I can display and use them more frequently.



**Bobblehead Hulk vs. Bobblehead Einstein:** How do you teach your muscles vs. your brain to learn a new skill? Which one “gets it” first? Which one needs lots of repetitions to “do it” correctly?

**Stretch Armstrong:** Used for out-of-position extensions or remembering to reach f-a-r-t-h-e-r to fix flat or sharp notes.

**Mooving Cow Can:** A classic, used like Bonnie’s rubber chicken or “No!” button to draw attention to those pesky mistakes.

**Lego bricks and board:** Handy for teaching fractional note-length relationships like eighths-to-quarters-to-halves-to-whole. Stack and restack three different-colored Lego bricks to explain chord inversions.

**Russian Matryoshka nesting dolls:** Also for teaching note length relationships. Unpack the dolls to show the eighth-notes/sixteenth notes inside a quarter note, for example.

**Giant Dice:** Have students roll to assign the number of repetitions they will make of an exercise or repertoire passage. I modified this die so there are no less than 3 dots on each face ;)

**The Three Bears story book:** Was that note or tempo “too low,” “too high” or “just right”?

For strings students working on straight bowing: **Hand-held target** to aim at;

decorated **toilet-paper tube** for shoulder-bowing exercises.

You probably have a few toys of your own. What are your favorites?

Coming in January we have the opportunity for more creativity in our studios, as we host Jeremy Siskind (together with the Edmonds Chapter). But don't forget our regular meeting on January 10, when our own Sally Camp will talk to us about taking care of one's mental well-being, both for ourselves and for our students. Maybe a toy break will help!

Happy New Year,

### **Jane Melin**

President, Kitsap Music Teachers Association

## **From the VP: Meeting News**



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

I hope everyone had a wonderful and musical Christmas!

We are excited to have two meetings in January: one on January 10th and one on January 31st! (The second is to replace the February meeting.) On the 10th we will be fortunate to hear from our own Sally Camp with the topic, "Mind over Music". Sally has written a wonderful overview of her presentation in her article below. It certainly sounds like she has many valuable insights and perspectives to share.

And then on January 31st we will be honored to have jazz pianist extraordinaire Jeremy Siskind for our program! The day before, January 30, he will also be doing a student workshop as well as a concert (see article below for details). This is all thanks to the Dorothy Woodcock endowment, such a wonderful blessing for our chapter! By the way, if you're not familiar with Jeremy's work, we used some of his *spy* arrangements in our "Night at the movies" Monster Concert a few years ago: Pink Panther, Mission Impossible, and James Bond. I'm so excited to hear more where those came from!

### **Laura Meredith**

Vice-President, Kitsap Music Teachers Association

## **Mind over Music**

I have always been fascinated with human behavior. When I chose to become a music teacher I had no idea what a wonderful "study" of people that it would become. Don't

you just love watching a young student blossom? Or an older student enjoy learning to play a favorite song, just for the fun of it?

Unfortunately, not all children blossom, and not all adult students find their way to the musical expression that they hoped for. Sometimes this is because of forces outside of their control, but sometimes it's because they develop real physical or psychological roadblocks. Everyone hits roadblocks occasionally, but when someone gets stuck feeling extreme pain, anxiety, dysfunction, or depression for too long, it becomes what we call mental illness.

My presentation will provide a general overview of the current myriad of mental illnesses and their impact on the learning of music. I will also share simple guidelines to help teachers navigate these precarious situations successfully, without overstepping professional boundaries or compromising musical standards.

If you have an experience to share with regard to a student mental health situation, please plan to do so. There will be time for free discussion and questions after my presentation. See you next week!

**Sally Camp**

## **Jeremy Siskind Improvisation Workshops and Concert**

On January 30th, award-winning jazz pianist, professor and author Jeremy Siskind will give a student workshop on improvisation from 4-5 pm, followed by an evening concert at 6:30, both held in the North Kitsap Auditorium. The following morning, Jeremy will be our guest speaker for



our monthly meeting at CK Presbyterian. All events are free, generously funded by the Dorothy Woodcock Endowment. See his biography below:

Pianist-composer **JEREMY SISKIND** is “a genuine visionary” (*Indianapolis Star*) who “seems to defy all boundaries” (*JazzInk*) with music “rich in texture and nuance” (*Downbeat*). A top finisher in several national and international jazz piano competitions, Siskind is a two-time laureate of the American Pianists Association and the winner of the Nottingham International Jazz Piano Competition. Since making his professional debut juxtaposing Debussy’s *Etudes* with jazz standards at Carnegie Hall’s

Weill Hall, Siskind has established himself as one of the nation's most innovative and virtuosic modern pianists.

As the leader of "The Housewarming Project," Siskind has not only created "a shining example of chamber jazz" (*Downbeat*) whose albums often land on critics' "best of the year" lists. He's also established himself as a pioneer of the in-home concert movement by presenting well over 100 in-home concerts in 25 states. On an upcoming solo piano album, Siskind performs 9 new *Perpetual Motion Etudes* that include both through-composed and improvised sections.

A highly-respected educator, Siskind has authored 13 publications with Hal Leonard. He currently teaches at California's Fullerton College, chairs the National Conference for Keyboard Pedagogy's "Creativity Track," and spreads peace through music with the non-profit organization, Jazz Education Abroad.

## **Strings Teachers: Register for MAP by January 15!**

After a hopefully restful holiday break, it's time for us to hit the ground running in 2020! Our registration deadline for Strings MAP (formerly adjudications) is January 15. To register, login at the WSMTA website and follow the link. I recommend registering a few days early, in the event that you have trouble logging in. It has been asked that we not request log-in help from the state on weekends, so we need to plan accordingly. If you have any questions at all about the registration process, please feel free to email me at [kurtzbein4@gmail.com](mailto:kurtzbein4@gmail.com). I'm looking forward to an enriching event!

Melanie Kurtzbein

## **Accompanists Requested for Strings MAP**

If you or someone you know is interested in accompanying for our Strings MAP event on March 6th and/or 7th, please contact Cathy Gabbey at [catherinegabbey@gmail.com](mailto:catherinegabbey@gmail.com) or Melanie Kurtzbein at [kurtzbein4@gmail.com](mailto:kurtzbein4@gmail.com).

## **Forrest Kinney Passing**

Forrest Kinney, respected and beloved music author and educator, passed away on December 8, 2019 after a long battle with cancer. A beautiful memory has been provided by the Royal Conservatory of Music. You can find it [here](#). He will truly be missed!



## **KMTA Performance Competitions and WSMTA State Recitalist Competitions**

Once again, KMTA will be holding Performance Competitions in conjunction with the WSMTA State Recitalist Competitions on **Saturday March 14 at Gateway Fellowship in Poulsbo. Registration opens February 1, and closes on February 15** (*online registration only.*)

All of the information you need to prepare yourself and your students for KMTA's competition in 2020 is now updated and available on the KMTA website. Please read through everything on the COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS page, as well as on the applicable linked pages, so that you are familiar with eligibility and repertoire requirements well in advance.

**Be sure to download the Registration Worksheet now**, and start filling it in as you work with your students this month. Having this worksheet at your side will make for a smooth registration process in February!

## **Christmas at the Mall: A Note of Appreciation**

Although I may write about this topic at some point in the Clarion, I wanted to relay something that happened at the Kitsap Mall holiday performance to my colleagues in KMTA because so many of our studios participate in this performance.

Currently, I teach mostly adults. The four children who remain studying with me gave a forty-minute concert at the Kitsap Mall this past December. We had the usual set of family and friends in the audience. Also as usual, there were passers-by who also stopped by for a while to listen.

Following the performance, one of the “passers-by” spoke to me. She told me that she can’t afford to go to concerts, so she takes the bus to the mall every year so she can enjoy the holiday concerts that take place there. Her conversation with me was a much-needed reminder that, even in situations where we are competing with the loud whirr of the Orange-Julius machine, every musical performance has the potential to be very important to someone in the audience.

Joann Richardson

## Carnival News

Happy New Year to one and all! I hope your holidays were fun and restful, and that you are feeling ready for the busy music season ahead! January brings a stepped up pace for preparing for our annual KMTA Music Carnival and Music Literacy Program exams, scheduled for Sat. April 25.

Within the next two weeks, all Carnival/MLP materials will be updated and made available to you on the KMTA website. These include a parent information letter, registration form/permission slip, volunteer form, and publicity poster. When these materials are ready on the website, we will send out a direct KMTA email containing more information. Please watch your email for that. The deadline for registrations will be March 15.

If you have any questions, or to volunteer to help, please contact:

KMTA MLP Co-Chairs:

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KMTA Carnival Co-Chairs:

Debra Florian, NCTM [flostudio@comcast.net](mailto:flostudio@comcast.net) 360-434-8684

Melanie Stroud, NCTM [Melaniejoymusic96@gmail.com](mailto:Melaniejoymusic96@gmail.com) 360-434-2117

## Do you have info to distribute to KMTA?

Please send all communication items (website updates/documents, email blasts, Quavers articles, etc.) to Melanie Kurtzbein: [kurtzbein4@gmail.com](mailto:kurtzbein4@gmail.com) . Plain text in an email body and image files work best.

**Quavers** articles should be submitted at least 3 days before the end of the month.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

*Check for registration deadlines, instructions, documents, contacts and more at the linked pages.*

#### Member meeting and program

January 10, 10 am, CK Presbyterian

#### Jeremy Siskind's visit:

-Student workshop on improvisation, January 30, 4-5 pm, NK Auditorium

-Concert, January 30, 6:30 pm, NK Auditorium

-Member meeting and program, January 31, 10 am, CK Presbyterian

#### Piano, String and Vocal Music Artistry Programs

(MAP)

February-March

#### Performance Competitions

March 14, Gateway fellowship

### **MORE FROM KMTA**

*For the latest information on upcoming events, watch for email alerts to items posted on our [News](#) page.*

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