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The *Ritornello*

November 2009



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Notes from the President

Pablo Aguilar



This is the year of piano technique. The September issue of Clavier Companion inaugurated a series of Q&A with the authors of some of the best selling piano technique materials. In addition, the new MTNA e-Journal featured an extensive article on foundational concepts of technique for beginning piano students.

Then there's the Golandsky Institute and the Keyboard Wellness Seminar, both featuring the Taubman approach. And we are also interested in piano technique in our own association.

In our past IMTF meeting, led by Dr. Courtney Crappell, we investigated one of the first concepts of the Taubman technique: forearm rotation. I was pleased to see a good crowd present. Then we were treated with a masterclass with John Weems, a famous practitioner of the Taubman approach. For our next event, the Autumn General Meeting in November 13th, we will bring from Texas State University Dr. Washington Garcia, who will talk about the do's and don'ts of piano technique. My mentor Doris Harrel described him as a "fearless performer." You don't want to miss that event.

On a different tone, the "Back to School Student Recital" was vibrant and gratifying with more than 25 participants. Many thanks to Susan Ginnity for graciously sponsoring that event and to St. Brigid Catholic Church for sharing their beautiful facilities and Steinway grand piano.

Now some other numbers. For this semester, we have 427 students affiliated with TMTA and 172 students registered for the Fall Theory Test.

Let's keep a good posture as we approach the "technical difficulties" of our profession and a positive attitude to sustain us throughout the day.

Pablo Aguilar
President
San Antonio Music Teachers Association

Presenter for the Autumn General Meeting Dr. Washington Garcia



November 13, 2009
9:00 AM Refreshments and IMTF Meeting
10:00 AM General Session
Location: Steinway Piano Gallery

Born in Quito, Ecuador, Washington García began his musical studies at the age of 6. Among his teachers are Genoveva Granja, Toshko Stoyanov, Ann Schein, Yoheved Kaplinsky, and Julian Martin. Dr. García holds a bachelor of music from the National Conservatory of Music in Ecuador, and master's and doctoral degrees from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, where he graduated at the age of 25 becoming the youngest Latin American to have received a Doctoral degree in piano performance from the Johns Hopkins University.

The success of his first public performance at the age of 6 led him to perform at the most important cultural centers in Ecuador. Dr. García was awarded first prizes at the Guillermo Wright-Vallarino National Piano Competition held in Quito, the Elizabeth Davis Memorial Piano Competition and the 19th International Young Artist Piano Competition in Washington DC, the 2004 Baltimore Music Club Piano Competition, and the Harrison Winter Piano Competition. As the winner of the Harrison Winter at the Peabody Institute, Dr. García was selected to perform with the Peabody Concert Orchestra. He was also a top prizewinner at the Yale Gordon Piano Competition, the Russell Wonderlic Piano Competition, and a finalist at the Hilton Head International Piano Competition.

From a very early age, Dr. García became a seasoned veteran of the concert platform, performing extensively throughout his native country. Several times he has been soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ecuador under the baton of maestro Alvaro Manzano. Dr. García also played at the US Embassy in Quito and at the Claudio Arrau International Piano Seminar in Santiago, Chile for former President Patricio Aylwin. Dr. García was chosen from a large field of contestants from 33 countries by the Kennedy Center to receive one of two \$25,000 grants awarded to pianists in its Fellowships of the Americas Program. As a result, he came to the United States to begin intensive piano studies with Professor Julian Martin at the Peabody Institute.

Under the auspices of the Fellowships of the Americas Program he was invited to play at the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater, the Organization of American States, the World Bank, the Inter-American Bank, and the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. Other performances include recitals at the Department of State and the Mexican Cultural Center in Washington D.C., the Chesapeake Center of the Performing Arts and St. Ignatius Church in Baltimore, and the National Library and Archives in Ottawa, Canada, where Dr. García performed in Glenn Gould's piano. He was one of five young artists presented by the Texas Conservatory for Young Artists in Dallas.

He has also performed in Israel with maestro Sam Zebba and the Campus Orchestra of the city of Tel-Aviv. Additionally, Dr. García has performed at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the San Ildefonso Museum in Mexico City, the Hong Kong Baptist University, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C, the Green Valley Chamber Music Festival in Las Vegas and the Myra Hess Series in Chicago, which was broadcast live in the radio and television. Most recently, Dr. Garcia toured Italy with the Texas State University Chamber Orchestra, performing Beethoven's Triple Concerto.

García captured the unabashed bravura of Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2"
The Washington Post

Since his European debut in Rome at the *Instituto Italo-Latinoamericano*, under the auspices of Continental Airlines, Dr. García has been an active recitalist, soloist, and lecturer in prestigious venues in Switzerland, Austria, France, Spain, Hungary, Canada, Israel, Chile, Mexico, Ecuador, Japan, Hong Kong, and the United States.

In addition to awards granted by the Peabody Institute and the Ecuadorian government, including the prize "Monseñor Leonidas Proaño" and the award "Al Mérito Laboral," Dr. García was also named a Presser Scholar and grant recipient by the Presser Music Foundation. Most recently, he was awarded the Friends of Fine Arts Awards for Scholarly/Creative Activities and Service. These awards were presented by the College of Fine Arts and Communication at Texas State University-San Marcos. Dr. Garcia was also a recipient of a full scholarship by the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University in addition to scholarships by The Lloyds Bank, The Zaldumbide Rosales Foundation, and the British Embassy in Ecuador.

Dr. García served in the faculty of the Peabody Preparatory of the Johns Hopkins University and is currently Assistant Professor of Piano at Texas State University-San Marcos, where he is the coordinator of the piano department. He also teaches at the Austin and Green Valley Chamber Music Festivals. He has been sponsored by Continental Airlines since 1997.

"García wowed the audience ... he played with great sensitivity and aplomb"
U.S Department of State Magazine

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Barbara Elliot
Macy Gold
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Online Recital Registration

Register for Student Recitals online! The process is quick and simple. You do not have to fill in those 3x5 cards anymore. Just go to www.samusicteachers.org, login and follow the directions for Student Recitals. If you have any questions please contact Pablo Aguilar at 210-667-8135.

Just Boys Recital

This recital will be held at Steinway Piano Gallery on November 15, 2009. Entry deadline is November 5, 2009. Paula Washington is the sponsor (497-4888).

Winter Festival

There are over 280 students participating in December with 14 teachers represented. The t-shirt design winner is Jessica Butts, student of Heather Stagg.

“Music is the literature of the heart; it commences where speech ends.”

~Alphonse de Lamartine



The Piano Bench with Marie Loomis - Part One

THE CATALOGUER Mr. B.W.V.

There is nothing glamorous or romantic about being a music cataloguer. What kind of person takes up that career? It must be someone who is very organized, who wants to make order out of chaos, or tie up loose ends. Wolfgang Schmieder (1901-1990) must have been just such a person.

Born in Bromberg, Lower Austria, Schmieder became an eminent musicologist who took on the Herculean task of re-cataloging the works of Johann Sebastian Bach. In 1950 Schmieder published the ***Bach-Werke-Verzeichnis (Bach Works Catalogue)*** or the ***BWV***. Schmieder preferred the use of ***BWV*** before the catalog numbers instead of his own initial, though the letter ***S*** occasionally appears in some publications. His system, which groups Bach's works thematically, or by genre rather than chronologically, has become a nearly universal standard.



The Piano Bench with Marie Loomis

- Part Two

SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE BWV

“Bach opens a vista to the universe. After experiencing him, people feel there is meaning to life after all.”

~Helmut Walcha

Q. How did the musical world manage before the **BWV**?

A. The **Bach Gesellschaft (BGA – for Bach Gesellschaft Ausgabe)** had been publishing Bach’s works since 1851. The **BGA** classified works by genre, using a number system (which must have become unwieldy and confusing over the years.) Schmieder based his catalog on the old system to avoid confusion.

Q. How did Schmieder deal with incomplete works, or those of doubtful authenticity?

A. He listed them in the **BWV Anhang, (BWV Appendix)** identified by **BWV Anh.**

Q. What happens to works discovered to be spurious after they were assigned a **BWV** number?

A. They keep their **BWV** number.

Q. Is the **BWV** ever updated, and if so, how are newly discovered works numbered?

A. Yes, the **BWV** is occasionally updated. Newer works appear at the end of the list. This means that the newer works appear apart from others of like genre.

Q. Why aren’t Bach’s works classified chronologically, using opus numbers?

A. Dates of works are generally unknown; Bach did not use opus numbers.

“Don’t play the notes. Play the meaning of the notes.”

~Pablo Casals



The Miss South Texas Scholarship Organization is excited to announce our new annual event, the Miss South Texas Scholarship Pageant! The Miss South Texas Scholarship Pageant is a local preliminary pageant in the Miss America Organization. The Miss America program is the world's largest source of scholarships for young women, making available over \$45 million annually. It is a grass roots organization, operated by thousands of volunteers at the Local and State levels.

Please join us in the excitement, energy and anticipation as we build to January 23, 2010, in celebrating this scholarship pageant. Our focus is to promote scholastic achievement, creative accomplishment, healthy living and community involvement for our young ladies offering the opportunity to win in-kind/cash scholarships and awards engaging in the pursuit of Higher Education. Our guest will include Miss Texas 2008 – Rebecca Robinson, the current Miss Teen Texas 2009 – Taylor Lowery, and Danny Wright one of instrumental music's finest performers.

Each contestant is required to have a platform issue for which she has volunteered and supported. The winners of Miss South Texas and Miss Teen South Texas will compete for the State title of Miss Texas and Miss Teen Texas. The winners of the State title will then represent the State of Texas at the Miss America Pageant and the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Pageant.

Participation in the Miss South Texas Scholarship Pageant helps contestants not only gain increased confidence in self-awareness, showcase their talent, but also help improve their interview and communication skills, their poise and the ability to face an audience – all skills needed by today's young women as they embark upon their chosen career.

The Miss Texas Organization states, "You would be absolutely amazed at the growth in self-confidence in the young women who participate in this program! Part of the selection process is a personal interview in front of seven judges where they must be able to state a well informed position on the relevant issues of the day, such as the war in Iraq, promoting the arts, and closing our southern borders."

The Miss South Texas Scholarship Pageant will be January 23, 2010 and held at University of the Incarnate Word. In order to compete for Miss South Texas, you must be a young woman age 17-24, and for Miss Teen South Texas, you must be 13-17. The areas of competition are Talent, Interview, Swimsuit (Miss), Aerobic Wear (Teen), Evening Wear, and On Stage Question and Answer. We also have the Miss South Texas Little Star Princess program (ages 6-12) in which young juniors do not compete, but are eligible to participate in the pageant production and mentored by the Titleholders throughout their year of service. The maximum number of contestants per titleholder is 20, so please let us know as soon as possible if they would like to compete.

You have the opportunity to help develop these leaders of tomorrow by your participation and providing opportunities for Miss South Texas and Miss Teen South Texas to speak before groups to which you may belong.

This is your invitation to make a difference. If you are interested in having any of your students be a contestant, sponsor or volunteer, please visit our website, www.MissSouthTexas.org or email Sandra Peter, Executive Director at MissSouthTexas@MissSouthTexas.org or call (210) 445-4920.



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www.samusicteachers.org

Please submit your
Ritornello articles to:

hstagg@gmail.com

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Every Texas student should receive:

- A well-balanced education
- Quality fine arts instruction
- Protected instructional time for arts education
- Opportunities to pursue their passion

What is GoArts?

The GoArts campaign is sponsored by the Texas Music Educators Association in conjunction with the Texas Coalition for Quality Arts Education, a coalition of more than 50 organizations whose mission is to promote fine arts in our Texas schools. We are advocates for education policies, primarily at the state level, that ensure all Texas students have opportunities to study music, art, dance, and theater. We provide the public as well as policy makers with information about the many ways that arts education benefits our students and our state.

How You Can Help

Help educate our state's decision makers about the importance of protecting fine arts education by registering your support at www.GoArts.org.

Because every Texas student deserves a quality fine arts education

Support fine arts education today.

Learn more and register your support. **www.GoArts.org**