

PIANO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE STUDIO OF DR. JOVANNI-REY DE PEDRO

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CD Sneak Peek

As many of you know, I have been working on a centennial tribute CD to the Argentinean composer **Alberto Ginastera**, whose work has been a pillar of my artistic and academic interests for a decade.

Aside from Ginastera's Piano Sonata, Op. 22, it will feature 10 works which were inspired by him including eight written in just the past two years! The featured work commissioned are a set of eight preludes by **Martin Gendelman** (Georgia Southern University).

Other contributing composers are **Greg Presley** (Gonzaga University), **Dan Bukvich** and **Ruby Fulton** (University of Idaho), **David Biedenbender** (Michigan State University), **Carolina Carrizo** and **Diego Graciosi** (University of La Plata, Argentina), **Darren Bloom**, **Sonny Chua**, and **Christopher Norton**.

More details of the CD will be available in May's newsletter!



The MTNA Piano Pedagogy Symposium

As a doctoral student and officer of the University of Michigan's MTNA Collegiate Chapter, I helped our chapter seek ways to strengthen their activity, and bring the national collegiate chapter network closer together. Our activities started small with an exchange program with Central Michigan University. But the buzz we created grew as we joined with the University of Oklahoma's Collegiate Chapter later that year to present on the music of Liszt at the 2011 MTNA National Conference (from what I understand, the first-ever joint collegiate chapter presentation).

The success of this collaboration immediately sparked an interest among other collegiate chapter members at the conference to find new ways to communicate and network. There was an excitement to know the activities of other chapters, and a passion to share our research and learn from each other. This was perhaps further fueled by the mutual understanding that we, as MTNA Collegiate Chapter members, were the future of collegiate and independent music teaching.

So in 2012, I spearheaded a project to bring college students together from across the country who share a love for piano and piano teaching. I was blessed with support from a great faculty advisor and group of classmates who shared a vision to host a unique conference *by* college students *for* college students.

Upcoming Events

4/3: Master class at Southwestern Assemblies of God University

4/5: Master class at Stephen F. Austin State University

4/6-7: Master class and Recital at Tyler Junior College. Tyler, TX

4/7-8: Adjudication for the East Texas Music Teachers Association - Achievement Auditions

4/15: Master class, Dunkley Music. Meridian, ID. 10am*

4/21-23: Moscow Music Teachers Piano Adjudication. University of Idaho

4/27: Dr. J plays Edward Gregson's Piano Concerto No. 2 with UI Wind Ensemble. UI Administration Auditorium, 7:30pm

*TBA - contact for details

Looking Ahead

5/19-6/3: Tour of Argentina

6/18-24: UI Summer Camp

7/2-12: Encontro Internacional de Pianistas de Piracicaba
www.eipianopira.com

After months of planning, our dream became a reality.

On a snowy January weekend, 67 participants from 16 universities around the country came to Ann Arbor to share ideas, network, and develop skills as scholars, presenters, thinkers, performers, entrepreneurs, and teachers. As the hosts for this event, my colleagues and I certainly grew our skills in organization, administration, resourcefulness and (for me) delegation!

Everyone present knew that something magical happened at this event. In those two days, we tore down barriers that, for years, kept people and ideas isolated. In those two days, we made lifelong friends and mentors. And everyone present knew that there was no way this could be a "one and done" event.

There was, indeed, a "next one" - at the University of Cincinnati the school year after. Then at Brigham Young University the year after that, followed by Southern Methodist University, and the University of South Carolina. The Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) took it on as an official event, which helped it grow in momentum and size with each passing year and offered the administrative support to the collegiate chapters who hosted.

Last January, I served my fifth and final year as chair of the MTNA Piano Pedagogy Symposium, which took place at the University of North Florida. It was a bittersweet event for me. While I was able to proudly enjoy the participation and excitement of my own students for the Symposium, I reflected on how far this event had come since its humble beginnings and the friends, colleagues, and mentors I've made along the way.

My colleagues and I who have served on the Symposium committee have worked hard to ensure that this event continues to meet the needs of college students and fulfill its mission: to bring together the collegiate chapter network and provide college-aged students a platform to learn from peers and advisors from different institutions; create a meeting place for collegiate chapters where projects can be shared, friends made, and many exciting ideas for the future are conceived; and provide an opportunity for these young professionals to gain the necessary experience in public presentation to feel confident as the leaders of the future.

As this circle of (educational) life continues, I can now relate to the comments made by University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music professor Dr. Michelle Conda, who wrote after the very first Symposium:

"I came away reassured that the leaders of our field in the future are proactive. They are also smart and talented. When it is time to pass on my 'torch,' I am proud to do so to a worthy group."