

MTGBR General Meeting
October 22, 2023, 4:30 pm
Christine Lien's House

Call to Order at 4:30 pm

Christine Lien, President

Report by Vice-President, Melanie Anderson: MTGBR Directory

- Melanie has created a printed directory! They were handed out at the meeting. If you were not present at the meeting, you can contact Melanie to receive one.

Report by Treasurer, Diane Chenault and Sharon Thibodaux

- Membership fees are \$45 for 6 students, \$3 for each student after.
- Sharon is retiring next year, so we need someone else to take over her position of helping Diane as Treasurer for 2024-2025 and taking over as Treasurer for 2025-2027. Whoever takes over this position needs to have computer skills. If you're interested in this treasurer position, please let Sharon and Christine know.

Report of Voice Festival, Sharon Thibodaux

- Sharon will have students entering in vocal festival, and Avis is trying to have students enter.
- Question raised about whether the piano teacher needs to play for their own student if the student is participating in vocal festival. The answer is no. Sharon accompanies her students, but a teacher can also hire someone to accompany the student.

Report of Theory Festival, Mary Campbell

- Mary Campbell is not present. There will be new samples of the theory test given at a later date.

Report of Solo Festival and Vivace Pat Sanchez

- Pat Sanchez has assigned the Solo Festival registration start date as November 12, 2023. The deadline for registration for Solo Festival is January 21, 2024 at 11:59 pm.
- Teachers are free to change pieces that they've assigned students in Vivace if they cancel the initial registration form.

- MTGBR will have hymn, voice, American patriotic, solo, and theory festival open as categories for the teachers to sign up their students.
- Christine encourages people to register early to make sure that students' pieces have no conflict in Vivace in regards to the festival rules.

Report of Duet Festival by Avis Bickham

- 42 students are registered for Duet Festival (around 21 performances).

Report of LMTA Piano Ensemble Festival Announcement by Megan Shannon

- There is a new event! It is open to non-BRMTA members, but of course it is encouraged to join BRMTA.
- The informational pamphlet will be on the MTGBR website under the "Returning Members" tab.

Discussion of "Piano Ensemble" by Christine Lien

- Why do we have students go to Duet Festival and work in an ensemble?
 - Teaches better rhythm, responsibility for staying with their partner, socialization, listening skills (balance, rhythm, who has the melody?)
- How do you prepare students for ensemble festival?
 - The teacher can at first be the partner for the student, and then closer together to the duet festival date, the students can go to each other's lessons and partner up together during lesson time
 - The student can practice with a metronome. The teacher can show them how to use it during the lesson.
 - For little students, you can help them visualize the rhythm better by having them tap along to the beats with big motions of tapping. You can also have one student play while the other taps his part, and vice versa.
- Should you have a mini recital before duet festival?
 - Teachers haven't done this yet, but one idea is to have a group of students stay past their lesson time and play for "judges" - the next group of students.
 - Having students play for their peers, parents, etc. is a great way to help them prepare.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm

Minutes taken by Scarlett Ellender, 2023-2025 Secretary