



TAL-ED TALES

Volume 1, Issue 3

April 2005

LTEA Year Drawing to a Close

Bill Hoyt
LTEA President

The year for LTEA is fast coming to an end – group lessons are finished and the Potluck/Annual Meeting/Recital is scheduled for Friday, May 6th at 6:00 PM at Rosemont Church.

While the Potluck and Recital are the focus of the evening, wedged between the two will be a brief (if I can control my propensity to talk at meetings) annual business meeting. The meeting will give us an opportunity to elect new committee chairs and conduct a few other business items as well.

Teacher Evaluations

In this newsletter is a form for teacher evaluations. Please take the opportunity to evaluate your teacher and return the form. The form can be returned to Cindy Niklas, our ombud, or to

Continued on page 3

Attention Parents

LTEA Annual Meeting and Potluck

**When: May 6, 2005 - Time:
6:00 pm**

**Where: Rosemont Baptist
Church**

LTEA Officers' Positions Opening Soon - We Need You!

Bill Hoyt
LTEA President

The nominating committee is seeking suggestions for individuals to fill two positions for next year. One position is on the Hospitality Committee, a committee of two individuals. The description of the position from the handbook is below:

Hospitality: This position is usually shared by two people (Vicki Swisher will continue to serve in one of the positions). The Hospitality Chairmen are responsible for arranging for food, drink, table service, decorations, and hostesses for LTEA special events. Recurring duties: Handle reception and obtain flowers for participants for Tokubetsus. Handle arrangements for the annual picnic in May. Assist the Workshop Chairman with the Food and social aspects of the workshop, especially the Friday night social activity.

If you have questions about the position, Vickie Swisher (vikkiswisher5@insightbb.com) is currently serving and would be a good source of information.

The other position, currently unfilled, is Chair of Fundraising. It is the feeling of the Board, expressed in several meetings, that the primary focus of fundraising should be to maintain and increase the scholarship fund of the LTEA. For more information about this, see the information in my other newsletter article.

If you are interested in either of these positions or know of anyone else who would be a good match for either position, please do not hesitate to contact me.

For e-mail reminders of LTEA events and activities join the LTEA Yahoo group at <http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/ltea/>

Recent Performances • Upcoming Performances



- Paige Spragens & Andrew Howe played their Book I Cello recitals in 2005.
- Laura Stone performed her Book Three flute recital this winter. At the end of Laura's recital her dad yelled, "Speech, Speech." Laura then said, "I've been playing flute for four years. Our family is really musical, and I've always loved music. I'm honored to be in a family that understands that so well and can nurture that." Laura also mentioned how much she appreciated Ms. Monson, her flute instructor.
- Emily Lundborg will perform her Book II recital on April 16th, 2005
- Elizabeth & William Burke will perform their Book III recitals on April 17th 2005.

Lexington Suzuki Piano Workshop 2005

Joan Monson
Piano Teacher

The LTEA Piano Workshop was held on January 29- 30 at Faith Lutheran Church. The workshop was a wonderful success! Thanks go to the Barbara Herbener, Dale Dufour, Meg Pickett, Marion Soule, parents and students, all of whom contributed to a positive workshop.

The clinicians were really pleased with the students and their performances--both commenting on how well the pieces were prepared. Parents also commented favorably about the clinicians. Some parental comments from the evaluations sheets: "Wow! [Madame Pierredon] was very knowledgeable. Children and parents alike responded very positively...great to have someone who was directly under the teaching of the awesome Dr. Suzuki." "[Ms. Kitscher] was enthusiastic and energetic...the kids enjoyed the helpful hints and games."

Harp Performances

Elaine Cook
Harp Teacher

LTEA harpists perform Area Recitals for assisted living communities once each semester. The March 6th Area Recital was the third performance at Lexington Country Place, where the group has come to feel quite at home. This hour-long performance displayed a high level of polish as the eleven-member ensemble played together with great sensitivity. Repertoire included most of the Suzuki Harp School Book Four, much of Book Three, the last three pieces in Book Two, selections from Book One and other supplemental repertoire. Each piece was selected because one of the harpists had recently mastered the piece. That student sets the tempo and all who know the piece play along in this "Play-through" style of performance. Hearing more advanced players, the others gain exposure to repertoire.

Elaine Cook is the LTEA harp teacher; Kathy Jo Gutsell has been co-director of the ensemble in a smaller core of harpists. The student performers have been Martha

Chewning, Erica Deicher, Mary Deicher, Jessie Gutsell, Mary Johnson, Fiona Mowbray, Julie Niklas, Sarah Peters, Kylah Rymond, Megan Stone, Christi Scheib and Caitlin Coulliette, a harpist from Wilmore, came to observe the performance in anticipation of joining the group. Christi has been unable to participate much this year because she is attending Idyllwild High School for the Performing Arts in California, where she is a straight-A student and carried the lead role in a recent production.

In January the harpists participated in a City-Wide Play-through at the Singletary Center for the Arts with seventy students in an ensemble of violin, viola, cello, harp and piano accompaniment. Play-through performances represent a high quality of playing as the students are well-prepared individually and in small groups. The large ensemble plays all together as a group for the first time at the performance.

In other Harp News, Jessie & Kathy Jo Gutsell, Mary & Erica Deicher and Elaine Cook presented several performances as "Harpists Five" for a 2003 Lexington Arts & Cultural Council Grant, a pre-concert presentation for the Lexington Philharmonic and a program for the Woman's Club of Central Kentucky. This group continues to provide a solid base for the LTEA Harp Ensemble.

your teacher (in a sealed envelope) at your next lesson. In addition, there will be a box at the potluck (as well as additional forms) in which evaluations can be placed. Please take the time to do an evaluation – it is something that is quite important to the teachers in planning and preparing for next year.

Fundraising, Community Outreach and Scholarships

At several meetings this past year, the Board has discussed issues of fundraising, specifically how we might raise funds and what purposes funds other than tuition and association fees might serve. While the Board has not developed a detailed plan for either the means of raising or specific uses of additional funds, it has adopted a general philosophy that is summarized below.

As most of you are well aware, the LTEA is currently almost entirely funded by tuition and association fees. However, given the significant number of public events, many of which might be considered charitable in nature, significant funding from the community apart from parents is not feasible. Currently faculty are not compensated for assisting at these events. Tuition should be allocated to pay for faculty time in *lessons*; association fees should be allocated to expenses such as business manager salary and office expenses.

The Board would like to expand fundraising by the LTEA for two primary purposes. One would be to finance the funding of recitals and performances. The second would be to ensure funds would be available to finance the (modest) scholarship program of LTEA.

It is the belief of the board that this fundraising should not represent a major commitment on the part of LTEA families. We are aware of the great deal of time and expense often required by other organizations associated with children's activities, and we would like to avoid requiring families to engage in similar fundraising activities. For this reason, our fundraising goals will be modest but consistent with the purposes of the funds. While contributions to the LTEA from member families would certainly be welcomed, it is our hope that our fundraising will extend beyond LTEA families to the broader music community.

The Board is now in the early stages of several modest fund raising projects. As suggested above, our primary target will not be LTEA families nor do we intend on having LTEA families buy or sell any products, sell advertisements, or work concessions; we believe that the financial contributions of LTEA households should be tuition and association fees and the primary time commitments should be directed towards assisting your children with their development as musicians.

One campaign, headed by our community liaison, Marion Soule, will be to send a letter to past members of the LTEA (as well as current) describing our fundraising efforts and requesting a donation. We hope to be able to send such a

letter in the next month or so. A second effort is headed by Cindy Niklas. Cindy, who runs an E-Bay business, has kindly offered to organize a charity auction on E-Bay for items donated by LTEA families. See the article by Cindy on this event for more information and how to contact her. The Board has also discussed being somewhat more aggressive in encouraging donations from businesses and organizations for which the LTEA performs.

While still in its nascent stages, the Board believes that we have a fairly well-defined framework and philosophy for fundraising that will not be burdensome on LTEA member families.

While the Board members will continue to be involved in fundraising, we seek someone to serve as Chair of a Fundraising Committee. If you are interested, please contact me.

Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity, as this is the last newsletter of the year, for the efforts and assistance of both faculty and parents in the LTEA. Our faculty, au gratis, does a great deal to provide opportunities for performances and LTEA events as well as much of the work required to keep the organization running. I have been fortunate as well to have an enthusiastic and energetic Board who have been both a source of ideas and willing to help realize those ideas. Having both our dedicated faculty and Board have certainly made my job easier.

LTEA Annual Meeting and Potluck

Potluck rehearsal:

Thursday May 5th 4:30pm Rosemont Bapt. church sanctuary

Potluck:

6:00-6:45—dinner in fellowship hall

6:45-7ish—meeting to follow dinner

7:00-7:15—playthrough setup in sanctuary

7:15-8:00—playthrough in sanctuary

What families should bring:

1) Main dish (meat or vegetarian)

2) Plus (pick one): appetizer, salad, vegetable, dessert

3) LTEA provides drinks, paper products

-Sign up with your teacher (include expected number in party)

-Volunteers for set-up & clean-up are always welcome!

Lexington Talent Education Association

PO Box 23715

Lexington, KY 40523



TAL-ED TALES

LEXINGTON TALENT
EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION

April 2005

EBay Auctions for LTEA

Bring us your unloved and forgotten items and we'll sell them on eBay! LTEA is currently in the process of registering as an eBay charity. This enables eBay sellers locally or around the world to run charity auctions that donate all or part of the proceeds to LTEA. Cindy Niklas, a registered eBay Trading Assistant and seller, will run charity auctions for LTEA using items donated by LTEA family and friends. Items need to have a value of \$20 or more and need to be in good condition and weigh 10 lbs. or less. It is also helpful to include any information you have about the item that might help it sell. Items that have sold well for Cindy include:

- Hummels
- Art glass
- Wedgwood or other collectible pottery
- DVD's
- Collectibles
- Vintage prints or magazines

If you have some items you'd like to donate, be sure to bring them to the Annual Meeting and Potluck on May 6th. If you have questions about donations or if you are an eBay seller who wants to run an auction for the LTEA, you can call Cindy at 294-5991 for more information.

Lexington Talent Education Association Teacher Evaluation Form

Please complete one form for each private teacher you have and mail to: Cindy Niklas, 3588 Antilles Dr. Lexington, KY 40509. If you'd like an additional form, I can email you a PDF file to print out on your computer. Email me, Cindy Niklas, at niklas@alltel.net.

Circle your teacher's initials ; **CB** **EC** **DD** **BH** **SMG** **JM** **MegP** **MarshaP** **TS** **DW**

Section 1: Private Lessons

In the space to the left of each number, answer the questions on a scale of 1-10 (10=always, 1=never).

- _____ 1. Does your child's teacher exhibit a thorough knowledge of Suzuki literature?
- _____ 2. Does your teacher help you deepen your understanding of Suzuki Philosophy?
- _____ 3.a. Does your child's teacher make specific practice assignments?
_____ b. Listening assignment's?
- _____ 4. Does he/she follow through on points and assignments from week to week?
- _____ 5. Do you feel like you are a part of the student/parent/teacher learning triangle?
- _____ 6. Has your teacher used various problem solving techniques when there were problems learning a new skill, improving tone or other difficulties with the literature?
- _____ 7.a. Is your teacher punctual for lessons?
_____ b. Does your teacher expect you to be punctual?
- _____ 8. Does your teacher follow the LTEA make-up policy?
- _____ 9.a. Does your teacher seem informed about LTEA events?
_____ b. Does your teacher keep you informed in a timely way?
- _____ 10. Do you feel he/she is genuinely concerned about the quality of his/her teaching?
- _____ 11. In general on a scale of 1-10 (10=excellent, 1=very poor) how would you rate your child's lessons over the past year in terms of teacher performance?

Section 2: Group Lessons

In the space to the left, answer the questions on a scale of 1-10 (10=always, 1=never).

- _____ 12. Does your teacher's knowledge of the Suzuki repertoire/literature seem thorough?
- _____ 13. Have group lessons been helpful to you and your child?
- _____ 14. Have the group lessons been a complement to the private lessons?
- _____ 15. Do the group lessons help you reinforce skills and repertoire?
- _____ 16. Were large groups/playthroughs and are recitals a positive experience?
- _____ 17. Is your teacher punctual at the start and end of class?
- _____ 18. In general on a scale of 1-10 (10=excellent, 1=very poor) how would you rate your child's group lessons over the past year?

Section 3: LTEA Activities

In the space to the left, answer the questions on a scale of 1-10 (10=always, 1=never).

- _____ 19. Are you aware of special LTEA events and schedules? How?
 - _____ 20.a. Do you read our newsletter "TAL-ED Tales"?
_____ b. Is it useful to you?
 - _____ 21.a. Have you received your bills on time?
_____ b. Are they correct?
 - 22. Please share your suggestions on ways to increase LTEA enrollment? _____
-

