

MARCH, 2017

**March 15, 2017**

**Christ Church at Grove Farm**

**9:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

*“Group Lessons: Go Ahead,*

*Take the Plunge!”*

**Dr. Laura Williamson**

*A Performance in Observance of*

***Women’s History Month***

**Andrea Doyle** will play “A Recollection” from *Musings: circa 1940* by composer

Nancy Bloomer Deussen

**Hospitality Table**

Please sign in at the Hospitality Table when you arrive on March 15.

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**Program Notes**

 Laura Williamson is an active pianist, teacher, adjudicator, and educational consultant who enjoys working with students of all ages and abilities. She holds a D.M.A. in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma.

 In addition to maintaining a studio in her home, Laura offers recreational classes adults at *Piano For* *Pleasure*, her group piano classroom in Johnstown, PA.

**STUDENT OF THE MONTH**

 Our student of the month is Joshua Beck, student of Nancy Sheehan. He will be performing “Elite Syncopations” by Scott Joplin

 Joshua Beck, 13, is an eighth grader at Highlands Middle School.  His exposure to music came before he was born, being present as his mom taught 15 Kindermusik classes a week.  After birth, he attended weekly Kindermusik classes until he turned seven years old, completing the entire seven year continuum. He has studied piano with Nancy Sheehan since 2010, and is passionate about music, particularly the piano. Josh plays the saxophone in the Highlands High School Marching Band and Middle School Concert Band. He plays both piano and alto saxophone in the Middle School Jazz Band.  Josh also has been playing the organ for two years. He has been cast in the role of FDR in the middle school production of Annie, Jr. in March.  Josh has two musical older siblings, Kathryn, 18 and Corey, 16.  In addition to music, Josh also loves computers, math, astronomy and Snapchat. He is honored to play for the PPTA this month!

**PERFORMANCE COMPETITION UPDATES**

 If you are entering a student in the Solo or Duet Performance Competitions, please make note of the following:

1. There is a note on page 17 of the Yearbook, “age for each level is determined as “age as of January 1, 2016.” That is incorrect and should state that the student age for the 2017 competitions is determined as of January 1, 2017, the year of the competition. Check also previously printed applications from our website to correct date.
2. A new paragraph was added to the competition website page which states “Auditions times are specific and final the day of the event and latecomers cannot be accommodated.” This was new information for this year’s competitions and should have appeared in the yearbook.

**PLEASE NOTE THIS IMPORTANT UPDATE**

**JUDGES ARE STILL NEEDED**

 We are still in need of judges for both the Early Advanced and the Advanced level Competitions. Both competitions are held on Saturday, May 6.

 Please call Jing-I Jang (412-695-1122) or Mary Lynne Bennett (412-487-2313) if you are able to serve as a judge.

**Please consider judging as an opportunity to “give back” to our organization!**

**VIP RECITAL UPDATE**

 PPTA will sponsor another VIP (Virtuosos in Performance) Recital on Friday evening, March 10, 2017, beginning at 7:15 until 7:45 PM in the Lobby of Heinz Hall, prior to the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra concert.

  Late Intermediate to Advanced students of PPTA teachers will perform at this pre-concert event.

All members, students, and families are invited to attend this event.  Discounted tickets to the PSO concert may be purchased by using the coupon code “psoppta”

If you have any questions, please contact

 Charlene Hubbard, our PSO Liaison (charlenehubbard@hotmail.com or 412-788-1615)

**EVALUATIONS REMINDER**

**S\*T\*A\*R Evaluations** are coming up on Sunday, May 21, at Duquesne University. The judges’ meeting is on Wednesday, May 10, 9:30 AM at Christ Church at Grove Farm.

**The deadline to enter students is April 1.**

If you have any questions, please contact
Suzanne Givi. Any teacher is invited to volunteer at Evaluations.

**PPTA HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

 The Pittsburgh Piano Teachers Association Scholarship Award is a one-time competitive merit-based award of $1,000 for one graduating high school senior (or equivalent) who demonstrates a high level of achievement in piano performance.  The Pittsburgh Piano Teachers Association Scholarship Award is open to any high school senior not older than 19 on March 15, 2017, and is currently studying for a minimum of two consecutive years as of March 15, 2017, with a teacher who is an active member of the Pittsburgh Piano Teachers Association for a minimum of two consecutive years as of March 15, 2017.  The application and audition requirements may be found on our website within the drop-down box listing Student Activities. All supporting material must be mailed to The Pittsburgh Piano Teachers Association, c/o Michael M. Miller, Scholarship Chair, 977 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15237, and post-marked on or before March 15, 2017. A letter of receipt will be mailed to the applicant no later than April 1, 2017.  Live auditions will take place on May 7, 2017 at CMU.  Please contact Andrea Doyle, President or Michael Miller, Chair for more information.

**PPTA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

**Renewal letters will be mailed soon. You may fill out the form and return by mail, or turn in your form at the May meeting.**

**ANOTHER IMPORTANT NOTE !**

Christ Church has a new pricing structure for usage of Fellowship Hall (and/or other gathering spaces in the church). It will apply to PPTA members and all others who use this space for studio recitals, etc. This change is effective immediately (unless you had already booked the space for this year).

In addition, PPTA will maintain our policy of a security deposit of $100.00 for the use of our piano(s).



Additional charges will be incurred for use of the facilities after 3:00PM. Please contact Suzanne Givi, 2nd Vice-President, PPTA to schedule recitals or for more information.