
WEKA News

Newsletter of the Western Early Keyboard Association

President's Message

by Barbara King

Greetings WEKA Members and Friends,

WEKA now has a proactive Board. We are planning ahead but realize positive changes must proceed step by step. At the June 2010 conference in Berkeley, the Board passed revised Bylaws which clearly state Board responsibilities. Stephen Beckham, new Board Member and Membership Secretary, presented a detailed report, addressing issues of importance to WEKA's future. The report lists our current assets and challenges; and current tangible benefits and proposed tangible benefits for members. His analysis of WEKA membership pointed out the great need for acquiring and maintaining membership, irrespective of the location of the annual conference. WEKA's revised Bylaws and Stephen's report are available to the membership by request. (bp.king@frontier.com and avalon-nw@verizon.net)

Having acquired teleconferencing equipment, the Board is able to meet regularly, as required by our revised Bylaws. We met again on July 25, 2010. Our next Board meeting will be September 11, 2010. As a Board we are wrestling with goals and objectives: how best to achieve them, as well as how to fund them. We are striving for an involved, active membership. To achieve this, both the San Francisco Bay area and the Pacific Northwest are planning many local events for the coming season; the regional schedules should be forthcoming shortly. **News alert:** An exciting WEKA annual conference, currently being planned, will be held in conjunction with the American Handel Festival, March 25-27, 2011, in Seattle, Washington.

WEKA's future portends much excitement and promise. Mark the conference dates on your calendar now and stay tuned for the local events calendar! **Exciting changes ahead!**

Please note that the last issue of WEKA News had the wrong date for Gallery Concerts' Christmas Concert. "A Classical Christmas" will take place one week later, on December 11 and 12 in Seattle, WA. Start your holiday celebrations in a joyous mood! Exquisite lyric soprano Karen Urlie will join cellist Nathan Whittaker and fortepianists George Bozarth and Tamara Friedman in an inspiring program of holiday music by Schubert, C. P. E. Bach, Handel, and others, and chamber music by Beethoven.

<http://www.galleryconcerts.org/default.htm>

Report on WEKA's Annual Conference

by Barbara King

The day-long WEKA conference was held June 9, 2010, at MusicSources in Berkeley, CA. Local conference organizers were Elaine Thornburgh and Sheli Nan. Special thanks goes to Anne Peterson, who helped at the door.



Jillon Stoppels-Dupree coaches student Alex Jaker. (Photo: Barb King)

The day began with a productive Board meeting. The Board is energetically reshaping WEKA. WEKA has three new Board members: Stephen Beckham from Tulalip, WA; Kevin Fryer from San Francisco, CA; and Michelle Futornick from Redwood City, CA. The resignation of Sheli Nan was accepted with thanks for her work on behalf of WEKA. Aside from some

wonderful camaraderie that day, there were three widely different sessions.

In the morning, Jillon Stoppels Dupree, harpsichord performer extraordinaire and superb teacher, expounded on "The Harpsichordist's Touch: A

Historical and Contemporary Perspective." Touch, she explained, is the technique to produce different dynamics, tone qualities and colors thus gaining expressivity and musicality on the harpsichord. Ms. Dupree gave numerous original sources and conclusions from them: as little motion as possible

with the hands; fingers close to the keys, naturally rounded, either stroking or depressing the keys (not striking); and arm position straight. In the 20th century, Ms. Dupree noted, there has been an evolution in harpsichord building and touch, which has taken us from Landowska on the Pleyel to what today is referred to as historically informed

instrument building and performance practice. Ms. Dupree explained that one must adjust touch to what is wanted from the instrument. Several useful exercises she suggested are playing with no sound, practicing with slow and fast plucks, "peeling" hands off chords, and varying articulations from short to over-held. Two excellent student volunteers were coached, giving Ms. Dupree the opportunity to demonstrate different aspects of touch.

The two engaging afternoon sessions were led by MusicSources' Artistic Director Gilbert Martinez, who



Gilbert Martinez discusses his Bach transcriptions with Sheli Nan. (Photo: Kevin Fryer)

discussed and performed his harpsichord transcriptions of

several J. S. Bach unaccompanied violin works; and Professor Lorna Peters, who presented her *Camerata Capistano* from California State University, Sacramento.

Mr. Martinez gave a most scholarly presentation. He mentioned existing transcriptions by Bach, which provide clues to the method Bach himself used. A quote from Mr. Martinez's handout follows: "My present transcriptions are based on my mining clues within the keyboard works of J.S. Bach and compositional techniques as they would have been known in his own time." In his transcriptions, Mr. Martinez does not regard the violin part as a "right-hand part" needing accompaniment. Rather he looks at the work contrapuntally, taking it to its "logical end." Mr. Martinez's performance of his



Photos: Kevin Fryer

transcriptions was positively virtuosic.

Camerata Capistano (above) is an historically informed (primarily student) Baroque ensemble now in its fifth year. It was wonderful to see students so passionately engaged in the ensemble and performing diverse repertoire so well! Professor Peters obviously is an excellent and inspiring coach, and we expect her students to be performers and teachers one day.

New surcharge for receiving WEKA News print edition

The WEKA Board has decided that it is appropriate to ask all new members and all new membership renewals to add a \$10 surcharge to the membership fee for those who would like the newsletter to be delivered via postal mail. The surcharge will cover the cost of printing and mailing. Please note that **current** members who have requested postal delivery of the newsletter will **not** be assessed the surcharge for the membership year ending May 31, 2011.

Submissions for next issue of WEKA News

The deadline for submitting articles, announcements, and other news for the next issue of WEKA News is October 21, 2010. Please send news to Michelle Futornick, mfutornick@yahoo.com

Photographs and illustrations welcome.

WEKA Advisory Board

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