

UMTA Jordan River Chapter

Chapter Meeting Minutes

Date: October 15, 2024

Location: Riverton Music Jordan Landing

Time: 10:15 a.m.

Attendees: Kathryn Barney, Brian Bentley, Shelle Bird, Linda Cole, Valerie Daniels, Tori Dimond, Mindy Garff, Kristine Hiller, Linda Hogan, Tiffany Horrocks, Jinni Humphrey, Jill Jensen, Bonnie Johnson, Nila Ledesma, Cassie Mayfield, Taunya Perry, Cheryl Rytting, Julie Smith, Wendy Woehl

Welcome by Kathryn Barney, NCTM

Kathryn gave us all a warm welcome. She reminded us about the upcoming UMTA conference, and that for this year please send contributions for our chapter's raffle basket to Kathryn's Venmo, (or make your donation some other way.)

Teacher Sharing with Brian Bentley:

Successful Studio Management Part 2

Meaningful Recitals

Various ideas were mentioned, including:

- whether or not to have a theme for recitals.
- The purpose of recitals is to give experiences to students in sharing music with each other and with others who come to listen, to give them a goal to reach, to give students an opportunity to feel the joy of music. They come away feeling proud of themselves for the work they did to get there.
- The meaningful part is that they're enjoying music and working towards a goal.
- Using a theme for a recital as a means of helping the audience and participants to learn about a certain period of music, etc. The student gives a brief fact about the period of music or the composer just before performing the piece of music.
- Begin a recital with students improvising, the teacher playing a duet part that the student then adds improvised treble parts.

- Have graduating seniors give a senior recital - a combination of pieces of music of their own choosing - for perhaps a half hour.
- A family talent show recital was mentioned, where parents or siblings who play another instrument or sing would perform in the recital, with the student accompanying.
- Arrange with the director of a local care center, learn what era of music would be familiar to their residents, and have the students learn and perform these songs for them.
- Monster concerts were mentioned and discussed, including the idea of a summer piano camp that ended with a monster concert.
- A recital with all movie themes was another idea, with the addition of playing "Name that Tune" with the audience and students. The written program was blank except for the names of the performers, then the audience filled in the blanks as a family.
- A recital based on the community outreach messages we receive each month.
- Recitals can be meaningful to students and meaningful to the audience, it was observed.

Announcements: Kathryn Barney, NCTM

Minutes will be in newsletter

Lunch for November will be provided by Leslie, Wendy and Cheryl.

Two more people are needed to sign up for December.

Announcement by Cassie Mayfield

The UMTA Piano Competition needs volunteers. It is something our membership dues pay for. It is an open competition of very advanced pianists, so it could be a good thing to invite our students to go listen to it.

Community Outreach: Linda Cole

Festival of Trees information - see newsletter.

Linda has put together a packet of ideas to help our students to be more connected to the community. This takes the form of monthly lessons to teach your students to advocate for music. For the month of October, the message is "MUSIC INSTILLS CONFIDENCE, INSPIRES CREATIVITY, AND HELPS US EXPRESS OURSELVES IN TODAY'S WORLD." " . . . Playing music with others can improve a person's social and emotional skills. It helps them learn to work together as a team and develop empathy toward others." This information is also in the newsletter.

Mindy Garff: Certification

Online classes are held once a month to learn more about certification. They are on the 4th Wednesdays at 10:30 on Zoom.

Yvette Zobel: Chilling and Thrilling Improvisation and Composition

Yvette has loved composition and improvisation since she was a teen, and feels it is like journaling.

At this time of year, close to Halloween, she likes to help students experiment with "nasty sounds", saying "You just can't go wrong with nasty sounds, right? Students are less intimidated" trying to make these kinds of sounds.

There is a handout (see newsletter), which includes some duets for teachers to play while the student creates an upper part.

She told of a study done by Charles Limb using jazz musicians in an MRI machine during which the person played a piano keyboard. When they played a memorized scale or some bars of written music, the part of the brain that was activated was the part that keeps us safe and inhibits us from making mistakes. When they did some jazz innovating and creating, a different part of the brain was evident in the MRI - the part that affects "flow."

It seems that it could be useful to make an effort to reach our students on these multiple levels of brain activity for well-rounded teaching of music. In the case of some of her students, improvising was a way to calm her students.

Other studies are looking at the brain in a dream state to see what is happening. Yvette then told of ways to help a student improvise, and mentioned various apps, such as "drumgenius" or garage band to add percussion.

Using the chords CMaj7 then E-Flat7 with a flat 5th, and the student plays G mixolydian (on all white keys) in any way they want.

She also used her accompaniment on the handout for black-key improvisation.

The handout has: The Physic of Scary Music

Other Creepy Techniques Composers Use to Scare Us

OK....Now How do I Incorporate this into a Lesson?

She did a great job of teaching these things and even had some of the UMTA members in attendance help her demonstrate some improvising, and even form a little improv band. Great presentation, thanks so much to Yvette Zobel!

Other Reminders

- Our next chapter meeting will be held at Riverton Music Jordan Landing on Tuesday, November 19, at 10:15 a.m.
- UMTA Conference November 1-2, 2024 at Thanksgiving Point

Minutes prepared by Jinni Humphrey, Jordan River UMTA Chapter Secretary

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