

SDMTA Newsletter

South Dakota Music Teachers Association
an Affiliate of Music Teachers National Association

Winter 2014

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President's Message

- Susanne Skyrn

Many people start the New Year with resolutions to change some aspect of their lives for the better. There is a sense of promise, renewal and change when the calendar rolls around to January 1. While SDMTA as an organization hasn't made any resolutions that I am aware of, 2014 is going to be a year of big changes for us, as we move the professional development portion of our state conference to coincide with the last weekend of the Dakota Sky Piano Festival. This was approved by a majority of our membership in an online ballot last fall.

The Dakota Sky/SDMTA conference will be held June 26-28, 2014 in Sioux Falls. We have learned that the artist presenting the closing recital and workshops/master classes at that time is the renowned pianist Jon Kimura Parker. A preliminary schedule of events with Dr. Parker was submitted to us by Dakota Sky officials:

Thursday, June 26

2:00-5:00pm: Private Lessons (Young Artist Program)
8:00-9:00pm: Discussion Session (Young Artist Program)

Friday, June 27

10:00-11:00am: Workshop for South Dakota Music Teachers Association
2:00-5:00pm: Master Class (Young Artist Program)

Saturday, June 28

7:30pm: Recital



Jon Kimura Parker is one of the world's most sought-after pianists and educators, and we will have the opportunity to see and hear him during this joint conference. SDMTA conference attendees are welcome to sit in on Dakota Sky's Young Artist Program activities. As in the past our own members are welcome to submit proposals for workshops. We also plan to have a General Membership meeting and a Board meeting during the weekend. As can be seen from the preliminary Dakota Sky schedule, there is plenty of time for us to fill in our own events. Ideally the combination of the two entities, Dakota Sky and SDMTA, will attract new members for us and a greater audience for Dakota Sky.

The registration fee to attend these exciting conference events remains at \$40 for SDMTA members. Payment of the registration fee will also entitle members to attend the SDMTA/MTNA competitions, which will take place at Augustana College in Sioux Falls on November 8-9, 2014. Make your New Year's resolution now to attend our conference in conjunction with the Dakota Sky Piano Festival. I believe it is a change from which we will all benefit!

Please see Jon Kimura Parker's bio in this Newsletter.

Editor's Info

Please send any additions, corrections or comments to: Marcela Fajflak

or Bethany Foote footeflutes@hotmail.com
fafajflak@northern.edu

Newsletter Deadlines Winter: January 15 - Spring: May 15 - Fall: September 15

Foundation Report

The Foundation traveling plaque raffle was won by Arlene Krueger, she nominated Dr. Frank Aiello and his name will be engraved on the plaque. Dr. Janeen Larsen is our Foundation Fellow nominee for 2015. When you write a check towards the foundation fellow nomination please note Janeen's name in the memo line. You can also donate through the foundation online form at: <https://www.mtnafoundation.org/contribute/donation-form/>, If her name doesn't appear on the checks or online forms, the contribution will be applied to the general fund rather than towards her fellow fund.

Christina Humpal

Website Report

Our website sdmta.org has been updated with links to National Conference information and the Dakota Sky International Piano Festival. You can find a listing of the 2013 state competition results on the student competitions page and a follow-up conference report on the state conference page. Please contact me at christinaspianoprogram@gmail.com if you need documents and information posted on your local association page. If you find that the website is down please email me as soon as possible so that I may contact the web hosting company.

Christina Humpal

Dakota Sky/SDMTA Conference

June 26-28, 2014

Sioux Falls

Recital and master classes - Jon Kimura Parker

MEET A MEMBER

Name: Kay Fischer

Home: Aberdeen, SD

Member SDMTA since: mid 1970s; I joined when I was a teacher in Rapid City, and the Black Hills Area Music Teachers Association was being formed.

Born: July 22, 1951

Raised: Bristol, SD

Education: B.S. in Education, music Northern State University, Aberdeen
M.M. in Piano Pedagogy University of Colorado, Boulder

Current Jobs: piano instructor, studio accompanist, church organist and pianist

Family: husband, Jim; sons, John and Michael; daughters-in-law, Jessica and Jodi; twin grandsons, Jackson and Jamie

Favorite Composers: Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Ginastera, and many others

Favorite Pianists: Sviatoslav Richter, Vladimir Ashkenazy (heard him at Boulder in 1973), and Martha Argerich

Most Influential Musicians/Teachers: my mother, Ardys Kemper Davidson, a student of J. Earl Lee in the 1930s, encouraged me to study piano; Katherine and Merritt Johnson; and Alyce Berggren

Hobbies/Activities: swimming, water skiing, down-hill snow skiing

Why I like SDMTA: Being a member offers the opportunity to share ideas with teachers from across our state and nation. SDMTA also offers growth in our profession.



MTNA Winners 2013

Young Artist String: Representative: Abigail Sandberg, Teacher: Marie-Elaine Gagnon, USD
Senior Strings: Winner: Ryan Doerr, Teacher: Karren Melik-Stepanov, Sioux Falls; Alternate: Christian Wheelborg, Teacher: Karren Melik-Stepanov, Sioux Falls
Junior Strings: Winner: Maya Buchanan, Teacher: Almita Vamos; Alternate: Naomi Powers, Teacher: Doosook Kim, Sioux Falls; HM: Robert Hwang, Jr., Teacher: Eunho Kim, Vermillion
Young Artist Woodwind: Representative: Spencer Wahl, Teacher: Nathan Jorgensen, SDSU
Junior Woodwind: Representative: Kassidy Van Surksun, Teacher: Emily Anderson, Sioux Falls
Young Artist Chamber Music Woodwinds: Representatives: Steven Simoski, Derek VanDenTop, John Patslaff, Michelle Mennis, Teacher: Fred Hemke, NSU
Young Artist Brass: Representative: Amanda Wentz, Teacher: Grant Manhart, NSU
Young Artist Voice: Representative: Laura Bertschinger, Teacher: Tracelyn Gesteland, USD
Senior Voice: Winner: Alyse Brown, Teacher: Monty Barnard, Sioux Falls; Alternate: Anna Gier, Teacher: Cheryl Koch, Freeman; HM: Alison Rollag, Teacher: Judith Schreck, Sioux Falls; Emily Schrag, Teacher: Cheryl Koch, Freeman; Sarah Hammond, Teacher: Judith Schreck, Sioux Falls
Young Artist Piano: Representative: Blake Proehl, Teacher: Susan Keith Gray, USD
Senior Piano: Winner: Angelina Gibson, Teacher: Rick Andrews, Sioux Falls; Alternate: Hannah Gerdes, Teacher: Julie Melik-Stepanov, Sioux Falls; HM: Arjun Ayyangar, Teacher: James MacInnes, Rapid City
Junior Piano: Winner: Noah Johnson, Teacher: Diane Ketel, Rapid City; Alternate: Kyungtae Min, Teacher: Julie Melik-Stepanov, Sioux Falls
Young Artist Composition: Representative: John Patslaff, Teacher: Allan Jacobson, NSU

SDMTA Winners 2013

Collegiate Strings: #1—Anthony Pederson, Teacher: Karren Melik-Stepanov, Augustana
Senior Strings: #1—Kevin Nam, Teacher: Karren Melik-Stepanov
Elementary Strings: #1—Derek Hwang, Teacher:

Marie-Elaine Gagnon, Vermillion; #2—Kyungtae Min, Teacher: Karren Melik-Stepanov, HM:
Jackie Toben, Teacher: Eunho Kim, Vermillion
Collegiate Brass: #1—Delayna LaBelle, Teacher: Jessica Perkins, NSU
Collegiate Woodwinds: #1—Natalia Ramirez, Teacher: Tammy Evans Yonce, SDSU; #2—Anna Pickford, Teacher: Tammy Evans Yonce, SDSU
Collegiate Voice I: #1—Caryn Kennedy, Teacher: Lisa Grevlos, Augustana; #2—Christian Einertson, Teacher: Russell Svenningsen, Augustana; HM: Rachel Nevin, Teacher: Cheryl Koch, Augustana; Michael Bader, Teacher: Laura Diddle, SDSU; Travis Miller, Teacher: Lisa Grevlos, Augustana
Collegiate II Voice: #1—Jordyn Bangasser, Teacher: Tracelyn Gesteland, USD; #2—Jared Mogen, Teacher: Brandon Hendrickson, USD; HM: Julia Blue, Teacher: Lisa Grevlos, Augustana; Trey Meyer, Teacher: Laura Diddle, SDSU
Senior Voice: #1—Abby Beach, Teacher: Cheryl Koch, Freeman; #2—Hanley Ekeren-Moening, Teacher: Judith Schreck, Sioux Falls; HM: Taylor Billion, Teacher: Lisa Grevlos, Sioux Falls; Nicole Schneider, Teacher: Judith Schreck, Sioux Falls; Olivia Thompson, Teacher: Russell Svenningsen, Sioux Falls
Collegiate Piano: #1—Sarka Stehnova, Teacher: Marcela Faflak, NSU; #2—Bailey Geist, Teacher: Marcela Faflak, NSU; HM: Spencer Smith, Teacher: Susanne Skyrn, USD; Katie DeSchepper, Teacher: Carol Flower, USF
Elementary Piano, Age 10: #1—Nikita Rohila, Teacher: Deb Kalsbeck, Brookings; #2—Ingrid Otterson, Teacher: Deb Kalsbeck, Brookings; HM—Brielle Biteler, Teacher: Julie Melik-Stepanov, Sioux Falls
Elementary Piano, Age 11: #1—Anna Kruse, Teacher: Beverly Bigge, Huron; #2 (tie)—Missy Pham, Teacher: Theresa Stehly and Mason Avery, Teacher: Mary Hunter, Madison
Junior Piano, Age 12: #1—Kristina Pike, Teacher: Julie Melik-Stepanov, Sioux Falls; #2—Marina Du, John Walker, Brookings; HM—David Alexander, Teacher: Marilyn Schempp, Sioux Falls; Lillie Flaa, Teacher: Lisa Roers, Sioux Falls
Junior Piano, Age 13: #1—Ben Champion, Teacher: John Walker, Brookings; #2—Lee Duan, Teacher: Julie Melik-Stepanov, Sioux Falls; HM: Nicole Gerdes, Teacher: Julie Melik-Stepanov, Sioux Falls
Senior Piano, Age 14: #1—Yelin Hu, Teacher:

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Competition Report

Congratulations to those teachers who had students travelling to the MTNA Divisional competition at Drake University in Des Moines January 10-12. Please see the list of winners included in this newsletter. Thank you to John Walker for hosting the state conference at SDSU this fall and for his help in putting together the schedule of times and rooms—it is a big project and much appreciated. Thank you also to the many members who helped to monitor for the competitions. It takes many hands to make our competition run smoothly. Mary Walker has agreed to be our new State Competition Chair, but I will probably be around helping her through this first year, especially since we are at Augustana. We have a number of changes in our chairs for this coming year, so I want to take this opportunity to thank those chairs that are resigning for all of their fine work in their respective areas: Rita Hicks, Susan Winters, Kay Fischer, and Joseph L'Amour. The chairs for this coming fall are:

Brenda Ruedebusch, SDMTA Elementary Piano
Beverly Bigge, SDMTA Junior Piano
Amy Morrison, SDMTA Piano Duets
Marcela Faflak, SDMTA Senior and Collegiate Piano
Janeen Larsen, SDMTA Senior Woodwinds, Brass
Eunho Kim, SDMTA Senior, Junior, and Elementary Strings
Russell Svenningsen, SDMTA Senior Voice and Collegiate Voice I, II, and III
Symeon Wasseen, MTNA Young Artist Voice, Woodwinds, Brass, Strings, Piano
Susan Gray, MTNA Senior Voice, Woodwinds, Brass, Strings, and Piano
Deanna Wehrspann, SDMTA and MTNA Composition Chair

Have a great rest of the year!

Marilyn Schempp
Mary Walker

Winners continued

John Walker, Brookings; #2-Jenny Jin, Teacher: John Walker, Brookings; HM: Gabriel Spahn, Teacher: Joan Iverson, Rapid City
Senior Piano, Age 15: #1-Tierra Decker, Teacher: Beverly Bigge, Huron; #2-Kevin Wu, Teacher: John Walker, Brookings; HM—Rachel Larson, Teacher: Julie Melik-Stepanov, Sioux Falls
Senior Piano, Age 16--#1—Alex Kimn, Teacher: Julie Melik-Stepanov, Sioux Falls; #2-Nathan Droege, Teacher: Helen Anderson, Aberdeen; HM—Chaska McGowan, Teacher: Julie Melik-Stepanov; Julie Loewen, Teacher: Beverly Bigge, Huron
Senior Piano, Age 17-18: #1-Ruth Sexton, Teacher: Deb Kalsbeck, Brookings
Elementary Piano Duets, Ages 10-11: #1- Emily Wedel and Lindsey Leyendecker, Teachers: Brenda Ruedebusch and Beverly Bigge, Huron
Senior Piano Duets, Ages 16-18: #1- Julie Loewen and Tierra Decker, Teacher: Beverly Bigge, Huron; #2—Hailey Wallgren and Karl Henry, Teacher: Christina Humpal, Sioux Falls; HM: Alya Abourezk and Mary Billion, Teacher: Julie Melik-Stepanov, Sioux Falls
Collegiate Composition: #1-- Raquel Sweats, Teacher: Symeon Waseen, BHSU; #2--Jesse Dunaway, Teacher: Symeon Waseen, BHSU; HM--Kendra Iverson, Teacher: Symeon Waseen, BHSU
Senior Composition: #1—Kaylee DuPont, Teacher: Symeon Waseen, Spearfish; #2 Sean Preston, Teacher: Brenda Ruedebusch, Huron
Junior Composition: #1—Ben Champion, Teacher: John Walker, Brookings; #2-- Laurelyn Marmorstein, Teacher: Kay Fischer, Aberdeen

Division Winners 2013

Junior Woodwinds Alternate: Cassidy Surksum, flute, student of Emily Anderson
Junior Strings Winner: Maya Buchanan, violin, student of Almita Vamos
Senior Voice Winner: Alyse Brown, student of Monty Barnard
Young Artist Woodwind Honorable Mention: Spencer Wahl, saxophone, student of Nathan Jorgensen
Young Artist Composition Honorable Mention: John Patzlaff, student of Allan Jacobson

Summer Camps

Augustana Summer Music Camp

Opportunities for band, orchestra, choir experience and private lessons in addition to enrichment electives

Grades 7-12

Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD

June 8-13, 2014

Resident is \$375 before April 15 and \$400 after April 15

Commuter fees also available

Contact info: Dr. Paul Nesheim at

paul.nesheim@augie.edu or

www.augie.edu/musiccamp

University of South Dakota Summer Music Camp

The USD Summer Music Camp is a six-day experience of learning and music-making open to students who have completed grades 5-12.

Activities include vocal and instrumental large ensembles, piano workshops and master classes, chamber music opportunities, as well as a variety of other musical activities, including world drumming, jazz band, show choir, opera, guitar class, rock and roll appreciation, and more. Opportunities for private lessons in a specific instrument or voice are also available.

Just completed grades 5-12

The University of South Dakota, Vermillion

July 13-18, 2014

Residential Camper \$425

Commuter (with meals) \$350

Commuter (without meals) \$275

After June 22:

Residential \$450

Commuter (with meals) \$375

Commuter (without meals) \$300

Lessons are \$20 for one half hour and \$40 for one full hour of instruction.

All State Music Camp

Spend a week of musical fun and learning, making music, making friends, and enjoying all types of musical learning. Classes include piano ensemble, piano master class and private lessons and other piano related topics, contest preparation, wind ensemble, beginning band, careers in music, choir, jazz, vocal techniques, improvisation, theory and composition, and computer technology. Evening activities include a student dance, trip to the Wellness Center (rock climbing wall, swimming, basketball, etc.),



student solo and ensembles recital, and final public concert.

All students who have completed 7th grade or above

South Dakota State University, Brookings

June 2-6, 2014

Inclusive Fee (registration, room and board, T-shirt) \$395; Registration fee only (no room and board) \$230

Contact info: Eric Peterson, Director of Bands, eric.peterson@sdstate.edu, (605) 688-4029
www.sdstate.edu/mus/outreach/all-state/

NSU Voice Camp

Voice lessons, choir, and classes in diction, acting, movement, musical theater, classical and opera are offered.

Grades 7 to 12 (rising 7th graders and recent graduated seniors welcome)

Northern State University Campus, Aberdeen, SD

July 9-12, 2014

Registration fee \$100, optional on-campus housing \$55, optional meal plan \$65

Contact info: Dr. Darci Bultema NSU 1200 S. Jay Street, Aberdeen, SD 57401 (605) 626-7759 or email: darci.bultema@northern.edu

NSU Jazz Camp

Instrument lessons, Jazz Band, and classes in improvisation and jazz theory. Fun social activities as well

Grades 6 to 12 (rising 6th graders and recent graduated seniors welcome)

Northern State University Campus, Aberdeen, SD

July 9-12, 2014

Registration fee \$100, optional on-campus housing \$55, optional meal plan \$65

Contact info: Dr. Terry Beckler NSU 1200 S. Jay Street, Aberdeen, SD 57401 (605) 626-7759 or email: terry.beckler@northern.edu

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Camps continued

Rushmore National Music Camp

Study with specialists in woodwind, brass, percussion and voice. Perform in large ensembles (band, choir, Rushmore Singers, and jazz ensemble). Final concert for HS week at the Rushmore Amphitheater.

JH Camp, Aberdeen (Grades 6-9), SH Camp, Keystone (grades 9-12)

JH Camp - Northern State University, Aberdeen, SD

SH camp - Camp Judson, Keystone, SD

JH Camp - July 27-August 1

SH Camp - August 3-9

JH camp - \$380 - resident camper, \$320 - non-resident day camper

SH camp - \$435

Contact info.: Peggy Letcher, camp registrar, (605) 229-5714

Alan LaFave, camp director, (605) 626-2497

Rushmoremusiccamp@gmail.com

SDMTA Board Listing

President: Susanne Skyrms

1st Vice-President: Kay Fischer

Immediate Past-President: John Walker

Treasurer: Cheryl Koch

Secretary: Danie Crowley

2nd Vice-President (Membership): Yvonne Lange

Certification: Katie Miller

Competition Chair: Mary Walker

J. Earl Lee Foundation: Christina S Humpal

LA presidents:

Marcela Faflak, Aberdeen

Tammy Knudtson, Brookings

Beth Neitzert, Huron

James A Margetts, Black Hills

Kristin Pater, Sioux Falls

Appointments and Committees:

Competition Site Co-Chairs: Rick Andrews

(Augustana College), Kay Fischer

Conference/Competitions 2014 Committee:

Mary Walker, Competitions Coordinator

Yvonne Lange, IMTF

Cheryl Koch, Conference Booklet

MTNA National Conference

Join your colleagues and friends this year for the 2014 MTNA National Conference—it is in our Midwestern “neighborhood!” The Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile will play host to nearly 2,000 music teachers, students and industry experts on March 22-26, 2014.

Highlights of the conference include a piano recital by Spencer Myer, a conversation with Byron Janis, pianist, and advanced piano master classes by John Perry and Spencer Myer. An opening session featuring pianist Jon Nakamatsu and clarinetist Jon Manasse is sure to get the conference off to a magnificent start. We will have the opportunity to hear many fine young musicians in the MTNA National Competitions. An array of sessions, exhibits, and special guests will round out the weekend.

I invite you to attend the 2014 MTNA National Conference in the Windy City! More information can be found at

<https://members.mtna.org/conference2014/index.html>.



Cheryl Koch, Registration

Kay Fischer & Susanne Skyrms, Booklet Advertising

Conference Steering Committee: Susanne Skyrms, Kay Fischer, Blake Proehl

Foundation Committee: Christina S Humpal, Arlene Krueger, Cheryl Koch, Susanne Skyrms

Nominating Committee: Susan Keith Gray, Janeen Larsen, John Walker

Newsletter Editor: Marcela Faflak & Bethany Foote

Community Outreach: Susan Keith Gray

Archives: Cheryl Koch

Grants and Publicity: Susan Keith Gray

Website: Christina S. Humpal

SDMTA General Membership Meeting

November 8, 2013

5:30pm, McCrory Gardens Visitor Center

Secretary's Report, Danie Crowley: The minutes from the November 2, 2012 general membership meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report, Cheryl Koch: The budget will look off for 2013/2014 because of having a conference in November and June.

Local Association Reports

Aberdeen, Marcela Faflak: The Aberdeen association meets about once a month. There will be a Christmas recital in the Mall and a composition recital in the spring. Their membership has increased this year.

Black Hills: The Black Hills Association will report next month.

Brookings, Tammy Knudtson: The Brookings association has 15-20 members. They meet once a month in the fall and every other month the rest of the year. In November there will be a student composition recital with 17 performers. A piano festival will be held in March. Next fall there will be a carnival.

Huron, Brenda Ruedebusch: The Huron association had a recent piano extravaganza with 100 participants. There were 6 meetings last year. One of the programs presented was "Reading Notes is not Reading, Counting is not Rhythm, Curved Fingers is not Technique and Playing by Heart is not Memorizing".

Sioux Falls, Donna Schwartz: The Sioux Falls association's September meeting was at the First Lutheran Church's piano lab. In October there was a duet recital. There will be an all boy recital in February and a piano festival in March.

Foundation Report/J. Earl Lee Fund, Christina Humpal: There has been \$233 donated to the Foundation so far this year. The first Athol Conservatory quiz bowl was held and raised \$65. Our Foundation Fellow will be Janeen Larson in 2015. There will be a raffle set up on Saturday. Dr. Frank Aiello was nominated by Arlene Krueger for the Traveling Plaque.

Conference Report, John Walker: The parking issues have not been as bad as anticipated. All the competitions and workshops have gone smoothly. There were two venues this year because the conference cannot be held in just one building and also there are two new Steinway pianos to use. The student check in on Saturday will be in the PAC.

Competition Chair Report, Marilyn Schempp: There have been huge increases in the voice competitions numbers this year. Most other categories have competitors. There may be changes in Chairs next year.

President's Report, Susanne Skyrms: The online voting to have the conference with Dakota Sky passed overwhelmingly. The conference will be held the last weekend in June this year. Details are still being organized but the concert will be Thursday night and the professional development events, board meeting, banquet and concert will be Friday. There will be another concert Saturday evening. Our members can still present workshops and there will also be some pedagogues presenting workshops. Questions about SDMTA's students participating in Dakota Sky's workshops were raised and will be addressed in the future. Concern was raised about access to the Washington Pavilion for those with limited mobility. There will be no extra fee for the competition in November but there will be a need for monitors. The rotations for the competition will be the same.

Monitoring: If a teacher enters 3 students or more he/she is required to monitor or their students will not be allowed to participate. Part of the issue is communication and organization. This rule needs to be put in the handbook. Also ideas were discussed in the board meeting to have all forms online to streamline the process.

Augustana extended a warm invitation to SDMTA for the competition on November 7-8, 2014.

Christina Humpal was given a standing ovation for the wonderful work she has done to the website.

John Walker and SDSU were given special thanks for all their work putting the conference and competition together.

Meeting Adjourned.

Secretary, Danie Crowley



Jon Kimura Parker Biography

“What an amazing way to mark the 100th anniversary of The Rite of Spring. Stunning!” These words from the Toronto Star echoed glowing reviews across North America for Jon Kimura Parker’s recent CD, *Rite*, which includes world premiere recordings of his solo piano transcriptions of Stravinsky’s *The Rite of Spring* and *Petrouchka*. Mr. Parker also celebrates this special centenary with recitals throughout 2014.

A veteran of the international concert stage, Jon Kimura Parker has performed as guest soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra and Wolfgang Sawallisch in Carnegie Hall, toured Europe with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Andre Previn, and shared the stage with Jessye Norman at Berlin’s Philharmonie. Conductors he has recently worked with include David Afkham, Pablo Heras-Cassado, Claus Peter Flor, Jeffrey Kahane, Carlos Kalmar, Peter Oundjian, Larry Rachleff, Xu Zhong and Pinchas Zukerman. A true Canadian ambassador of music, Mr. Parker has given command performances for Queen Elizabeth II, the U.S. Supreme Court, and the Prime Ministers of Canada and Japan. He is an Officer of The Order of Canada, his country’s highest civilian honor.

He performs as duo partner regularly with James Ehnes, Lynn Harrell, Orli Shaham, and Cho-Liang Lin, with whom he has given world premieres of sonatas by Paul Schoenfield, John Harbison and Steven Stucky. An unusually versatile artist, Mr. Parker has also jammed with Audra McDonald, Bobby McFerrin and Doc Severinsen. As a member of the outreach project Piano Plus, Mr. Parker toured remote areas including the Canadian Arctic, performing classical music and rock’n’roll on everything from upright pianos to electronic keyboards. In commemoration of his special performances in war-torn Sarajevo in 1995, he was a featured speaker alongside humanitarians Elie Wiesel and Paul Rusesabagina at the 50th Anniversary of the relief organization AmeriCares.

An active media personality, Mr. Parker hosted the television series *Whole Notes on Bravo!* and CBC Radio’s *Up and Coming*. His YouTube channel features the *Concerto Chat* video series, with illuminating discussions of the piano concerto repertoire.

Last season Mr. Parker appeared as soloist with the major orchestras of Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, and toured the United States with Bramwell Tovey and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. He also had the honor of being the last guest pianist to work with the Tokyo String Quartet in their final season.

Highlights of this season include solo appearances with the St. Louis Symphony with David Robertson, the San Diego Symphony with Jahja Ling, the Seattle Symphony with Ludovic Morlot, the Shepherd School Symphony Orchestra with Larry Rachleff, and the National Arts Centre Orchestra with Hannu Lintu. He appears at the Hong Kong Festival with Gary Hoffman, Vadim Repin and Joyce Yang, and begins two major chamber music collaborations, with the Miró Quartet, and in a trio with violinist Martin Beaver and cellist Clive Greensmith.

A committed educator, Jon Kimura Parker is Professor of Piano at The Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. His students have won international piano competitions, performed with major orchestras across the U.S., and given recitals in Amsterdam, Beijing, New York and Moscow. He has lectured at The Juilliard School, The Steans Institute, New York University, and Yale University. Mr. Parker is also Artistic Advisor of the Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival, where he has given world premieres of new works by Peter Schickele and Jake Heggie.

Jon Kimura Parker has recorded music of Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, Chopin and PDQ Bach for Telarc, Mozart for CBC, and Stravinsky under his own label. His new recording, *Fantasy*, featuring not only the Schubert *Wanderer Fantasy* and the Schumann *Fantasy* but also William Hirtz’s brilliant *fantasy on themes from The Wizard of Oz*, is scheduled for release in early 2014.

“Jackie” Parker studied with Edward Parker and Keiko Parker privately, Lee Kum-Sing at the Vancouver Academy of Music and the University of British Columbia, Robin Wood at the Victoria Conservatory, Marek Jablonski at the Banff Centre, and Adele Marcus at The Juilliard School. He won the Gold Medal at the 1984 Leeds International Piano Competition. He lives in Houston with his wife, violinist Aloysia Friedmann and their daughter Sophie. For further information, please see

www.jonkimuraparker.com and www.oicmf.org. - See more at:
<http://www.jonkimuraparker.com/bio/#sthash.QnEdhCdB.dpuf>