

Collaborative Performance Forum Meeting

Janice Razaq presiding, 2:15 to 3:15 p.m., March 20, 2018, at the MTNA National Conference

Including the moderator, Janice Razaq, there were seven people present. States represented were Illinois, Arkansas, Virginia, Ohio and Texas. Each attendee introduced himself and explained his/her role in the collaborative area.

Janice began the conversation by reiterating last year's forum comments concerning more collaborative coaching tracks for the entire MTNA conference, or at least for Pedagogy Saturday. The value of "selling" to accompanying or collaborative students the value of attending the MTNA conference was emphasized.

Rather than identifying collaborative pianists or accompanists by those names, it was strongly suggested by one attendee that they be simply referred to as "pianists."

It was suggested that a collaborative piano pedagogy forum be established.

Janice introduced an idea for discussion about suggesting to the MTNA Board of Directors that they establish a commissioned composition for the new Stecher and Horowitz two-piano competition. This would ensure a constant stream of works for the competition.

Concerning compositions for chamber works: intermediate works for piano trio need to be truly intermediate for all instruments.

Other thoughts for sessions with the subject of collaborative musicians:

1. Basic string technique and articulation indications and what they mean, for non-string players
2. How to teach rehearsal techniques
3. Collaborative music etiquette
4. Expectations for first rehearsals
5. Independent coachings versus classes

There was discussion about how one local chamber music festival was organized:

1. One attendee explained that 2 local associations worked together to present the 1 ½ day event.
2. There were two clinic sessions and 20 separate chamber groups participating.
3. One professional group performed.
4. Festival had an enthusiastic organizer and plenty of student helpers.
5. University faculty did match-making and coached chamber groups.
6. Collaborative chamber festival celebrated Clara Schumann's birthday.
7. Success depended on friends, social networking, patience, flexibility and a google calendar.

The idea that MTNA might consider co-sponsoring an event with, say, Chamber Music America, was mentioned.

In closing, these suggestions are at the top of the list for improving MTNA's collaborative offerings:

1. Reintroduce a collaborative track for Pedagogy Saturday.
2. Foster piano studio and string studio connections.
3. Befriend or partner with ASTA, for example, and offer them a discount to come to the MTNA conference.
4. Offer sessions with a wide variety of various collaborations.