

September–December 2015

EPTA ALBANIA

3rd–6th June 2016 EPTA Albania will run the 21st “Young Pianists Festival” with Heribert Koch, Nadia Lasserson, Teresa Trevisan and Flavio Zaccaria on the Jury.

EPTA ARMENIA

5th September 2015 EPTA Armenia held its National Conference.

19th December 2015 EPTA Armenia will hold an International Duo Competition in Yerevan. Group A ages 10–13, Group B ages 14–17, and Group C ages 18–20.

EPTA AUSTRIA

6th–8th November 2015 EPTA Austria held its celebratory 30th Conference in Graz where it was established in 1985 under the presidency of Sebastian Benda. Topics included: “What exactly do you mean?” (Was meinst du eigentlich?), with psychologists, pedagogues and artists who covered aspects of communication. “I don’t know what I said, before I did not hear the answer from the person opposite” (Paul Watzlawick) – a statement equally important for teachers and (chamber) musicians. Speakers and artists from Austria, Germany, Switzerland and the UK (Nils Franke and Michael Korstick).

EPTA Austria is also about to look for a new managing committee, as Professor Anton Voigt, president since 2006, is not running for re-election. “After nine years of presidency, it is time for a change – for new ideas and by younger ones,” Anton says. He will not, however, retire from being active as pianist, guest-lecturer, adjudicator, and researcher, just having been asked to lecture at the newly established Pre-College at the University Mozarteum Salzburg besides his manifold artistic and musicological activities.

The new president of EPTA Austria was elected at the AGM on November 7 and will be announced, together with the successor of Gianfranco Sannicandro as treasurer, at the next EPTA News. In the meantime all inquiries should be sent to office@epta-austria.at.

January 2016 A collection of previous and recent presentations at EPTA Austria conferences is ready for publication and will be distributed by Universal Edition, Vienna. It contains articles by some of the leading pedagogues of the last decades from the German speaking representatives (Edith Picht-

Axenfeld, Konrad Meister, Peter Roggenkamp, Klaus Runze, Klaus Wolters) and some English texts (Arthur Greene, Adina Mornell, Karin Wagner). The compendium will be presented at the Graz Conference.

We all wish to send Anton Voigt our warmest thanks for all his hard work over the last nine years and offer him our good wishes in his retirement from the Presidency of EPTA Austria..

EPTA BELGIUM Wallonie/Bruxelles

February 2015 The Recital by Wen MING, laureate of the 12th “Rencontres Internationales des Jeunes Pianistes” was a great success. It can be viewed on the website.

14th November 2015 EPTA Wallonie/Bruxelles celebrated 25 years with its Annual EPTA Pedagogical Day “Piano pedagogy through the time” – held at the Conservatoire Balthasar–Florence in Namur. Presentations: “Blanche Selva: Motion and mind” by Diane Andersen, “Edgar Willems method in Belgium” by Pierre–Yves Cuvelier, “Oli Mohlsen: Pedalisation” by Marie–Dominique Gilles, “Piano need not be lonely” by Nadia Lassersson, “Mompou: The piano music – a pedagogical approach” by Maria Paz Martinez.

2nd –7th February 2016 The 13th “Rencontres Internationales des Jeunes Pianistes” will take place in the Espace Culturel of Grez Doiceau. 4 categories. Max. age 24. Deadline for application: December 1, 2015.

EPTA CROATIA

EPTA Croatia AGM was held on 26th September. Amendments of the Constitution were accepted according to the new associations’ law in the Republic of Croatia.

EPTA CYPRUS

September 2016 EPTA Cyprus is being reorganised and plans to launch in 2016. Further details to be announced later.

EPTA CZECH REPUBLIC

10th September 2016 EPTA Czech Republic will organise its next – Piano seminar in Prague.

EPTA DENMARK

5th-6th December 2015 EPTA Denmark is planning a master class with the Lithuanian professor Aleksandra Zvirblyté.

March/April 2016 EPTA Denmark will hold Grade Exams for piano students.

24th-30th July 2016 EPTA Denmark will hold its Annual International Master classes with professors Mikhail Voskresensky,(Moscow), Paolo Giacometti, (Düsseldorf) and Eugen Indjic (Paris).

EPTA Denmark has a new website, which includes a members list which will find a local piano teacher by zip code, and where every member can announce his activities. Young EPTA has its own page. There is an English section where International activities can be found.

EPTA FINLAND

6th-7th February 2016 EPTA Finland will hold its next Seminar at the Palmgren institute in Pori.

10th -13th August 2017 EPTA Finland will host the European Conference in Helsinki.

EPTA GEORGIA

EPTA Georgia continues to grow and has offered patronage to help several piano teachers and students from the problematic region of Abkhazia who are refugees in various regions of Georgia.

2nd-3rd September 2015 EPTA Georgia held their National Congress to develop young talents in Georgia with Lectures and Masterclasses.

EPTA GERMANY

EPTA Germany continues to run bi-annual Conferences in different regions to enable the greatest number of members to attend.

October 2015 EPTA Germany's Conference was held in Leipzig. The topic "Klavier und Gesang" (Piano and singing).

May 2016 EPTA Germany will hold its second Conference on the same topic in the Musikhochschule, Münster.

EPTA GREECE

11 November 2015 EPTA Greece held its opening meeting of the year.

EPTA Greece continues its monthly events in the Athens Conservatoire:

November 2015 Natalia Michailidou gave Masterclasses on Beethoven Sonatas

December 2015 Mlle Maria Komboti will talk on memorising piano literature

January 2016 Dora Bakopoulos, will give Masterclasses

February 2016 Vladimir Viardo will give Masterclasses and a Recital

April 2016 Costas Anastassopoulos will pay homage to John Ireland whose music is rarely heard in Greece.

EPTA HUNGARY

EPTA Hungary continues to raise sponsorship to enable further activities.

EPTA ICELAND

4th –8th November 2015 EPTA Iceland held its Sixth Piano Competition in Salurinn, Kópavogur. The competition is open to all students under the age of 25, studying in Iceland. Chairman of the Jury was Stefan Bojsten, other members of the jury were Halldór Haraldsson, Edda Erlendsdóttir, Kristinn Örn Kristinsson and Valgerður Andrésdóttir. EPTA Iceland has always commissioned a new piano piece from an Icelandic composer for each EPTA Piano competition. The composer for the competition in 2015 was the renowned Icelandic composer Ms. Anna Þorvaldsdóttir. There was great enthusiasm for the competition this year, with 43 participants.

February 2016 EPTA Iceland is planning an event to introduce new Icelandic piano books. Among books introduced are “Í fyrsta lagi” by Hafdís Pálsdóttir, “Píanóleikur III” by Björgvin Þór Valdimarsson and “Þræðir” by Agnar Már Magnússon.

22nd–25th September 2016 EPTA Iceland Board looks forward to hosting the 38th European Conference of EPTA Associations and is very busy preparing for it. This will be held in Harpa Concert Hall and Conference Center, Reykjavík. The title of the conference is “Teaching in the 21st Century, Modern Methods and Material”, with focus on new teaching material and methods. Registration opened 22nd October 2015 and deadline for Abstracts is 6th February 2016.

EPTA IRELAND

EPTA Ireland has launched a new advisory panel to assist members with specific teaching queries and are delighted to welcome Réamonn Keary and David Mooney as specialist advisors.

4th October 2015 EPTA Ireland held its Annual General Meeting and welcome Victoria Whittam to the committee and thank Cormuin Ó Raghallaigh for his many years of service to EPTA Ireland. EPTA Ireland is pleased to announce that Owen Lorigan has taken up the position of Chairperson and we look forward to meeting him at future Conferences.

15th November 2015 EPTA Ireland held a session on “First Year at the Piano – A Survival Kit for Teachers and Learners” presented by David Mooney, head of keyboard studies at the Conservatory of Music and Drama, Dublin Institute of Technology.

29th November 2015 EPTA Ireland organised “Music for Fun” Concerts by students of EPTA Members

26th – 28th February 2016 EPTA Ireland will hold its Fifth EPTA Ireland Piano Festival.

EPTA ITALY

10th May 2015 Marcella Crudeli celebrated her 75th birthday and 65 years of her pianistic career in a concert in the Baldini Hall.

4th–14th November 2015 The XXVth Chopin Roma International Competition took place with 168 participants from five continents and 32 countries.

14th November 2015 The final Winners concert was held in the Auditorium of Conciliazione Street, Rome.

Marcella Crudeli continues her popular monthly Salon concerts in her home.

EPTA LATVIA

29th October – 7th December 2015 EPTA Latvia organised a concert series for teachers and professors of the Piano Department of Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music–Seven Peaks of Franz Schubert’s Piano Music 2015.

<http://www.jvlma.lv/english/events/>

8th November 2015 EPTA LATVIA organised a Festival in Riga for piano students from Latvian Secondary Schools aged 15–18. This was in collaboration with Pāvuls Jurjāns Music School and the themes were Song, Dance and Nature.

5th December 2015 EPTA Latvia organised the third International Competition for Pianists – Boys “Boys Play” – for piano students from music schools. This was in co-operation with Pārdaugavas School of Music and Art and was held in Riga.

29th April–4th May 2016 EPTA Latvia are delighted to announce the 17th International Academic Music Competition, Jurnala 2016, in collaboration with the Jurnala City Council Concert Agency, Mūza, and Jurnala Secondary Music School and Jāzeps Vitols Latvian Academy of Music

<http://www.music.lv/epta/notikumi2016.htm>

EPTA MACEDONIA

November 2015 EPTA Macedonia held its Annual Piano Festival for young pianists from primary music schools in the Skopje State music school. Piano teachers give lectures on the same days.

EPTA MALTA

29th November 2015 EPTA Malta planned a Piano Marathon Day to celebrate 25 years since it was launched by Charles Camilieri and Fransina Abela.

2018 EPTA Malta will host the EUROPEAN Conference, the year that Valetta celebrates its year as City of Culture.

EPTA NETHERLANDS

EPTA Netherlands have recently joined forces with the YPF (Young Pianist Foundation) Piano Festival which takes place at the same time in the Muziekgebouw aan het IJ. Delegates of the EPTA conference attended two of the YPF lectures by Neal Peres da Costa and by Paul Badura-Skoda.

EPTA Netherlands have special Committees for their National conference, International conferences, Research methods for beginners, PR, Workshops, post-graduate studies and Exams for students (LGS).

Coosje de Wit retired from the EPTA Netherlands Board after 28 years of dedicated work since the very start of EPTA. EPTA would like to thank Coosje personally for all her devoted years to help maintain the popularity and success of EPTA Netherlands.

EPTA NETHERLAND'S DOCUMENTATION & STUDY CENTRE (EDSC) AMSTERDAM

A large collection of books, music, LP's, CD's, tapes and many other valuable materials are housed in the Public Library of Amsterdam (Openbare Bibliotheek Amsterdam, OBA) near the Central Station of Amsterdam. EPTA members and other music scholars can make use of the Centre, as it was intended, for research and reference. The Centre collaborates with EPTA UK's Information Centre at the Royal College of Music.

All EPTA NETHERLANDS Members receive the Piano Journal as well as the Piano Bulletin

(Editor Chisto Lelie, Broerhuisstr 44, 2611 GD Delft, Tel/Fax: +31 15 212 6695).

22nd – 25th October 2015 EPTA NETHERLANDS hosted the extremely successful 37th European Conference of EPTA Associations in the Conservatorium van Amsterdam. EPTA is most grateful to the wonderful Committee of EPTA Netherlands for all their hard work in preparing this most interesting Conference.

21st November 2015 EPTA Netherlands held their Annual Material Market. At the end of the day Albert Brussee gave a lecture/recital about the Dutch composer Bernard van den Sigtenhorst Meyer. The EPTA Frans Schreuderprijs was given to the student with the best thesis.

EPTA NORWAY

October 2015 EPTA Norway and Norwegian Music Teachers Association organised nine regional competitions for young musicians in classes covering solo, duet and piano ensemble, woodwind, brass and chamber music. There will be three age categories.

January 2016 The National Finals will take place in Oslo.

Spring 2016 EPTA Norway will hold its annual weekend with Masterclasses, Recitals and Lectures to include singers working with pianists.

EPTA PORTUGAL

20th –22nd November 2015 EPTA Portugal held their First Conference under the new Management in Viana do Castelo.

This meeting focussed on “Piano teaching in Portugal in the XXI century: transformations and challenges” and gathered researchers, pianists and pedagogues to reflect about the challenges faced within their careers. Presenters included António Vitorino D’Almeida, Ana Paula Carreira, Luís Pipa, Miguel Henriques, Carlos Azevedo, Carla Soares Barbosa, Luísa Tender, Isolda Rubio, Ingrid Sotolarova and Carlos Rio as well as a masterclass given by Pedro Burmester, a jazz workshop by Carlos Azevedo and a “Piano Needn’t Be Lonely” workshop by Nadia Lassersson. One of the highlights

was the “Gala Concert” on the 21th of November given by renowned portuguese pianists, António Victorino de Almeida, António Rosado, Carlos Azevedo, Luís Pípa, Luisa Tender, Joao Lima, Honor O Hea, Paulo Oliveira, Pedro Burmester and Robert Andres. There were also piano and chamber music recitals, given by Filipa Andrade, Giosué de Vincenti, João Araújo, José Diogo Martins, Natália Ferreira, Pedro Costa, Rafaela Oliveira, Vera Fonte and Nadia Lassersson.

4th December 2015 Series of Chamber Music Recitals at the “Museu de Artes Decorativas, Viana do Castelo, given by

Natália Ferreira, piano Filipa Andrade, piano.

EPTA ROMANIA

Constantin Ionescu-Vovu has decided to step down from EPTA Romania and we thank him and his Committee for all their work. There are plans to re-organise EPTA Romania this coming year.

EPTA RUSSIA

EPTA Russia has published the 68th issue of its journal FORTEPIANO.

Two double CD's by EPTA Russia's former honorary President Eugene Malinin have been produced.

October 2015 EPTA Russia prepared a new Festival “OPUS 15” in Denmark, devoted to Nielsen.

EPTA SERBIA-VOJVODINA

11th-21st March 2016 EPTA Serbia/Voyvodina will hold the 8th International Isidor Bajic Piano Memorial Competition, office@pianomemorial.rs, www.pianomemorial.rs.

EPTA SLOVENIA

September 2015 EPTA Slovenia published the third edition of its own journal VirKLA.

27th-28th November 2015, EPTA Slovenia celebrated the 15th Anniversary of its Annual Conference “Slovenian Piano Days” at the Ljubljana Conservatory for Music and Ballet. Special events were held for this occasion as well as lectures, concerts, school projects with topics and a round table discussion. The central theme of the Conference was »Colours on black and white«. Some lectures and concerts were also connected to Alexander Scriabin and his music.

PIANISSIMO The concerts for the 2015/16 season will be given by Brina Kozlevčar, Urban Stanič, Maja Gombač and the Scaramouche Duo (Neža Koželj, Nadja Rus) in various Slovenian cities. Co-ordinators: Dejan Jakšič and Miha Haas.

EPTA SPAIN

28th September 2015 EPTA Spain organised a “Piano Needn’t Be Lonely” session on Chamber Music with Nadia Lasserson.

14th –15th November 2015 EPTA Spain organised a Seminar on Scaramuzza, the famous piano teacher from Buenos Aires, with Alberto Portugheis.

December 2015 EPTA Spain will hold its Second EPTA Piano Festival.

EPTA SWEDEN

25th –27th September 2015 EPTA Sweden held its Annual Conference in Västerås.

EPTA SWITZERLAND

EPTA Switzerland continues to organise two events each year.

9th May 2015 Heribert Koch talked on “Interpretation – von Anfang an” (“Interpretation – from the very beginning”) in Lucerne.

7th November 2015 topic tba.

The Conference was held in the Bern Campus Muristalden.

EPTA TURKEY

EPTA Turkey is in the process of finally being born and we await further information with great anticipation.

Hande Dalkilic performed in Amsterdam and is planning to set Turkey on the EPTA map.

EPTA UK

EPTA UK is delighted to welcome Carole Booth as its new Administrator and wish her many happy years with EPTA UK. Kathryn Page has stepped down as the Administrator after six extremely successful years. EPTA is most grateful to her for all her tireless hard work. Huw Jones stepped down in July and we look forward to Collaborating with Carole.

The Practical Piano Teaching course, run by Lucinda Mackworth – Young is in its fifth successful year.

21st September 2015 The Advanced Winners of the EPTA UK 19th Piano Competition performed in St Martin in the Fields, London. The overall winner of the Piano competition 2015 is Lyad Sughayer.

Other Winners: INTERMEDIATE II Rowel Friers, ADVANCED I Yao–Chich Kuo, 12 & UNDER Rhys Concessao, 15 & UNDER Lauren Zhang, ADVANCED III Carla Troyas, 18 & UNDER James Ellis, ADVANCED IV Llyad Sughayer.

The Casio prize–winner from the National Final is James Ellis.

Casio Regional Winners Oliver Tait (Cardiff), Galareh Tabatabaei (London), Charlotte Winship (Manchester).

The Adjudicators were: Vanessa Latache, Niel Immelman, and Ronan O’Hora.

7th November 2015 A Steinway piano day was organised for EPTA teachers and adult students.

14th November 2016 Inaugural EPTA Young Performers Masterclass was held in Manchester and organised by Susan Bettaney.

EPTA UK 20th Piano Competition regional Finals take place as follows:

13th February 2016 at the Royal Welsh College of Music, Cardiff

27th February 2016 at the Regent Hall, London

13th March 2016 at Chethams School of Music, Manchester

19th March 2016 National Finals will be held in the Regent Hall, London.

EPTA UK will hold three one–day Conferences in 2016 instead of a residential one:

15th May 2016 Edinburgh

11th August 2016 Manchester

18th September 2016 Cambridge

EPTA UK also runs an annual Composers Competition. The 2015 Winner was Seamus Heath and the Winner of the Frank Martin Memorial award was Paul Greally. Other Winners: CATEGORY 1 Jacky Xiaoyu Zhang, CATEGORY 2 Zhenyi Li, CATEGORY 3 Fergus McGregor, CATEGORY 4 Seamus Heath, CATEGORY 6 Graham Rix, CATEGORY 7 Paul Greally. The adjudicator was Pamela Wedgwood. Closing date for the 2016 Competition is 14th May 2016.

EPTA's Archives are now rehoused in the Library of the Royal College of Music, London. These contain a valuable reference collection of books, music, teaching methods, audio and video tapes which members of all EPTA Associations are welcome to consult. Members are invited to peruse the valuable archives of the EPTA Netherland 'Documentation and Study Centre' (EDSC, Curators Frans Schreuder and Albert Brussee).

EPTA INDIA ASSOCIATES

15th September 2015 Chennai Western Music Association presented its fifteenth concert at Museum Theatre, a vocal recital by soprano Joanne D'Mello, accompanied on the piano by Sung-Ah Park, both settled in Germany.

13th – 17th October 2015 American guitarist Rupert Boyd gave four concerts in Calcutta, Chennai, Panjim & Calangute in Goa, organised by Prabhudas ivanson.

April 2016 A tour is planned with Nadia Lasserson.

EPTA ISRAEL ASSOCIATES

EPTA ISRAEL Associates is happy to announce a new working "Teachers' Forum" initiated by the Piano Duo Tami Kanazawa and Yuval Admoni – which meets regularly at their home in "Neve Shalom" – "Peace Oasis", a village of co-existence between Jews and Arabs.

26th February 2016 EPTA Israel Associates will hold a half day winter congress at the Givata'im Conservatory

Prof. Michael Wladkovski, pianist, teacher (Ecole Normale de Musique, Paris) – lecture recital: "Karol Szymanowski (1882- 1932) – The Esthetic and Evolution ". Israeli Piano Works by Dr. Hana AJIASHVILI, composer, teacher, head of the Or- Yehuda Conservatory and Dr. Reuven Kazhiloti, composer, pianist, teacher (both from Tblisi, Georgia) with participation of Conservatory students. Mrs. Tzeela Rozenblat, teacher – lecture: "The Process of Improvisation and its Contribution to the Piano Teacher and Student". Mr. Moshe Porat, piano tuner – lecture: "The Story of Sounds – A Survey of the History of the Piano." The interactive process and mutual influence between the composer and the instrument's innovations. Exhibition of Hana Ajiashvili's and Reuven Kazhiloti's pianoworks.

Tel – Aviv Regional Branch is organised by Ifat Zaidel (Israel Conservatory of Music,T-A) and will hold a meeting on "Teaching Chopin and the Russian School" given by Mrs. Ilana Zalka, teacher – lecture.

Jerusalem Regional Branch is organised by Asya Yampolski (JAMD) and Mr Dror Semmel (Conservatory) and further meetings are planned for the coming year.

A new Be'er Sheva Regional Branch is organised by Mr. Timor Shapira (Head of Piano at Be'er Sheva Conservatory).

ALAPP Argentina (Association of Latin American Pianists and Pedagogues)

The exchange programme with Alapp Chile continues.

Valentín Surif participated with Ruth Sanchez Pasten in two recitals in Santiago de Chile, National Library and Central University as part of the exchange programme with ALAPP Chile.