

Notes from NEPTA speaker series, March 27, 2017

Speaker: Lisa Parker

Topic: "Getting Off the Piano Bench": Dalcroze Games to Improve Rhythm, for the Piano Studio

Lisa Parker got us off our seats for her wonderful presentation/demonstration called "Getting Off the Piano Bench": Dalcroze Games to Improve Rhythm, for the Piano Studio. The participatory session may be described as a you-had-to-be-there experience, but Ms. Parker kindly provided a handout that captures the purpose and description of a number of the games/exercises we engaged in during the very active session. *See document attached.*

A couple of brief additions to the handout:

For short-short-long (1-1-2) phrasing games, MacDowell's "To a Wild Rose" is a useful source of phrases for accompaniment. The teacher can vary the tempo as game goes along.

For complementary rhythm exercises, in which a pupil *fills in* the rests or long notes -- with clapping or stepping, etc. -- the French folk song "Au Clair de La Lune" is useful, played or sung by teacher.

For canon games, "Frère Jacques" is a useful melody.

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For those interested in pursuing this approach to music learning/teaching in more depth:

Donna Gross-Javel mentioned, at the end of Monday's session, that Dalcroze Eurythmics classes will be offered over the summer at the Longy School of Music. The Dalcroze Institute runs at Longy from June 25-July 14, with three different week-long sessions.

<http://longy.edu/academics/summer-programs/longy-dalcroze-institute/>

NEPTA member Nina Grimaldi also will offer a workshop during the summer. Contact her directly for more information.

Notes submitted by Barbara Engel