

Virtual Music Marathon

To: RCMTG membership

Re: Virtual Music Marathon

Looking ahead to the upcoming holiday season, our thoughts turn to what we are grateful for in our own lives, and how can we help those among us who may be experiencing hard times. The Music Marathon affords us a way to help those less fortunate. Our performances will again raise funds for a worthy cause: the victims of Hurricane Ian, many of whom lost everything, are uninsured, and face a bleak holiday season as they try to rebuild their shattered lives and communities.

The Music Marathon will be held from December 3rd – December 10th. During that time, we will be posting on our Youtube channel, Facebook and Instagram pages, and will highlight a link to donate to the Florida Disaster Fund (recommended by FEMA). We would like you to encourage your students, many of whom are social media savvy, to send in video performances of themselves playing or singing, and for them to ask their friends and family to view their performances, and click on the link to donate to this worthy cause. If you do not have students at the moment or you would like to personally participate, teachers are welcome to send videos of themselves playing.

Specific instructions for submitting a video are as follows: on our website (rcmtg.org), click on Music Marathon and scroll down to the submission form. Students must provide a link to a **Google drive or Dropbox**, due to the size of most video files. All students under 18 must have their parents submit a permission form which pops up when the performer says they are under 18. It is the same process as last year.

Teachers do not have to involve themselves in the submission process (unless you feel the need or desire to). Our job is to prepare students, encourage them to participate, and give them information; students and parents will be in charge of making the video and submitting. Feel

free to review student videos - while we want to present our students in the best light, helping the community is our goal, and videos from phones are acceptable. All students, beginner through the most advanced should be encouraged to submit. Long submissions will be posted on Youtube, and excerpts (due to size limits) may be posted on Facebook and Instagram. Students who are anxious about recording can send a picture of themselves playing for posting. All material needs to be submitted no later than December 9th and we will start accepting submissions December 2nd and posting will begin on December 3rd.

We are hopeful that our Virtual Music Marathon will assist the victims of Hurricane Ian in a time of unique need, while raising the profile of RCMTG teachers and students, and the good work our organization can do. The undeniable reach of social media is a fact of life today, and we can do our part to make it a positive force for all concerned. Any questions you have, please send me an email at ctil8993@gmail.com.

I hope you share my enthusiasm for this project. These are challenging times for our community, and we are hoping that this will be a way to show what we can do to make this difficult time more bearable through the power of music.

Carole Tilson