



Gateway Arch East

Music Teachers Association

December 2022 / January 2023 Newsletter

gatewaymusicteachers.org

Letter from the Editor

Hello, friends!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and are enjoying the New Year!

I must admit to being quite overwhelmed through December and am appreciative of your patience with getting this newsletter out.

I had planned for us to go together to see the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra this month. With such short notice, we're going to postpone that. Look for an email about it in the near future. This is a great time to go to Powell, as it will be closed for renovations over the next two years. The expansion and changes to the hall are so exciting, while retaining the integrity and history of the space we love. But we will miss it as the SLSO will be in different venues for the next two seasons.

Thank you to Amy Jo, Deb, and Gill who submitted the articles for this newsletter.

There is a lot of important information about AIM, resources from the ISMTA Conference, and updates from members! Enjoy!

Joe

Contents

AIM Deadlines and Updated Dates
AIM Important Information
Foundation Fellow: Amy Jo Sawyer
Tidbits from the ISMTA Conference
Calendar of Upcoming Events
Recording of November Meeting
MTNA Certification
Performances/Auditions/Opportunities
November Treasurer's Report
News from Members

2023 Calendar of AIM Deadlines and Exam Dates

SWIC Deadline Dates

Sun., Jan. 15 – AIM Repertoire **substitution requests** due to Stephanie Myers, hisamimyers@gmail.com.

Wed., Jan. 11, Midnight deadline – Level 3-12 **Theory Registrations** due to the following: Student Registration & Fee Form to Deborah Meier along with a check for the total fees. Teacher Judging Form and a second copy of the Student Registration & Fee Form to LeAnn Halvorson. Forms are available in the AIM Supplement and on the website

Sat./Sun., Feb. 11 & 12 – AIM Level 3-12 **Theory Exams**. Saturday exams are 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1:30-5:00 p.m. Sunday exams are 1:30-5:00 p.m.

Wed., March 8, Midnight deadline – AIM **Repertoire Forms** due. Forms are available in the AIM Supplement and on the website. Send **SWIC** forms to: Mary Anderson (postal mail only: 342 N. 43 rd St., Belleville, IL 62226), or email to Deb Meier or Ruth Stith.

Wed., Mar. 29, Midnight deadline – AIM Levels 1-12 **Performance Registrations** due to the following: Student Registration and the Teacher Judging Form to Joan Witte. Student Registration & Fee form along with a check for the total fees for levels 1 & 2 only to Deborah Meier, 626 Lillian, Collinsville, IL 62234. Forms are available in the AIM Supplement and on the website.

Sat./Sun., Apr. 29 & 30 – AIM **Performance Exams**, all levels. Saturday exams are 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1:30-5:00 p.m. Sunday exams are 1:30-5:00 p.m.

SIUE Deadline Dates

Sun., Jan. 15 – AIM Repertoire **substitution requests** due to Stephanie Myers, hisamimyers@gmail.com.

Wed., Jan. 25, Midnight deadline – Level 3-12 **Theory Registrations** due to the following: Student Registration & Fee Form to Deborah Meier, 626 Lillian, Collinsville, IL 62234, along with a check for the total fees. Send a second copy of Student Registration & Fee Form to Huei Li Chin. Forms are available in the AIM Supplement and on the website.

Sat., Feb. 18 – AIM Level 3-12 **Theory Exams**.

Wed., March 22, Midnight deadline – AIM Repertoire Forms due. Forms are available in the AIM Supplement and on the website. Send SIUE forms to Huei Li Chin. Confirm all dates with Huei Li Chin.

Wed., Mar. 29, Midnight deadline – AIM Levels 1-12 **Performance Registrations** due to the following: Student Registration & Fee Form to Deborah Meier, 626 Lillian, Collinsville, IL 62234, along with a check for the total fees for levels 1 & 2 only. Send a second copy of Student Registration & Fee Form to Huei Li Chin. Forms are available in the AIM Supplement and on the website. Confirm all dates with Huei Li Chin.

Sat., Apr. 22 – AIM **Performance Exams**, all levels. 12:30-4:30 p.m. Confirm all dates and times with Huei Li Chin

IMPORTANT AIM INFORMATION

REQUESTS FOR REPERTOIRE SUBSTITUTIONS APPROVAL

If you wish to use repertoire that is not in the AIM Syllabus, the deadline for approval is **January 15**. If you send in a list with several pieces, please put them in order by levels (lowest to highest). Be sure to check other competition lists – that music does not need approval from the state, but you must send a written request to Gill Cerbin, our local AIM chair. Please send the name and composer of the piece, a copy of the contest list you selected it from, and what level you would like to use it for in AIM. If you are unsure as to what AIM level the piece is, compare it with others you know that are on the same list, or contact Deb Meier, LeAnn Halvorson, or Gill Cerbin for help.

Send requests for repertoire substitutions that are not from a recognized contest or festival lists to Stephanie Myers, hisamimyers@gmail.com. Send a scanned copy of the first and the last page of your requested piece with the Level and List (A, B, C, D) information.

LEVEL 12 REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS

The teacher must submit a list of Level 12 repertoire to the State Piano Performance Chair for program approval at least five months prior to the Level 12 exam or recital, or March 31 at the latest, with documentation of the Sonata-Allegro movement included. Please see Level 12 – p. 29 in the Syllabus for a complete list of Level 12 performance requirements.

Go to <https://ismta.org/aim/> to download the required form for Level 12 students, then send the completed form to Level 12 Program Approval Chair, Stephanie Myers, hisamimyers@gmail.com.

Amy Jo Sawyer Receives “Foundation Fellow” Award at ISMTA Conference

Amy Jo received the “Foundation Fellow” award at the ISMTA Conference held in Charleston, Illinois, Nov 4. She will represent the state of Illinois at the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Conference held in Reno, Nevada, on March 27, 2023. The award is presented to one who has “made significant and substantial impact on the lives of others through music and service”.

She became an MTNA Nationally Certified Piano teacher in 1989. She received an MA in Jazz Performance and BA in Piano

Performance and Composition from Southern Illinois University. She served on the Illinois State Teachers Association board as “Composition Chair” for five years. She was President of the local ISMTA chapter, Gateway Arch East. In 2014, she was chosen ISMTA “Composer of the Year”. In 2019 she was chosen ISMTA “Teacher of the Year”.

She has written many compositions for accordion and piano. Many accordion pieces have been performed by the ATG Festival Orchestra. “Juntos” (Together), was performed in Castelfidardo, Italy, by the Frank Marocco orchestra in 2012. “Recuerdos” (Memories) orchestra piece, was performed by the World Orchestra at the Coupe Mondiale Festival



in Lithuania, 2018. She recently composed eighteen pieces for Stradella & Free Bass accordions listed in the ATG Syllabus. She was chosen to be a member of the “ATG International Accordion Hall of Fame” in 2019.

Tidbits from ISMTA State Conference

November 4-5, 2022
Eastern Illinois University
Submitted by Deb Meier

As is custom, I am sharing some of the highlights of the ISMTA Conference. There were four attendees from Gateway Arch East, Amy Jo Sawyer (and chauffeur, Keith), Gill Cerbin, Joe Welch, and Debbie Meier. At the banquet, Debbie was honored and received the Member of the Year award, Amy Jo received the Illinois Foundation Fellowship award, and Janice Larson Razaq received the ISMTA Teacher of the Year, along with being chosen for the National Teacher of the Year. What an honor!

Though attendance from all local associations was low, those of us attending especially enjoyed the fellowship of being together in person this year following the previous two years of virtual and hybrid conferences. Eastern is a perfect venue! We had great weather (except for Saturday’s wind that almost blew us away) which meant we didn’t have to drag along our winter coats, and all of the sessions were in one building!

Highlighting the weekend was Sean Chen, the Conference Artist and Clinician. The Faculty Recital also provided innovative performances from some of the best! One of my favorite sessions was led by Janna Williamson and Stephanie Myers on the topic of “Constructive and Effective Judging Techniques”. These special AIM sessions provide excellent reminders on how to do our job even better, whether it be teaching AIM material or judging students. This interactive session provided practical tools to improve our judging experience. We had the opportunity to judge two pre-recorded student performances and then we were “on the clock” being given four minutes to write down comments on our exam sheet. After collecting the comment sheets, many comments were read and shared with the group. There was some excellent feedback which reinforced the idea that we should always offer encouragement and provide constructive comments focusing on what the student does well. Judging is like “fast teaching” and this ability to access judging helps our teaching. It is best to choose one or two things to comment on with specific and general comments. It was also pointed out that it is helpful to the student when the judge gives a concluding comment to the performance by using a complete sentence and acknowledges the totality that the student has put in on their performance. I am sharing the hand-outs that were provided in this session. You may find it helpful to take these with you when you are judging AIM exams and other festivals.

[Effective Judging handouts are attached to the newsletter email.]

Upcoming Events

Friday, February 17, 10am

Dr. Kyung-Eun Na

Collaborative Piano

via Zoom

Dr. Kyung-Eun Na will present the skills of working in collaboration with other musicians. Dr. Na currently teaches at Oberlin College Conservatory of Music previously served on the faculties of Manhattan School of Music, Purchase College Conservatory of Music (SUNY), Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, and more.

Recording of November Meeting

We were all impressed by Dr. Diana Dumlavwalla's presentation on The Inclusive Studio! Her presentation was thorough, clear, and very practical. If you missed it, you can view it [here](#). We highly recommend it!

MTNA Certification

The next two pages outline the benefits, process, and cost of gaining MTNA Certification. Gill notes that there is still money available to reimburse the cost for the first twenty successful candidates. She is happy to answer any questions anyone might have. Her contact information is included below and the information is also attached to the newsletter email separately.

MTNA Professional Certification -Summary

The MTNA Professional Certification Program exists to improve the level of professionalism within the field of music teaching. It benefits the members of the profession itself, as well as the public who interacts with the professional. For the music teaching professional, certification provides prestige, recognition and the potential for student recruitment and increased earning power. For the public, certification helps readily identify competent music teachers in their communities.

Music Teacher Benefits

- Encourages improvement in teaching through continuous study and planning.
- Offers a process for teachers to examine and update their teaching methods, business practices and philosophies.
- Raises likelihood of higher level of teacher competency and effectiveness.
- Provides a goal for professional achievement for music teachers.
- Builds confidence in one's own skills and competences.
- Confirms what we are doing is in line with current trends and industry practices.
- Increases earning potential.
- Improves professionalism.
- Identifies for the public competent music teachers.

Two Routes to Certification

1. Administrative Verification: Available to full and part-time college faculty. An institution's music executive completes a form, verifying he/she has observed a candidate meeting each of the MTNA Professional Certification Standards.

Step I: The college faculty candidate completes a Certification Application and submits the application and fees to MTNA headquarters.

Step II: The college faculty candidate receives from MTNA headquarters an Administrative Verification Form to be completed by the applicant's music executive or supervisor and returned to MTNA. The candidate will receive written notification from MTNA when the certification process is successfully completed. A certificate and the guidelines for the renewal of MTNA Professional Certification will accompany the written notification.

2. Teacher Profile Projects

Step I: The candidate completes a Certification Application and submits the application and fees to MTNA headquarters.

Step II: The candidate completes the 5 Teacher Profile Projects within 1 year (a single one-year extension can be requested).

1. Write Your Teaching Philosophy.
2. Analyze 4 Teaching pieces.
3. Present Your Teaching:
 - a. Includes 3 video recorded lesson segments, materials used, self-evaluation, goals, adaptations, assessment of the lessons.
 - b. Play and record 5-10 minutes of yourself playing (AIM 7 or above).
4. Share Information About Your Teaching Environment.
5. Discuss Your Business Ethics and Studio Policies.

Fees

Currently \$200 for MTNA members (\$100 for collegiate students). The first 20 candidates to complete will have the \$200 fee refunded by ISMTA. Each additional Performance area \$150 and \$75 respectively.

Renewal

Required annually for 10 years, with completion of check-off list, thereafter just fee. Annual renewal fee \$25.

For further information go to the MTNA website: <http://www.mtnacertification.org/> or contact Gill Cerbin, ISMTA Certification Chair at: gillcerbin@yahoo.com

Gill Cerbin (NCTM)
November 2022

Upcoming Performances and Opportunities



Masterworks Chorale and Children's Chorus 2022-2023 Concert Season
(Schedule subject to change)



September 18, 2022, 6:00 p.m. - *Masterworks Oktoberfest*

Guest Accordionists
Eckert's "The Shed," Belleville, IL

Poetry in Music - For Better or for Verse

Masterworks Chorale and Soloists
October 8, 2022, 7:30 p.m.
Carmelite Monastery, Ladue, MO
October 9, 2022, 3:00 p.m.
Saint Clare Catholic Church, O'Fallon, IL

October 30, 2022, 3:00 p.m. - *Music for Young Voices: The Magic of Singing*

Masterworks Children's Chorus
Saint Clare Catholic Church, O'Fallon, IL

December 11, 2022, 7:30 p.m. - *Christmas at the Cathedral*

Masterworks Chorale, Children's Chorus, and Orchestra
Saint Peter's Cathedral, Belleville

February 4, 2023, 5:30 p.m. - Annual Masterworks Gala: *Carnavale*

Masterworks Chorale and Children's Chorus
Saint Clair Country Club

A Masterworks / Christine Brewer residency at the Hett
Masterworks Chorale, Children's Chorus, and Jazz Ensemble
Hettenhausen Center for the Arts, McKendree University, Lebanon

February 24, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Morning Coffee with Christine Brewer & the Masterworks Chorale

February 25, 2023, 2:00 p.m. (Free to the public)

A Master Class with Christine Brewer

February 26, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

Old Time Radio Show with Masterworks Chorale & Christine Brewer

April 23, 2023, 3:00 p.m. - *Voices of Spring: Sing We and Chant It*

Masterworks Children's Chorus
Saint Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville

April 30, 2023, 3:00 p.m. - *A Schubert Spring*

Masterworks Chorale and Orchestra, Stella Markou, soprano
Saint Clare Catholic Church, O'Fallon

Buy your tickets at www.singmasterworks.org! Season ticket packages available.



www.facebook.com/singmasterworks
The Masterworks Chorale is supported in part by the Illinois Arts Council Agency, and by the National Endowment for the Arts.



Auditions and Job Openings

Masterworks Chorale and Masterworks Children's Chorus accept new members throughout the year. Lisa Cripe sings with MW and assists with MWCC. The MWCC audition is very simple: Dr. Mager usually asks the student to sing a simple song like My Country 'Tis of Thee, and families are welcome to visit a rehearsal to participate/observe.

November 2022 GAE Treasurer's Report

Account balance 11/30/2022	\$7,570.65		
	2022-23 Budget	November 2022	YTD
INCOME			
Memberships	\$210.00	\$0.00	\$190.00
AIM Entry Fees	\$1,300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Yearbook Ads	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,585.00	\$0.00	\$240.00
EXPENSES			
AIM Expenses Total	\$925.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AIM Medals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AIM Misc. Supplies	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AIM Pins	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AIM Printing & Mailing	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ISMSTA Student Foundation	\$180.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Student Award Checks	\$375.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
SWIC Foundation Arts Fund (donation for use of facilities)	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AIM Syllabus for New Members	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
ISMSTA Foundation Fellow Donation			
Member of the Year Conference Expense	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Miscellaneous	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
President's Conference Expense	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Printing/Mailing (yearbook, newsletter, other besides AIM)	\$50.00	\$32.13	\$32.13
Programs	\$1,200.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Teacher's Assistance Fund (partial dues scholarship for new members and partial reimbursement of first time certification fee)	\$136.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Website Expenses	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,876.00	\$342.13	\$692.13

News from Members

Deb Meier shares the good news that Katie had her baby 1/5/23 at 12:04 a.m. She shared:

“John and I are taking care of 2 little girls while Katie and Chris are at the hospital in Stillwater (about 45 min. away).

“She was scheduled for a C-section this morning at 7:30 a.m. and needed to be there at 5:30. Well, the baby had a mind of its own and decided to be born earlier, a natural birth (which means shorter/easier recovery time). So, that's a good thing! We got here yesterday afternoon. (arriving home Monday from Virginia, after spending Christmas with Nick & family). After supper, Katie wasn't feeling very well and she laid down to rest. She had been having contractions throughout the day. Then that evening, more intense. I told her she might need to go to the hospital early.

“So, at 10:22 p.m. Chris said they were headed there. The doctor on call arrived at 11:48, told Katie to push, and she had the baby at 12:04! That's cutting it a little close! But, all is well and they are coming home tomorrow afternoon. At least it wasn't a parking lot delivery, like Katie's friend's sister. They had baby #3 in the ER parking lot, arriving at a hospital that hadn't delivered any babies for over 2 years (because it's such a small facility) so after the husband delivered the baby, he laid on the horn to get the attention of 2 nurses that were working and they had an ambulance take mom and baby to another town nearby that was a larger hospital. Sounds like a nightmare to me!

“All is well. Natalie Jo is the new arrival (6 lbs., 14 oz., 19" long) and Joy (5) and Lydia (2) are the proud big sisters. Can't wait to see Natalie tomorrow! We'll probably be here until the 16th to lend a helping hand, then a quick trip back for the Jan. 29th baptism.”

LeAnn Halvorson has been busy! She writes:

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Be thinking about Theory AIM registrations. They will be due in early January. Registration forms can be found here:

<https://www.gatewaymusicteachers.org/aim-information> Our email address:

halvorso@htc.net will no longer be in service after today. We are changing providers for our internet, wish us luck. Please use instead:

LeAnnHalvorson@halvorsonmusicstudio.com or

LeAnnHalvorson@musicperceptions.com Speaking of Music Perceptions, I have published sheet music for digital download: “Who’s That?,” “Tick Tock Clock,” “Teeny Tiny Little Witch,” “Run Away Timid Ghost,” “Turkey on the Loose,” and “Surprise Scarecrow,” (next up: “There’s a Little Bird,” and “Leaves”). I’m attempting to write and publish 4 pieces of sheet music each month to the ArrangeMe of

www.sheetmusicdirect.com and www.sheetmusicplus.com I’m still in the editing mode of working on a SuperScore Music version of the Music Study Sheets 2 2013 and 2003 edition book. An upgrade of Finale was necessary to make things work, and so I’m not yet done. It will be available soon at: www.TimeWarpTech.com I highly recommend that anybody who is writing music, check out the ArrangeMe for publishing your music. Its parent company is Hal Leonard. The SuperScore Music app for the iPad is a nice teaching tool for students owning an iPad. Publishing music for the SuperScore Music app is worth it too, but a lot more work for the composer. The work is worth it as it really helps the students.

Since October, I have published 10 original sheet music solos for piano at:

www.sheetmusicplus.com and www.sheetmusicdirect.com 6 of these sheet music solos are also published as SuperScore Music for SuperScore on the iPad and are available at: www.timewarptech.com All can be found by searching on my name, LeAnn Halvorson or music perceptions. It has been great fun writing these pieces and I will continue adding more sheet music original solos each month. These pieces are at the late elementary/early intermediate levels.

Vocal student of **Dr. Stephanie Owen** made ILMEA in October 2022. They had to sing major and 3 types of minor scales acapella and 4 types of triads root position a capella and sight read a rhythm and sing excerpts out of 4 songs a capella. They performed at Belleville West High School Sat November 26 at 4 pm.

December was a full month for **Joseph Welch**, who finished up the children's opera, Lessons and Carols service, caroling, and finals at Blackburn College while performing many concerts! Opera Edwardsville celebrated its fifth anniversary with a concert in early December. Joe wrapped up his season with them as the 2022 Artist-in-Residence. His residency has just been renewed for their exciting 2023 season. This was followed by accompanying the Tessitura Music (Amy Prince) studio recital. Next were two performances under the baton of Kevin McBeth: the SLSO's Gospel Christmas featuring Sheléa and Manchester United Methodist Church's Joy of Music Christmas Choir Concert. His last performance of the season, Home Alone on synth with the SLSO, was canceled at the last minute due to the weather. The break was short as the OTSL AIT Winter Residency with Dr. Katherine Jolly is already underway, as well as preparations for the SLSO's Martin Luther King Jr. Day concert, which will be live broadcast on St. Louis Public Radio on Monday.



Do you have feedback on the newsletter? We would love to hear from you! Let us know what you want to see more of and what we no longer need to include: pianowelch@gmail.com