



Gateway Arch East Music Teachers Association

**Illinois State Music Teachers Association
Music Teachers National Association
2025-2026 Yearbook**

Table of Contents

2025-2026 Executive Board & Chairpersons; Executive Board Letter	pp. 3-4
Code of Ethics	p. 4-5
Member of the Year	p. 5
Calendar of Programs and Events	p. 6-7
Membership Directory	pp. 8-9
GAE General Policies	p. 10
Constitution and Bylaws	pp. 11-12
Advertisements	pp. 13-14

Useful Links:

www.gatewaymusicteachers.org
www.mtna.org
www.ismta.org
www.musicperceptions.com
www.amyjosawyer.com
www.youngmozarts.net

2025-2026 GAE Executive Board:

Gill Cerbin, President

Dr. Joseph Welch, Vice President/Program Coordinator

Joan Witte, Secretary

Deborah Meier, Treasurer

Chairpersons:

A.I.M.: Gill Cerbin

Membership: Dr. Joseph Welch

Certification: Gill Cerbin

Newsletter: Dr. Joseph Welch

Directory: Deborah Meier

AIM Theory Scheduler and Aural Exam CD Recorder: LeAnn Halvorson

AIM Performance Scheduler: Joan Witte

AIM Repertoire Checkers: Deborah Meier, Ruth Stith, Mary Anderson, Huei Li Chin

AIM Exam Printing, Collating, and Binder Preparation: LeAnn Halvorson

AIM Site Coordinator for SWIC: Gill Cerbin

AIM Site Coordinator for SIUE: Huei Li Chin

Webmaster: Seth Metcalfe

The 2025-2026 Gateway Arch East Executive Board wishes to welcome you and thank you for your membership. We are looking forward to another year of music making together.

This is your updated directory for upcoming events, membership, and Gateway Arch East Music Teachers Association (GAEMTA) information. Please download it to your computer and save it. We thank Deb Meier for putting it together. Additional information can be found at: www.gatewaymusicteachers.org. Our webmaster is Seth Metcalfe. Please contact him if you have any information you need to include or update on the website or in our Newsletter.

Each and every member of Gateway Arch East MTA has special skills to share and we learn so much from each member; you are truly appreciated. To be successful as a group, we need all members to contribute, and would like to hear from members who are interested in assuming board positions for the 2026-2027 term. I encourage you to bring a friend to our meetings. The more teachers in our group, the more ideas we have to share. Our Membership Chair, Joe Welch, can be reached at: pianowelch@gmail.com

Your MTNA membership is an investment in crucial musical commodities, with continuing educational opportunities, career development, peer recognition, and networking programs. The 2025 Illinois State Conference will be held in person November 7-8, 2025 at Blackburn College, Carlinville, IL. Go to www.ismta.org to access all of the conference information designed specifically for you. You'll be able to share with and learn from knowledgeable experts in your field. MTNA's popular monthly webinars also cover a variety of topics of interest to music teachers.

GAEMTA members are also eligible to apply for the National Certification Program administered by MTNA, which enables teachers to enhance their professional status. For the music teaching professional, certification provides prestige, recognition and the potential for student recruitment and increased earning power. The designation of Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM) is given to successful candidates who meet the professional competencies and standards required for MTNA certification. All applied music teachers actively engaged in the profession are eligible for MTNA Professional Certification. If you would like to know more about becoming certified, you can contact Gill Cerbin, Certification Chair, phone/text: (618) 980-5870; e-mail: gillcerbin@yahoo.com or contact MTNA, phone (888) 512-5278 or visit their website at: www.mtna.org.

Gateway Arch East MTA participates in the Illinois State Piano Examinations Achievement in Music (AIM) program. We encourage teachers to enter students at all levels. Upper-level AIM students, levels nine and higher receive a cash award from Gateway Arch East MTA for passing both the theory and performance exams. We will reimburse members of our organization who haven't previously been involved in AIM Exams for their purchase of the AIM Syllabus from ISMTA. If you have questions regarding the program, you can contact [Gill Cerbin](#), AIM Chair.

We need each and every member to make our organization strong and vital to serve the musical needs of our community. We wish you a rewarding and musical year ahead.

Sincerely,
The Gateway Arch East Executive Board

CODE OF ETHICS

Adopted by Gateway Arch East Chapter
Illinois State Music Teachers Association
Music Teachers National Association

The Gateway Arch East Chapter has accepted the Code of Ethics of the MTNA and the ISMTA. In accordance with these codes, the GAE has established the following Code of Ethics:

RESPONSIBILITIES TO OUR PUBLIC

1. Maintaining and improving professional abilities in teaching and performing.
2. Giving no misleading or exaggerated claims concerning teaching qualifications in written or oral presentations.
3. Suggesting the name of two or more teachers when asked for guidance in selecting an independent teacher; final choice shall be made by the parent and the student.

RESPONSIBILITIES TO OUR STUDENTS

1. Encouraging and developing the musical potential of each student as fully as possible, but avoiding specific promises or guarantees leading to false hopes of a career in music.
2. Encouraging students to participate in community music activities.
3. Maintaining confidentiality concerning student's test scores, conversations, etc.

RESPONSIBILITIES TO OUR COLLEAGUES

1. Participating as fully as possible in activities of the Music Teachers National Association, the Illinois State Music Teachers Association, and Gateway Arch East Chapter.
2. Providing professional assistance to one another when such assistance is requested.
3. Respecting the rights of colleagues in their careers as teachers of music and withholding criticism.
4. Avoiding interference with a given student-teacher relationship.
5. Avoiding conflict with the instruction of a student's regular teacher when serving as an interim instructor.

6. Claiming credit for the achievement of a student only after the completion of at least six months of study with the respective teacher.
7. Accepting a transfer student only after receiving proof that lessons with the prior teacher have ceased and all financial obligations have been fulfilled.

Conforming to copyrighting laws regarding photocopying of published music in order that composers may be fairly compensated for their work.

MEMBER OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS

Gateway Arch East Chapter

1997-1998 – Marian Chao
1998-1999 – Frances Tonnies
1999-2000 – Karen Rogers
2000-2001 – Amy Jo Sawyer
2001-2002 – LeAnn Halvorson
2002-2003 – Deborah Meier
2003-2004 – Karen Koch
2004-2005 – Marshall Gurley
2005-2006 – Heidi Shepherd
2006-2007 – Darice Palmier
2007-2008 – LeAnn Halvorson
2008-2009 – Donna Guillaume
2009-2010 – Deborah Meier and LeAnn Halvorson
2010-2011 – Linda Perry
2011-2012 – Susan Lipnick
2012-2013 – Mary Anderson
2013-2014 – Joan Witte
2014-2015 – LeAnn Halvorson and Amy Jo Sawyer
2015-2016 – Karen Koch
2016-2017 – Joan Witte
2017-2018 – Joseph Welch
2018-2019 – Huei Li Chin
2019-2020 – Amy Jo Sawyer
2020-2021 – Gill Cerbin
2021-2022 – Marshall Gurley
2022-2023 – Deborah Meier
2023-2024 – Joseph Welch
2024-2025 – No recipient nominated
2025-2026 – Frances Gregg (Posthumously)
and Dr. Stephanie Owen (Posthumously)

2025-2026 Calendar of GAE Programs and Events

Saturday, August 30, 2025 at 12 noon-4:00 p.m.

Location: Joe Glik Park, 710 E. Lake Drive, Edwardsville, IL 62025

GAE Picnic Join us at Joe Glik Park in Edwardsville! Bring a dish for a potluck style lunch and an afternoon of fun.

Friday, September 19, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Location: Pour@322Coffee Coffee Shop, 322 E. Main St, Belleville, IL

Article Discussion We will discuss an article from AMT, MTNA's journal. Be prepared for a lively conversation over coffee at Pour@322 in Belleville! This coffee shop offers a variety of hot and cold coffee drinks, smoothies, teas, etc. as well as pastries, muffins, brownies, cookies and breakfast sandwiches. They also serve breakfast all day.

Friday, October 17, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Location: Schmidt Art Center, SWIC Belleville Campus, 2500 Carlyle Ave, Belleville, IL

Schubertiad, Art Gallery Tour, and Lunch

We return to SWIC's Schmidt Art Gallery to view the exhibits, perform for each other, and have lunch!

Friday & Saturday, Nov. 7-8, 2025

Location: Blackburn College, 700 College Ave, Carlinville, IL 62626

2025 ISMTA Conference and Competition

Right in our own backyard, drive up to Blackburn College for the state conference! Since it is so close and hosted by GAE member Joseph Welch, we would love to see a strong attendance from the Gateway Arch East Members!

Saturday, December 12, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Location: (Gill's home) 231 W. Water's Edge Dr., Belleville, IL 62221-7811;

Contact information 618-239-0122 (Gill)

Christmas Party – Music-making at Gill's

Gill Cerbin generously welcomes us back for a Christmas party of treats and reading festive duets. This laid-back event gives us an opportunity to casually make music with friends. We will gather around the piano, take turns playing, and sing festive tunes!

2026

Saturday and Sunday, February 21-22, 2026

AIM Theory Exams

Details coming soon!

February 21, 2026

AIM Level 3-12 Theory Examinations held at **SIUE**

February 21/22, 2026

AIM Level 3-12 Theory Examinations held at **SWIC**

Saturday, March 28, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

Location: TBD

Masterclass with Dr. Pei-I Wang

Put the polishing touches on pieces for AIM exams in a masterclass with Dr. Pei-I Wang from Millikin University!

Saturday and Sunday, April 18-19, 2026

AIM Performance Exams

Details coming soon!

April 18, 2026

AIM Performance Examinations (all levels) at **SIUE**

April 18/19, 2026

AIM Performance Examinations (all levels) at **SWIC**

Saturday, May 9, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. [tentative date - pending confirmation]

Location: Bothwell Chapel at McKendree University, 298 N. Alton St., Lebanon, IL

GAEMTA Student Recital

Bothwell Chapel at McKendree University is again hosting a concert of great music from our students! Quickly becoming a favorite event, get this on your calendar now for both you and your students!

Friday, May 15, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

Location: Bandana's Bar-B-Q, 4608 N. Illinois, Fairview Heights, IL 62208

End of Year Business Meeting

We love to eat together at Bandana's in Fairview Heights! The conversation is so good, sometimes business ends up on the back burner. Join us at this important meeting as we make decisions for the GAE's future!

Membership of Gateway Arch East Music Teachers Association

Mary Anderson

Piano

342 N 43rd St

Belleville IL 62226

(618) 233-4584

manders@siue.edu

Natalie Braun

www.youngmozarts.net

(618) 972-5318

Catherine Burge NCTM

Piano, Accompanying, Clarinet, Voice,

Group Piano

1 Hunters Trail

Mascoutah, IL 62258

(618) 704-5730

caburge@gmail.com

Gillian Cerbin NCTM

Piano, Accompanying, Vocal Coach

231 W Waters Edge Dr

Belleville IL 62221

(618) 980-5870

gillcerbin@yahoo.com7202

Dr. Huei Li Chin

Piano-Pedagogy, Piano, Theory

Keyboard Development

Department of Music, SIUE

3421 Vicksburg Dr

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(618) 650-2089

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LeAnn K Halvorson NCTM

Piano, Theory

Halvorson Music Studio

Music Perceptions

511 Arch View Ct

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Rebecca Hepfer

Piano

921 Olde Farm Rd

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rebeccafreshour@rocketmail.com

Karen Koch NCTM

Piano, Music History

1038 Couch Ave

St Louis MO 63122-6944

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kochkarenp@gmail.com

Deborah A Meier

Piano, Organ, Elementary Music

626 Lillian

Collinsville IL 62234

(618) 344-0447 H

(618) 979-2619 C

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Melissa Ray

Piano

O'Fallon IL 62269

(618) 971-9943

melissa.ray100@gmail.com

Robert Kelley Raymond NCTM

Piano, Organ

209 Baywood Ct

Glen Carbon IL 62034-2984

(618) 288-1969

rraymond@icloud.com

Amy Jo Sawyer NCTM

Piano, Accordion, Jazz, Composition, Theory

813 W Lakeshore Dr

O'Fallon IL 62269

(618) 920-7559 C

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Ruth Stith
Piano, Accompanying, Elementary Music

Elise P. Ware
Voice, Theory, Trumpet, Piano
Alton, IL 62002-6818

Dr. Joseph Welch
Accompanying, Piano
pianowelch@gmail.com

Joan Witte
Piano, Harp
Aviston IL
JCW-GAE@proton.me

GAE POLICIES

General Policies

EXPENSES

- Program presenters are paid a minimum of \$150.00.
- The GAE President will be reimbursed \$100.00 for conference expenses.
- The GAE Member of the Year will be awarded \$100.00 to go towards conference expenses.
- A teacher's assistance fund is available to help pay part of new member fees (50% of the total MTNA dues) to first-time members. This fund will also reimburse 25% of MTNA Certification fees to anyone who is working on their certification after they complete the process and obtain their MTNA Certification.
- Executive Board approval is needed for any unbudgeted expenses or for any expense more than \$25.00 over the budgeted amount.
- A minimum balance of \$500 shall be kept in the GAE checking account to cover any unexpected expenses.

MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Member of the Year is to be selected annually based either upon service within GAE for that year or upon general musical accomplishments.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

A \$25.00 donation will be made to the MusicLink Foundation in honor of a current or former member's death; a card will be sent to the respective family.

CONSTITUTION OF THE GATEWAY ARCH EAST CHAPTER OF THE ISMTA

Adopted: 1981

Revised: 2023

PREAMBLE

In compliance with its status as an affiliate, the Gateway Arch East Chapter shall be subject to the rules of the Music Teachers National Association and the Illinois State Music Teachers Association.

ARTICLE I- NAME

The name shall be Gateway Arch East Chapter, Illinois State Music Teachers Association.

ARTICLE II- OBJECT

The object of the Association is the advancement of musical knowledge and education; the promotion of the general welfare and standards of music teachers; the recognition and encouragement of musical ability and instruction of the general public in matters pertaining to music instruction.

ARTICLE III- OFFICERS

The officers of this association shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

ARTICLE IV- EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board shall consist of the officers named in Article III, and members appointed for specific responsibilities.

ARTICLE V- BYLAWS

The Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the group by a two-thirds vote of the members present. These amendments shall be presented in writing and mailed to each member in good standing at least two weeks before the meeting at which the vote will be taken.

BYLAWS OF THE GATEWAY ARCH EAST CHAPTER OF THE ISMTA

BYLAW I – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION I – ACTIVE MEMBER = Any person having reached the age of 21, who is actively engaged in any branch of the music profession, and is committed to the objectives of this association as stated in the constitution, shall be eligible for active membership.

SECTION II – COLLEGIATE MEMBERSHIP = Open to any undergraduate or graduate college music student who is not over the age of 26. Such membership does not include the right to vote or hold office.

SECTION III – SENIOR MEMBER = Any active member who is 70 years of age or older.

BYLAW II – FINANCES

SECTION I – PAYMENT OF DUES: Annual local dues shall be \$10.00 for active membership and \$5.00 for collegiate and senior membership. All members pay local dues along with state and national dues by submitting payment to MTNA for the coming year no later than July.

SECTION I.1 – Transfer members who have already paid state and national dues pay local dues only, made payable to Gateway Arch East M.T.A. New member applications for the current year submitted between January 1 and June 30 are half price for state and national dues.

SECTION II – DUES POLICIES: Local dues shall be determined by the Executive Board with the approval of the general membership.

SECTION III – FISCAL YEAR: The fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30.

BYLAW III – MEETINGS

SECTION I – Executive Board meetings shall be held at the discretion of the president or any two other officers. Members present shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION II – A minimum of six general meetings shall be held each year from September through May, subject to the decision of the Executive Board of the Association.

SECTION III – A quorum at general meetings shall consist of five members.

BYLAW IV – OFFICERS

SECTION I – OFFICERS AND DUTIES

PRESIDENT: to preside at meetings; to appoint chairmen of standing committees; and to perform such other duties compatible with the office.

VICE PRESIDENT: to assume duties in the absence of the President; to be responsible for organizing and coordinating the programs for the year.

SECRETARY: to maintain records of the minutes of all Executive Board and general meetings; to notify the members of monthly meetings and special events, unless already listed in the newsletter.

TREASURER: to maintain records and custody of funds and dues; to discharge expenses; to present a financial statement at each meeting of the Executive Board and at general meetings; to be responsible for the preparation of the annual report to members and for filing the E-postcard for tax exempt status; to prepare an annual budget, to be approved by the Executive Board and general membership.

SECTION II – ELECTIONS: Officers of this Association shall be elected for a two-year term. The President and Vice President may serve no more than two consecutive terms in the same office, unless a suitable replacement cannot be found. A majority of all the votes cast shall be necessary for a choice. All officers shall be nominated by a nominating committee of three members appointed by the President. Additional nominations may be made from the meeting floor. The retiring President will serve as Parliamentarian. All active members shall be notified of the slate one month in advance. Vacancies shall be filled by the nominating committee upon the approval of the membership.

BYLAW V – PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Robert's Rules of Order shall govern in all matters not covered by special provisions by Bylaws.

Approval date: July 6, 2023



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<https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/search?Ntt=LeAnn+Halvorson>

You can find print versions of my books and other teaching materials at my website. Click the link below. Thanks!

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