



Gateway Arch East

Music Teachers Association

Summer 2025 Newsletter

gatewaymusicteachers.org

Letter from the Editor

Hello, friends!

Trigger warning: This Letter from the Editor is long and about death. Hang with me.

On June 5, the Chorus America Conference held an opening concert with performances by the Bach Society, Women's Chorale, Symphony Chorus, and In Unison Chorus. Pianists are usually isolated creatures by nature, but that night I got to share the bench with Sandra Geary, GAE member Ruth Stith, and Gail Hintz. It was an incredible evening of music, made more special by some of the great musicians of St. Louis getting to be in the same room together, rather than in our typical silos. It was nothing less than magical.

On June 24, my day started with a phone call that Sandra Geary had passed away. It was shocking news and there was no indication earlier in the month that she was unwell. This was one of three devastatingly shocking deaths for me this summer. But I was lucky that I was able to spend that time with Sandra on June 5. To share space with incredible musicians like Sandra, Ruth, and Gail who do what I do and are also lovely humans.

Contents

GAE Calendar of Events '25-26

Member of the Month Spotlight

News from Members

MTNA Professional Certification

MTNA and ISMTA Conferences

May 2025 Treasurer's Report

I've been reflecting on a lot of things this summer. One is what makes a group like GAE special to me. The programs are nice and there are opportunities for my students. But at the end of the day, it's really being in the same room with you all. Sure, I have other friends in my life. I have plenty of things to do too. And I think it's fair to say that we sometimes get on each others' nerves. But there are so few people in our area that do what we do and really understand our craft in the way we do. Being able to gather with each other and share our trials and successes is a special gift.

Our little group has had its own share of deaths this year with the passing of Frances Gregg and Stephanie Owen. I am so glad that Gill nominated them and they were selected as Members of the Year for GAEMTA. It was a privilege to know them and I'm happy we can celebrate them in this way.

There are several things going on this year. We're honoring the memory of Frances and Stephanie. We're welcoming new members like Sharon. We are encouraging you to get to a GAE event this year. We want to know each other better. We will have a complete turnover in GAE leadership and will be looking for those who want to step into roles that will guide the organization. You're going to hear more about engaging with the group. It's a big year. I hope every single one of you will join and participate in some small additional way.

I'm lucky to know each and every one of you, and I sincerely hope to see you soon.

Joe

GAE Calendar of Events 2025-2026

Saturday, August 30 at 12-4pm

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 at 10am

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!

Friday, October 17 at 10am

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 and Saturday, November 7-8

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!

Friday, December 12 at 10:00am

Christmas Party

Gill Cerbin generously welcomes us back for a Christmas party of treats and reading festive duets!

Saturday and Sunday, February 21-22

AIM Theory Exams

Details coming soon!

Saturday, March 28 at 2:00pm

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

AIM Performance Exams

Details coming soon!

Saturday, May 9 at 4:30pm [tentative date - pending confirmation]

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 at 11:00am

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!

Member of the Month Spotlight

We want to get to know each other better! I see all the names on the membership and there are some I've never met! It's tough for us to get in the same room with our varied schedules, so this year, we're introducing a segment in each newsletter to get to know you. I'll be sending out requests for participation. I promise it's a quick and painless google form. We won't get everyone this year, but we could cover us all in the next couple of years. I would be so sincerely grateful for your participation! -Joe

News from Members

Amy Jo Sawyer's new accordion orchestra piece was performed at the Accordionists & Teacher's Guild (ATG) International Accordion Festival in Chicago, July 19. Amy Jo wrote "Brazilian Holiday" for the Chicagoland Accordion Academy Orchestra under the direction of Mary Ann Covone. Joaquín Muñoz Donoso, guest artist from Chile performed as soloist on the performance. Attendees for the event were from China, Austria, Canada, Chile, and many parts of the U.S. The event is a yearly festival. Next year it will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Kenn Baert (president of ATG), Joaquín Muñoz Donoso (guest artist from Chile), Amy Jo Sawyer (composer), Mary Ann Covone (orchestra director)



GAE Webmaster **Seth Metcalfe** will be pursuing his graduate degree in Cognitive Neuroscience and Human Neuroimaging at the University of Sheffield in England this coming fall. He officially moved to England at the end of June and will be there for at least a year during his studies. He says he happily welcomes any scholarships 😊



Joseph Welch had a busier summer than he planned. It included In Unison Chorus performances at the Chorus America Conference and the SLSO Tornado Relief Fundraiser at The Fox. The IUC Young Artists had concerts for Juneteenth and the Missouri Choral Directors Association Conference. He also was Music Director for two OTSL high school camps, SING OUT and the AIT College

Retreat. Finally, Opera Edwardsville performed their seventh annual opera for children, *The Merry Band of Edwardsville*.



MTNA Professional Certification

It is a great time to take advantage of the MTNA Professional Certification Program! For information, go to the MTNA website: <http://www.mtnacertification.org/> or contact Gill Cerbin, ISMTA Certification Chair at: gillcerbin@yahoo.com. You can also access the certification steps [here](#).

MTNA and ISMTA Conferences

Please take note that the next three ISMTA and MTNA conferences are much closer and more accessible for our chapter than they have been recently. It would be great to see as many GAE members take advantage of this opportunity as possible. The 2025 ISMTA conference will be held at Blackburn College in Carlinville on November 7th and 8th. It's rare to see this conference take place so close to us! Similarly, both the 2026 and 2027 MTNA conferences will be held in the Midwest and within reasonable driving distance of the GAE! The 2026 MTNA conference will be in Chicago from March 21st to the 25th. And the 2027 conference will be in St. Louis from April 2nd to the 6th. We definitely recommend you have all those dates in your calendars and consider taking part in these close and valuable experiences.

May 2025
GAE Treasurer's Report

Account balance 5/31/2025	\$7,324.78		
	2024-25 Budget	May 2025	YTD
INCOME			
Memberships	\$190.00	\$0.00	\$160.00
AIM Entry Fees	\$2,115.00	\$525.00	\$1,850.00
Yearbook Ads	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,355.00	\$525.00	\$2,060.00
EXPENSES			
AIM Expenses Total	\$1,530.00	\$696.96	\$896.96
AIM Medals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AIM Misc. Supplies	\$30.00	\$10.77	\$10.77
AIM Pins	\$215.00	\$179.39	\$179.39
AIM Printing & Mailing	\$170.00	\$57.80	\$57.80
ISMTA Student Foundation	\$315.00	\$249.00	\$249.00
Student Award Checks	\$600.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
SWIC Foundation Arts Fund (donation for use of facilities)	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
AIM Syllabus for New Members	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ISMTA Foundation Fellow Donation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Member of the Year Conference Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
President's Conference Expense	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Printing/Mailing (yearbook, newsletter, other besides AIM)	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$10.29
Programs (includes May 2024 McKendree donation for use of recital hall)	\$900.00	\$125.00	\$879.87
Teacher's Assistance Fund (partial dues scholarship for new members and partial reimbursement of first time certification fee)	\$140.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Website Expenses	\$357.87	\$368.95	\$501.87
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,107.87	\$1,190.91	\$2,538.99