



gatewaymusicteachers.org

Gateway Arch East

Music Teachers Association

September 2025 Newsletter

Letter from the Editor

Hello, friends!

I hope you are all settling back into the new school year well and that you are excited for everything it will bring for you and your students.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, we are highlighting a member each month. I am so happy that my friend, Ruth Stith, is up first! Be sure to read about Ruth below!

Also, we have another exciting year of GAE events. The dates are almost all finalized, so please add them to your calendars. We had a great time at the picnic! You have another chance to enjoy time together later this month, at our first ever article discussion. It will surely be informative and helpful for us all! I picked an article from the summer edition of AMT that I found thought provoking. It is attached to this email. I really wish I could be there to hear your comments and perspective!

Thanks again for everything you all do for the GAE and for your students. I hope you have a wonderful start to the new academic year!

Joe

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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!



GAE members at our August picnic. Not pictured is Bob Raymond, who was our photographer!

Member of the Month Spotlight: Ruth Stith

Ruth Stith teaches primarily at St. Louis University. She has a few sections of class piano, teaches several private students, and directs the piano ensemble there. In addition, Ruth teaches a few children out of her own home studio. Her college piano professor once told her that her primary job as a teacher is to fix students' problems and teach them to love music. They're simple ideas, but Ruth uses them to help structure lessons at every age and stage. She also greatly appreciates AIM and believes that her students have benefited from it considerably over the years. She mentioned that AIM has kept several of her students going through the tricky middle and high school years when they have many activities competing for their attention - but having invested so much through the levels of AIM keeps them going. When asked what she loves most about teaching, she said, "I love watching students improve and develop their musicality. The light bulb moments are the most fun, especially if they've been struggling with a concept for a little while."



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.

Mid America Music Association Highlights

At the recent Springfield, Missouri MAMA contest 1, students of Gill Cerbin achieved the following:

Celeste Grodeon was MAMA top Art Voice Virtuoso.

Selina Wang took 2nd Place in piano Solo A Category.

Victoria Eskuchen took 3rd Place in piano Solo B.



Use the QR code for more information
or contact with any questions:

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Piano

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY
FESTIVAL & COMPETITION

OCT. 31 - NOV. 2, 2025 | KIRKSVILLE, MO



PRIZES:

**FULL 4 YEAR PIANO
SCHOLARSHIP
TO TRUMAN STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Including tuition, room, and board

**PARTIAL TRUMAN
PIANO SCHOLARSHIP**
\$8,000 in scholarship

**PERFORMANCE
& INSTRUCTION
OPPORTUNITIES:**

Winners' Recital and Professional
Recording
Masterclasses with Dr. Peter Klimo
Lessons with Dr. Elizabeth Crecca

**Guest Artist Recital:
Dr. Peter Klimo**

Assistant Professor of Piano,
California State University, Fresno

**REPERTOIRE
REQUIREMENTS:**

2 solo pieces in contrasting styles (memorized)

PRELIMINARY AUDITIONS:

Submit video recordings by Oct. 15, 2025 at
music.truman.edu/piano

ELIGIBILITY:

High school seniors and transfer students eligible
for all prizes and opportunities.

Ages 14-28 eligible for Winners' Recital, masterclass, and lessons.
Students wishing to qualify for scholarship awards must apply for
admission to Truman by **October 6, 2025**.