



Gateway Arch East

Music Teachers Association

October 2025 Newsletter

gatewaymusicteachers.org

Letter from the Editor

Hello, friends!

I hope you're all doing well. Thank you for your patience as I'm a bit late getting this newsletter to you. Luckily, it is packed with great information and tons of news from members. Be sure to read our Member of the Month Spotlight to learn more about Sharon Voss, too!

I will be teaching and unable to attend, but I hope you have a wonderful time at the upcoming Schubertiad on Friday, October 17. This event was one of the first programs I attended with GAE and it is one of my favorites! I know you'll have a wonderful time playing and enjoying the exhibit. Please note that we are no longer doing the potluck, so maybe grab a friend and go to lunch after!

Next month is the ISMTA Conference at Blackburn College! I hope you're all taking advantage of how close the conference is and will be attending. Be sure to register soon and book your hotel if you don't want to drive back and forth. It will be a wonderful time! I hope to see you there!

Joe

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Upcoming GAE Events

Friday, October 17 at 10am

Schubertiad, Art Gallery Tour, and Lunch

We return to SWIC's [Schmidt Art Gallery](#) to view the exhibits and perform for each other!

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

Christmas Party

Gill Cerbin generously welcomes us back for a Christmas party of treats and reading festive duets starting at 10am!

News from Members

GAE members who attended the **Article Discussion** last month enjoyed discussing the subject matter and talked about how we adapt our curriculum to meet the needs of various students, be it adult beginners who want to play popular pieces they recognize, students who intend pursuing a musical degree, students with disabilities, or student hobbyists.

Gill Cerbin's vocal student Celeste Grodeon auditioned and was selected to participate in Opera St. Louis's youth program Artists-In-Training (AIT), and she will be studying with Dr. Marc Schapman at SIUE.

Several of our GAE members had exciting trips over the summer. The following is from **Deb Meier:**

"I was thrilled to experience a trip to Hawaii! Last fall, our son, Nick, asked if we'd like to join him and his family in Hawaii and so we said "yes!" He made it easy by doing all the planning for "Nick's Hawaiian Adventures!" He and his family flew to Hawaii from

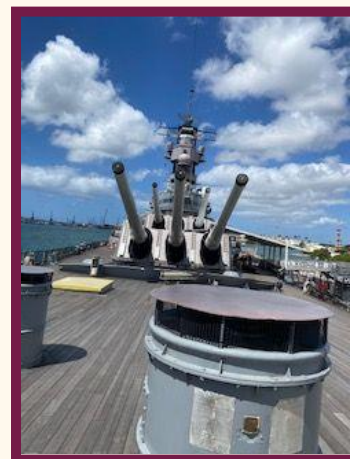


Okinawa and Erika's (his wife) dad and sister also joined us

from Arizona for 8 days of fun. We met everyone on the Big Island, Hawaii, and settled in at a fancy resort. Everything was beautiful and we had 2 days to relax, however, on the 2nd day, we were told to return to our rooms at 3:00 p.m. and then at 4:00 we received a text message telling us to evacuate because of the



impending tsunami (a result of the earthquake that hit Russia)! We headed out in our rental Jeeps for higher ground about 30 minutes away and hung out until 11:30 p.m. when we received the go-ahead for returning to our resort hotel. Fortunately, the big waves did not happen and there was no damage. The next day we headed out for the Maunakea Observatory, elevation 13,803 ft above sea level, the highest point on the Hawaiian Islands. The landscape was rather eerie and reminded me of what I imagine it to be like on the moon. The hardened lava flow looked smooth in some areas



and then more like a plowed field in other places; some areas were grassy with a few trees and it all looked very desolate! The next day we visited Volcanoes National Park and saw smoke coming out of the volcano Kilauea which has had significant eruptions since December 2024. We enjoyed hiking on the trail and ate our picnic lunch in the Park. Our last 4 days were spent on the island of

Oahu--such a contrast from what we'd previously seen with so many tropical plants, flowers, palm trees, etc. It was beautiful, a tropical paradise! While there, we attended a luau, enjoyed the pools and the delicious food. Another highlight was going to Pearl Harbor to visit the USS Missouri and taking a tour on this retired battleship. It was so interesting to see where the crew of 1600 worked and lived. The small cramped sleeping quarters were known as "coffin racks" and didn't give a person much space to sleep! We also learned about the kamikaze ("divine wind") and how it got its name. We also toured the USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor which was a rather somber experience. This sacred site honors the fallen crew and all who died in the attack on December 7, 1941. The remains of over 900 Arizona



crewmen rest beneath, within the sunken battleship. We also spent time at a couple different beaches and watched the grandkids swimming and playing in the ocean. At a



roadside stand near the Dole Pineapple facility, we enjoyed the Dole Whip (ours was a coconut soft serve covered in bits of pineapple). We were definitely blessed with making good memories while enjoying family time together. If you ever have the chance to go to Hawaii, don't hesitate! Hop on the next plane! You'll be glad you did."

Joan Witte and her husband, Mike, enjoyed celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary with a trip to Alaska this summer. They cruised from Vancouver, BC, to Whittier, AK, with stops at Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay, and College Fjord, then they continued by land to Denali NP. The scenery was breathtaking, and they were blessed to get to see lots of wildlife! It was a fantastic bucket list experience!



Member of the Month Spotlight: Sharon Voss

Sharon lives in Glen Carbon with her husband, Eric, and her sons, Tristan and Elliot. She maintains a private piano studio at home and also teaches in the SIUE Keyboard Development program, and she welcomes students of any age. Although the majority of them are of school age, her current studio also includes a retired grandfather and a young mechanic. Sharon loves the excitement that follows when a student overcomes the challenges in learning a piece, she loves exploring the music her students like, and she loves their smiles after a good performance. She also



loves the funny things they say - "Man, this St. Antonio is really hard!" He meant Sonatina...:) In addition to teaching, Sharon also enjoys working part time in the SLSO library, collaborating as a pianist for the SIUE Suzuki Strings Program, accompanying District 7 students at Solo and Ensemble Contests, and volunteering with the Symphony Volunteer Association. Sharon mentioned that the piano teacher who impacted her life the most was Victor Doggett. He loved attending concerts and lived life to the fullest, so she tries to do the same! Sharon's reasons for joining the GAE came from the realization that quite a number of people she admires are members of GAEMTA. She wanted to give her students the option to compete at state competitions, and she wanted to meet more of "her" people.

AIM Medals and Workbooks

AIM medals and workbooks can be pre-ordered for pickup at the state conference and the shipping cost will be waived. The deadline for conference pre-orders is October 31. Only a small number of these items will be available for purchase at the conference, so please encourage your members to pre-order. At checkout, use coupon code ConfFreeShip.

This coupon is for conference attendees only. If items are pre-ordered but the purchaser later wants them shipped, shipping will be added to the total.

Chapter chairs may also pre-order pins for pickup at the conference using the same code ConfFreeShip.

SIYAO Junior Instrumental Competition

The Southern Illinois Young Artists Organization (SIYAO) will be holding a Junior Division Instrumental Competition on Saturday, November 15th at First Presbyterian Church: 3601 Ridgeway Rd. Edwardsville, Illinois.

Junior Division 1 - Grades 6-8 (9- noon)

Junior Division 2- Grades 9-12 (1-3 pm)

Instrumentalists are to prepare two mature works of contrasting style appropriate for their grade level. A Winners recital will be held on the FPC Recital Series on Sunday, February 8th, at 3:00 pm. This competition is open to instrumental students of the Metro-East region.

For any questions, please contact Robert Raymond:

Robert Raymond - SIYAO Chair

618-558-8608

Thank You Letter from the MTNA Foundation



September 17, 2025

Gateway Arch East Chapter - ISMTA
c/o Gillian Cerbin
231 W Waters Edge Dr
Belleville IL 62221

Dear Gillian and Gateway Arch East Chapter - ISMTA Board of Directors:

Thank you so much for the gift of \$105.00 to be applied to the Debi Inch, Jeffery Kleinsorge and Yeseon Kwon Fellow Funds. We are incredibly touched by your kindness and generosity. The Gateway Arch East Chapter - ISMTA is a very special group of music teachers within MTNA, and you, its leaders, are truly making a difference, not just in Illinois, but also across the country through your affiliation with MTNA. And, for that, we are extremely grateful!

Through your gift, the FOUNDATION FUND will be able to provide more grants and awards to music teachers and students who are working to achieve excellence in their field. MTNA is a strong and dynamic organization because of affiliates like the Gateway Arch East Chapter - ISMTA who genuinely care and show their commitment to the music teaching profession through action and example.

The MTNA Board and Staff join me in sending warmest personal regards and all good wishes to you and your colleagues. You represent all that is good and honorable in our association.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Shepard".

Brian Shepard
Chief Executive Officer

September 2025
GAE Treasurer's Report

Account balance 9/25/2025	\$6,979.78		
	2025-2026 Budget	September 2025	YTD
INCOME			
Memberships	\$165.00	\$10.00	\$140.00
AIM Entry Fees	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Yearbook Ads	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,215.00	\$35.00	\$165.00
EXPENSES			
AIM Expenses Total	\$1,530.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
AIM Medals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AIM Misc. Supplies	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AIM Pins	\$173.75	\$0.00	\$0.00
AIM Printing & Mailing	\$65.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ISMSTA Student Foundation	\$281.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Student Award Checks	\$525.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
SWIC Foundation Arts Fund (donation for use of facilities)	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AIM Syllabus for New Members	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ISMSTA Foundation Fellow Donation	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$105.00
Member of the Year Conference Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
President's Conference Expense	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Printing/Mailing (yearbook, newsletter, other besides AIM)	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Programs (includes May 2025 McKendree donation for use of recital hall)	\$900.00		\$325.00
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	\$468.95	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,318.95	\$0.00	\$630.00