



# Gateway Arch East

Music Teachers Association

December 2023 Newsletter

[gatewaymusicteachers.org](http://gatewaymusicteachers.org)

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## Letter from the Editor

Hello, friends!

Thank you for your patience with me in getting this newsletter out. Finals and concerts have kept me busy!

I am very excited for our upcoming social gatherings. Be sure to read about the **Christmas caroling event next Saturday** (December 16) and Duet Jam Session in January! These will be fun events to build camaraderie and casually make music together.

The video project is on my to-do list. Thank you so much to everyone who participated. I will get it assembled and distributed over the break.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season!

Joe

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## Upcoming GAE Events

### **Saturday, December 16**

#### *Christmas Caroling*

Gill will host a get-together at her home for Christmas Caroling! 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! Please let Gill know if you plan on attending. We will be playing Christmas music together, and there is no obligation for anyone to sing! But of course, you can sing if you wish!

Teachers are free to bring any Christmas piano music they want to play. Christmas duet books that we can play together will be especially fun. Bring 2 copies if you have them, and we will play 4 people together.

### **Friday, January 19**

#### *Duet Jam Session*

We will have a Duet Jam Session in the Schmidt Art Center at SWIC, followed by lunch. Bring duets of any difficulty, and we'll take turns reading for a fun time! More information to come soon!

## **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](mailto:gillcerbin@yahoo.com)

## **Piano for Sale**

A woman in Lebanon, IL is selling her spinet piano, made by Kohler in the 1950's. It is in very good condition, having been recently tuned and also appraised by a piano tuner from Champaign, IL. The appraisal value is \$500.00, but the seller is only asking \$150.00. It would be an excellent piano for a beginner or young student. This is the name and number of the seller:

Craig Virgin ---(618)792-1845

## **AIM Examinations 2024**

Just a reminder:

SWIC - Wed., Jan. 17, 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.

SIUE - Wed., Jan. 31, 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

## **Philharmonic Society of Belleville Update**

The passing of Dr. Robert Hart Baker

It is with a heavy heart and warm affection that we recognize the passing of our Artistic and Music Director Dr. Robert Hart Baker. He came to us as we celebrated our 150th anniversary and served us with boundless enthusiasm and generosity.


His passion and knowledge impacted each of us in the orchestra and in our wider community in ways we can never forget. Not only did his leadership make us better musicians, but his loving example made us all better people.

We will miss him terribly, but can only give heartfelt thanks for the many gifts he shared with us so generously.

Perhaps the greatest tribute of his life is embodied in our own Society's motto: "For the love of music..."



## MTNA Research Survey



**MTNA**  
MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Sponsored Message: This is a paid advertisement.

Dear Gillian,

We are writing to request your help in a research study that we are conducting related to memorization in solo piano performance. We would be grateful for your support with this project.

The purpose of this survey study is to examine piano instructors' experiences with and beliefs about performing solo piano literature from memory without the aid of musical notation. A secondary purpose is to investigate the relationship between memorization in solo piano performance requirements for piano majors in higher education and the application of memorization in solo piano performance in post-graduation settings. We hope that results may provide informative data and help piano instructors better prepare students for current trends related to memorization.

The survey will take approximately 8–10 minutes to complete. All answers will remain confidential, there are no known risks, and participation is voluntary. You may stop taking the survey at any time without penalty. If there are survey items that make you uncomfortable, you can skip these items.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could complete the survey and forward the information below to any colleagues who are currently teaching applied (either pre-collegiate or collegiate) piano lessons.

You can access the survey here:

Survey Link: [https://msstate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5dQ8zgtspjNmeEK](https://msstate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5dQ8zgtspjNmeEK)

## New GAE Member

We welcome Zach Stern as our newest GAE member. He lives and works in Cape Girardeau, MO and drives to Edwardsville once a week to give saxophone lessons at SIUE. He has entered a couple of his students in the young artist woodwind competition on November 3, but unfortunately won't be able to attend the conference. We wish his students the best! Here is Zach's bio:

Zach Stern enjoys a career as a saxophone soloist, chamber musician, and educator. Performances have taken him all over the world, including to such venues as Carnegie Hall, Beijing's National Centre for the Performing Arts, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and Walt Disney Concert Hall. As the founding alto saxophonist of the Sinta Quartet, Zach has received top prizes at many of the country's most respected competitions, including the M-Prize Chamber Arts Competition, Concert Artists Guild Competition, Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition, and Coleman Chamber Music Competition. He has performed as a featured soloist with many orchestras and bands including the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra, the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra, and the French Republican Guard Band.

As an educator, Zach is the Lecturer of Saxophone at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and Instructor of Music at Southeast Missouri State University. During the summer, he teaches at the South Shore Conservatory's Summer Music Festival in Hingham, MA. Zach regularly presents saxophone master classes at universities, high schools, and middle schools around the country, and is in demand as a saxophone clinician and adjudicator.

Zach holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Saxophone Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music, and he previously earned his master's and bachelor's degrees in Saxophone Performance and Music Education at the University of Michigan, where he served as the teaching assistant for the saxophone studio. Zach's primary saxophone teachers are Chien-Kwan Lin, Donald Sinta, and Scott Plugge.

Zach is a Conn-Selmer Artist and performs exclusively on Selmer-Paris saxophones

## News from Members

**Deb Meier** had the opportunity to attend Chris Goldston's session "Continuing the Legacy" at the ISMTA Conference in DeKalb and wanted to share this with the GAE members:

“Christopher Goldston introduced his new website and publishing company, Goldston Music which specializes in publishing and promoting compositions by Chris and his late mother, Margaret Goldston. He shared his experience of producing new publications as digital downloads for his website as well as his use of social media and YouTube to continue the Goldston family legacy. Go to [www.chrisgoldston.com](http://www.chrisgoldston.com) to learn more.

I've read several posts from Chris on Facebook and I was already familiar with some of his new music. Even though these can be purchased as digital downloads, Chris had printed several copies of this new music and had it for sale at the conference. While listening to the pieces online, a person is able to view the notation scrolling by which is a great way to see what the piece is like before purchasing. I found several selections that were mesmerizing to me and felt they'd be perfect for my high school student. While at the conference I asked Chris to autograph my purchases making the music even more special for my student. I've included his handout which lists all this new music. Some of these pieces will be on the revised AIM Repertoire list. Check out "Celebration Day," "The Spider's Masquerade," and "Wishing."

Many of you may be familiar with David Carr Glover's "The Great Smoky Mountains," a popular recital piece and well-loved by students. Chris was inspired by this piece and wrote a set of four pieces that depicts scenes from western North Carolina. The collection is titled "The Great Smokies." Two of the pieces feature cross-handed arpeggio figures.

A few years ago when Chris lost many of his belongings in a fire, he managed to save the boxes of music that his mom had written and said that some of it was singed and sooty. I found it interesting to learn that Margaret was 50 years old when she started composing. She passed away in 2003 at the age of 71, and when COVID happened (2020), Chris found the time to go through some of her unpublished music. He edited and revised some of her pieces and has taken time to publish several of her pieces. He also uses the lower case "g" (on a music staff) as his new website logo because his mother used to sign her name that way. Be sure to check out his website!”

Here are some of **Gill Cerbin's** students who performed in the Arch Cup Competition at Webster University. They came away with Gold ratings, winning trophies for their piano pieces. We celebrated their wins with an Arch Cupcake Party at the studio afterwards. Much fun was had by all.



Evangelina Duman, voice student of **Dr. Stephanie Owen**, won finalist at the St. Charleston International voice competition, announcement November 9, 2023. Evangelina also won third in North Carolina International voice contest in November.



Pictured: **Amy Jo Sawyer** playing some of her pieces at our AIM Repertoire sharing meeting!



A couple more photos from the ISMTA Annual State Conference in November:



**Dr. Joseph Welch** has been busy with holiday concerts: Opera Edwardsville's December Concert, Christmas at Blackburn, Gospel Christmas (SLSO), and Home Alone (SLSO). These came on the heels of Blackburn's first rock concert, in which Joe played in the band. Earlier in November, he performed music for five pianos at UMSL's Steinway Extravaganza. The other four pianists were Alla Voskoboynikova, Daniel Schene, Daniel Kuehler, and Susan Lutz.