



Gateway Arch East

Music Teachers Association

May 2025 Newsletter

gatewaymusicteachers.org

Letter from the Editor

Hello friends!

It's hard to believe we have reached May! This school year has flown by, and I am excited for all the end-of-year celebrations and activities.

I'd like to quickly express my congratulations to all the AIM students for their hard work in completing examinations last month and for all the teachers who have made the success of their students possible and their experiences valuable.

As you will see below, we have two GAE events left for this school year: the student recital and the business meeting. We would love to see all of you in attendance for both events. These are always more meaningful and enlightening when we get to see and hear from all of you.

I hope your academic years are wrapping up nicely, and I'll see you soon!

Joe

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Upcoming GAE Events

Saturday, May 10

GAE Student Recital

The recital will be held at Bothwell Chapel at McKendree University at 4:30pm. The students who played last year had a great time performing for each other and hearing their peers, and this year should be just as exciting. We would like to encourage as many teachers and families to attend as possible even if they don't have any students in the recital. It remains a great opportunity among the students to perform for and connect with other students, teachers, and families.

Friday, May 30

End of Year Business Meeting

A meeting to discuss business, elections, Member-of-the-Year selection, etc. As in previous years, we will be meeting at Bandana's Bar-B-Q in Fairview Heights. The meeting will begin at 11:00am. We hope to see many of our newer members attending. Even if you are not planning on being there in person, you can still send in your nomination for Member of the Year to Gill in advance to be voted on May 30th.

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 ever been. 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.

AIM Examinations Report 2025

- 77 students were originally scheduled to participate in the AIM 2024 examinations.
 - 3 teachers (32 students) at SIUE
 - 8 teachers (45 students) at SWIC or remotely.

- 31 SIUE students completed successfully:
 - 1 student unable to participate due to an injury

Passing at higher levels were:

- 4 at level 9
 - Alan Chen
 - Elias Johnson
 - Ian Kim
 - Amelia Zhang

- 41 SWIC students are expected to complete successfully:
 - 4 students withdrew before the examination
 - 4 remote students still to be tested

Passing at higher levels were:

- 1 at level 9
 - Mason Roberts, student of Gill Cerbin
- 1 at level 11
 - Noelle Stith, student of Ruth Stith

Pending at higher levels were:

- 3 at level 12
 - Callie Ferguson, student of Karen Koch
 - Nolan Sawyer, student of Amy Jo Sawyer
 - Kaytlin LaDuke, student of Amy Jo Sawyer

Level 12 students have until August 31st to complete the performance of their pieces.

All level 9-12 students scoring 70% or higher in both Theory and Performance exams will receive checks. Level 9-12 students with scores of 80% or higher in both Theory and Performance exams and will receive plaques.

Numbers were down compared to last year.

A thank you to all judges, teachers, copiers, schedulers, and students for their participation.

Gill Cerbin NCTM
GAEMTA AIM Chair

May 2nd, 2025



LEIGH GERDINE COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
Department of Music

Webster University's Department of Music is hosting the [2025 Piano Camp](#) at our home campus in Webster Groves, July 14-18 from 1-5 p.m.

This is an exciting opportunity for students entering 6th to 12th grade in Fall 2025 interested in improving their piano skills over the summer.

Students will have the opportunity to study piano performance with daily private lessons, interactive sessions, visits from multiple guest artists throughout the week, and a solo recital on Friday open to parents and the public.

We hope you will consider sharing or recommending this camp to your students. **More information about Piano Camp and how to apply is available [here](#).**

Please feel free to email co-directors [Caroline Hixson](#) or [Matt Pankratz](#) with any questions you may have.

Thank you,

Caroline Hixson and Matt Pankratz
Classical Piano Camp Co-Directors
[Webster University Department of Music](#)

PIANO CAMP

JULY 14-18, 2025, 1:00-5:00 P.M.
Webster University Campus
Students entering grades 6-12
(in Fall 2025)
Tuition: \$475
Application Deadline: Two pre-screening YouTube videos (two contrasting pieces) submitted for review by June 7, 2025

 **SCAN TO VISIT OUR SUMMER PROGRAM PAGE**

The graphic also features three photographs of students playing the piano and a teacher interacting with students.

Webster University Department of Music
webster.edu/music
music@webster.edu
314-968-7032

Register [here](#)

News from Members

O'Fallon Township High School's musical, *Hades Town*, featured accordion in the orchestra. Musical director, Dr. Melissa Gustafson-Hinds, exclaimed "an accordion in the orchestra!" This was the first time the school's musical featured an accordion in the orchestra. Aidan Sawyer, grandson of **Amy Jo Sawyer**, learned to play Amy Jo's accordion. He also played the 400 page keyboard parts. The Musical was performed on April 4-6 in the OTHS Theater. The show was featured on Broadway in 2024 with words and music by Anais Mitchell. Aiden can be seen in the left corner of this photo with the accordion.



April was a busy month of performances for **Dr. Joseph Welch**. His theatre students at Blackburn performed their musical, *Once*, on April 4-6. Dr. Welch also completed a residency at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay where he accompanied for several masterclasses and a Wagner recital on April 7-10. He followed this up by conducting the choir at the Clinton County Junior High Music Festival on April 14th. He got to work with **Joan Witte**, reconnect with a former student, and meet some Blackburn alums and future students. Lastly, he performed alongside Dr. André Thomas and the SLSO In Unison Chorus on April 27th.

