



Gateway Arch East

Music Teachers Association

September 2023 Newsletter

gatewaymusicteachers.org

Letter from the Editor

Hello, friends!

I have loved teaching with the windows open this week! I hope you are doing well and enjoying the perfect weather!

Our first GAE event of the year is just around the corner! Please follow the link embedded below to purchase tickets to see Jonathan Biss perform Beethoven's First Piano Concerto with the SLSO. We will not be sitting together, but you will be able to enjoy the Friday morning concert and connect with friends!

Our October event is designed to reach out to piano teachers in our area who are not members. Please be thinking of teachers you might invite to this Saturday event. More information is below.

If you have not seen our website lately, please go check it out! Our webmaster, Seth Metcalfe, has made updates and improvements to the site. Great work, Seth!

Thank you to everyone who has submitted news this month. There is a lot of great information within! I look forward to seeing you soon!

Joe

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Upcoming GAE Events

September 29, 2023:

The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and Jonathan Biss will perform Beethoven's First Piano Concerto on Friday, September 29 at 10:30am at the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

Tickets will be purchased on your own [at this link](#). We won't be purchasing group tickets, as the minimum order is ten. Individual tickets begin at \$15.

October 21, 2023:

We will travel to the studios of a few GAE members to see each other's teaching spaces and tools and hear some of their strategies and philosophies. Everyone is invited to attend, and we would also encourage you to invite non-members to this event! If you would like to be a host, please let me know!

Update to December's Event:

The Christmas Caroling at Gill's home will be on December 16th.

The Arch Cup Competition

The Arch Cup Competition held at Webster University is October 15th. Entries must be submitted by September 16th. More details can be found at www.hixsonpiano.com

Note from the Treasurer

We currently have 21 members that have paid their dues. At this point, we are only waiting on 2 members, so please send them in if you have not already done so. Thank you!

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

MusicLink Information

Make a Difference through MusicLink!

Do you believe that every child should have the chance to take music lessons? Are you currently reducing your normal fee by at least half for a student in financial need? Are you interested in reaching out to a promising student in need through music lessons?

1. Log onto the website at www.musiclinkfoundation.org.
2. At the top of the Home Page, click on “How to Participate.”
3. If you want to volunteer – complete the “Teacher Volunteer Form.”
4. If you are already teaching a student at half or less of your normal fee, complete the “[MusicLink Registration Form](#).”

Deborah Meier

Illinois MusicLink State Coordinator

MTNA Discount at Office Depot

Using the MTNA Discount at Office Depot can be tricky. At least it was for me. How many of you have tried to use it? If other members of our group wish to use the discount, they should register their own account at www.odpbusiness.com/mtna Just click the blue REGISTER button and complete the form that appears, that’s it! I found the process of placing an order to copy something confusing, but I wrote down the instructions I followed and you can use them (see attachment) if you are as confused as I was. Everything is done online. You do not need to show your membership card when picking up orders. If someone sets up an account using the link above, the MTNA discount will be applied to all orders placed from that account. Also, if you want to take advantage of the \$.05 copies, you must first choose “black & white” before choosing 20 lb. paper, otherwise the default is 24 lb. paper and it will cost \$.06 per copy. Good luck!

Deborah Meier

GAE Treasurer



The Philharmonic Society of Belleville is pleased to announce details for its annual

Stars of Tomorrow Concerto Competition

2023-24

This annual competition is open to any musician aged 10 to 22. The Society seeks to recognize excellence across the full range of ages and musical instrument or voice. Winners will perform with the Belleville Philharmonic Orchestra, the second oldest continuously performing symphony orchestra in the nation.

Video Submission deadline: **October 1, 2023, 5:00 pm**
 Live audition date: **October 14, 2023**
 Belleville Philharmonic Hall, 116 N Jackson, Belleville
 Performance date: **March 9, 2024**
 Union United Methodist Church, 721 E Main, Belleville

Guidelines

All skilled instrumentalists or vocalists ages 10 to 22 are encouraged to audition.

Selections should be a movement of a concerto or other composition with orchestral accompaniment. Music must be memorized. Selections should be limited to 15 minutes.

The preliminary round of auditions is done by video. Make a video of yourself performing your selection. Submit the video in mp4 format by 5:00, Friday, October 1, 2023, following the instructions under "Competitions" at www.bellevillephilharmonic.org.

Final auditions will be scheduled after the initial round of video assessment. Live auditions will be scheduled between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on October 14, 2023 at Belleville Philharmonic Hall, 116 N. Jackson St, Belleville, IL 62220. Contestants should bring a copy of the score for judges' use.

For the live audition, the Philharmonic will provide a piano and core percussion instruments, but contestants must provide any other instruments required.

Contestants must provide their own accompanist; there are two pianos available for use.

The attached application form must be received by mail or through online registration on or before 5:00 p.m., Friday, October 1, 2023. Video submissions are also due at this time.



Belleville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra

116 N. Jackson St., Belleville, IL
www.bellevillephilharmonic.org



The Belleville Philharmonic Society is excited to announce that Mr. Christopher Gass has been selected as the new Belleville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra Music Director. He brings enthusiasm and experience to the position.

According to Gass, "It is my pleasure and honor to serve as the new Music Director of the Belleville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. I am an alum of the Belleville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, a former member of the Philharmonic Orchestra, and a former member of the Board of Directors for the Philharmonic Society. This is the start of my fifteenth year in education. I am currently the Music Director at Freeburg Community High School.

As your director, I am dedicated to our students' successes and will strive to continue the positive relationships, rigorous learning, and positive culture that encourages our students to celebrate their strengths. I view education as a lifelong process. Most importantly, I bring a belief that the students are at the center of all decisions for our organization."

Audition dates for new and returning members are Monday, August 28th, 5:30 to 7:30 and Monday, September 4th (Labor Day) - 5:30 to 7:30 pm. If you need a different date or time, please text 618-670-8702 or email byo@bellevillephilharmonic.org. The link to schedule an audition is www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0C4FACA728A5F49-20232024.

For auditions -

Musicians should bring their own music and select a piece demonstrating their abilities. Be ready to play your scales.

Rehearsals are on Mondays from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Belleville Philharmonic Hall - 116 North Jackson Belleville, IL. Rehearsals will tentatively start on Monday, September 11th, 5:30 p.m. Please help get the word out - recruit a friend for audition.





Thursday, August 17, 2023

Dear Friends,

Auditions are coming up soon for Season 11! Perhaps you have thought about singing with us, or you know someone who loves to sing and might like to join our chorus. Here is some information:

Heartland Community Chorus auditions

Heartland Community Chorus will hold auditions for the 2023-2024 season, and YOU are invited! HCC is a chorus of about forty singers, men and women, age sixteen and older. Auditions will be on Friday, September 1, from 6-8pm, and on Saturday, September 2, from 10am-noon (come during either of those times). Auditions will be held on the second floor of St. Paul Parish building, 1411 Main Street, Highland, IL. Please park on LEMON Street and enter the Lemon Street door (east side of the complex). Take the stairs or elevator to the second floor. If you can't make either of these times, please contact the director.

For the audition, please be prepared to sing a song of your choosing--an art song, Broadway tune, or a hymn. Please bring a copy of your music for the pianist. If you forget to bring a piece, there will be copies of a few songs there ("Amazing Grace", "America"). You will also be asked to sing some 5-note scales. The audition will take 5-10 minutes.

The chorus rehearses on Monday nights at St. Paul Church, and the first rehearsal is on Monday, September 11. If you need more information please see our website: heartlandcommunitychorus.org, or contact Luanne Murphy, director, at 618.791.8408.

I hope you'll join us! Call or text me if you have questions!

Luanne Murphy

Director

Heartland Community Chorus

August Treasurer's Report

Account balance August 23, 2023	\$8,033.07		
		Insert month(s)	
	2023-24 Budget	2023	YTD
INCOME			
Memberships	\$205.00	\$180.00	\$180.00
AIM Entry Fees	\$2,115.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Yearbook Ads	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,370.00	\$230.00	\$230.00
EXPENSES			
AIM Expenses Total	\$2,014.00	\$75.00	\$0.00
AIM Medals	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AIM Misc. Supplies	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AIM Pins	\$215.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AIM Printing & Mailing	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ISMSTA Student Foundation	\$294.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Student Award Checks	\$825.00	\$75.00	\$0.00
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	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Member of the Year Conference Expense	\$100.00	\$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)	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Programs	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$140.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Teacher's Assistance Fund (partial dues scholarship for new members and partial reimbursement of first time certification fee)			
Website Expenses	\$224.95	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,883.95	\$75.00	\$0.00

News from Members

Gill Cerbin Studio attended MAMA (Mid America Music Association) in Kansas City last month, and students came away laden with trophies for piano solo and duets, as well as vocal art song and music theater performances. Student Selina Wang was awarded 3rd prize in the competitive category with a perfect score of 100%. Pictured: Selina Wang with her little sister Cynthia Wang, who also received a perfect score in the piano competitive category.



Deb Meier called former member, **Marshall Gurley**, to see how he is doing, and he sounded in good spirits. He said he's in fairly good health at this time and keeping busy with his usual doctor appointments and such. He misses our GAE group, and he said to give everyone his regards. As you know, his eyesight is very poor, so he's not able to see much of anything, but if you care to send him a note or give him a telephone call to let him know you're thinking of him, his phone number is (618) 271-0201, and his address is 104 Fletcher Street, Collinsville, IL 62234.



Amy Jo Sawyer attended the 81st Annual Accordionists & Teachers Guild International Festival held in Lisle, IL (Chicago) July 19 – 23. Pictured left with Amy Jo are Pierre Varo, director of the Polyphonia Orchestra with two of his musicians, Nathan Lauret (piano) and Celia Guadens (accordion), from the Reunion Island.

The Reunion Island is an island and region of France in the Indian Ocean east of Madagascar which is located east of Africa. Nathan and Celia performed one of Amy Jo's compositions, "Juntos" (together) at the ATG competition and received 1st place. A small ensemble of six musicians also from the Polyphonia Orchestra performed "Alicia's Tango" written by Amy Jo Sawyer and received 1st place. Amy Jo wrote a Suite entitled "Let's Dance" for two accordions, bass accordion and drums. It was performed by four musicians from Chicago. Titles of the songs were: Waltz for Erin, Tango Romantico and Just Swing It. Amy Jo performed in the fifty-piece accordion orchestra directed by Joan Sommers from Kansas City, MO.



The Accordionists & Teachers Guild International Festival orchestra performed in Lisle, IL (Chicago) on July 23. Amy Jo is seated on the front row (2nd seat) to the left of the conductor, Joan Sommers from Kansas City, MO. Orchestra members were from many U.S. states, New Zealand, Australia, and Austria.

Dr. Joseph Welch wrapped up his summer with a two week musical theatre camp for Variety the Children's Charity of St. Louis. You can read Variety's blog about it here: [The Beauty of Curtain Call](#). You can hear Joe in a free outdoor concert on Friday, September 8 at 7:30pm. This [Opera Edwardsville](#) concert in Edwardsville City Park features artists with spectacular careers, including Alexandra LoBianco and Limmie Pulliam.