



GAE NEWSLETTER October 2021

PRESIDENT: [Debbie Meier](#)
VP/PROGRAMS: [Gill Cerbin](#)
SECRETARY: [LeAnn Halvorson](#)
TREASURER: [Joan Witte](#)
NEWSLETTER: [Debbie Meier](#)
WEBMASTER: [Tara Wright](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Friday, Oct. 15
10 am- Noon | Joint PTRT/GAEMTA program in St. Louis (Steinway Gallery) & Zoom
“The Dog Ate My Homework” – Michele Sisler |
| October 16 th
2:00 p.m. | Virtual WPTA Master Class with Alexander Kobrin via Zoom |
| November 5 & 6 | ISMTA Virtual Conference |
| Friday, Nov. 19 | Round Table Discussion/ISMTA Conference Feedback |
| December | No meeting |

OCTOBER MEETING



October 15th at 10:00 a.m. is our joint PTRT/GAEMTA program in St. Louis at the Steinway Gallery. It will also be available by Zoom for those unable to attend in person.

Michelle Sisler is the founder of Keys to Imagination LLC and [MusicEdConnect.com](#). She frequently presents workshops across the globe and is an active author of articles, music theory games, motivation programs and technology curriculum. In her presentation, we will look beyond excuses and discover the real reason students come to lessons unprepared. Learn on and off the bench strategies to address the issues that prevent students from reaching their goals.



Michelle Sisler

The Dog Ate My Homework: Look Behind the Excuses!

Friday, October 15, 2021 ~ 10 AM-Noon.
Steinway Gallery – 12033 Dorsett Road,
Maryland Heights, MO 63043;
phone: (314) 344-1133) & **Zoom**

Teachers often comment that students come to lessons unprepared. While we often assume it was students' lack of motivation or time, practice may have been too difficult because a student wasn't comfortable with concepts in their lesson such as note names, intervals, or rhythm. This session will help teachers look beyond the common reasons students fail to practice or make progress, and give teachers new strategies to make lessons and practice more effective.

Techniques include on and off the bench activities targeting specific concepts designed for private and group lessons, that will make both lessons and home practice more effective. Teachers will actively participate in these activities.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Michelle Sisler, Chief Manager / Instructional Designer

When Michelle was little, she used to sit down at her toy piano and play songs, by ear, along with the jukebox. This was how her parents discovered her talent and love for music and enrolled her in piano lessons at the age of seven. Michelle enjoys being creative in her teaching, making lessons interesting and fun for all students; her use of technology and creative teaching materials have gained her national recognition. Michelle has presented sessions at The National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, Music Teachers National Association conference, and various state conferences and local groups, and has taught piano on Crystal Cruises. She has written technology articles for Keyboard Companion, a series of technology articles in Clavier, and reviews in American Music Teacher. Michelle has co-authored Music Theory APPMAP, Are We There Yet? A Musical Journey Around the Globe®, Sebastian Sharp and the Case of the Missing Manuscript, Where in the World is Mr. Arpeggio, Road Trip: America the Beautiful and many more.

Reviewer's Quote: "Michelle Sisler is a retailer with a 'music teacher's heart'. She not only has the resources and materials that make a studio into a vibrant and interesting experience, but she also kindly instructs music teachers like you and me who feel confused or need help. She is easy to approach at workshops and her contact information is readily available on the net. I have never found her to be too busy to assist me with even the smallest, most insignificant matters." Nancy L, Indiana.

Michelle currently lives in Owatonna, MN with her husband, Kevin and their twins, Brandon and Brianna. In her spare time, she enjoys scrapbooking and traveling.

AUGUST REVIEW

The September 10th meeting was a real delight in more ways than one! – Janna Williamson’s presentation “20/20 Vision for Piano Teachers” was well-received and led to some friendly discussion on building a foundation for expressive performance. We had a very nice attendance and so enjoyed the opportunity to be together in person again after having been distanced for so many months. It was a time to say farewell to Marilyn Boyd as she is retiring from teaching and will no longer be active in our group. She shared some of her music as she is trying to clean out her library of teaching materials. It was also a time to say hello to some new faces as we were introduced to Emily Bell, a friend of Gill’s, who currently is a Special Education teacher in the Edwardsville school system and lives in Swansea. She had lived in St. Louis and has had piano students in the past. We also welcomed Tara Wright back into the fold. She was able to get away from the store (Swing City) and join us for Friday’s meeting. A big “thank you” to Tara for stepping forward and taking on the role of Webmaster for GAE! She currently manages 5 other websites and has experience in this area. THANK YOU, Tara! And, again, thanks to our gracious host, Gill, who set a lovely table of refreshments and made everyone feel welcome.

MEMBER NEWS AND NOTES

Update on **Marshall Gurley**: Marshall recently spent a couple of weeks in the hospital and is now home resting. He was diagnosed with colon cancer but I’m not sure what stage he is in. He misses the friendships and camaraderie of our group. If you would care to send him a note or card, his current address is Marshall Gurley, 104 Fletcher, Collinsville, IL 62234.

Kyu Butler, former GAE member and currently the president of SLAMTA, would like to remind us of the upcoming [master class](#) with [Alexander Kobrin](#) (Eastman School of Music), the winner of the Van Cliburn Competition in 2005. It will be via Zoom on **October 16th at 2:00 p.m.** This will be a very special event to observe such a world-class master class. There will be an admission fee of \$10. Those interested should contact [Kyu Butler](#).

[World Piano Teachers Association USA-Missouri](#) was founded on 4/27/2020 as a part of the World Piano Teachers Association, a member of Alink-Argerich Foundation. **Kyu Butler**, NCTM was inaugurated as the first President and Artistic Director of WPTA USA-Missouri. This organization was founded to support young professionals, students and piano communities. WPTA USA-Missouri provides opportunities to perform at concert series for all levels of piano players including amateurs, young students, and professionals. Please contact [Kyu Butler](#) to join the concert series. If you would like to know more about the World Piano Teachers Association, be sure to check out their website and to see a video clip regarding the master class go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHX3REVO-Ag>

On Saturday, September 18, Evan Totsch, student of **Dr. Stephanie Owen**, was awarded the lead of Ralphie in Christmas Story to be presented by [Curtains Up Theatre](#) in Edwardsville (directed by Glenn Saltimachia). Show dates are December 3rd, 4th, and 5th at the [Wilbey Theater](#) in Edwardsville. Elan Feldhake and Landan Pierce, students of **Dr. Stephanie Owen**, have been notified their video piano clips were accepted to West Coast Junior Rag Recital which will be published worldwide on Oct 19. The adjudicator is Chris Bradshaw.

LeAnn Halvorson presented “What Sight-Reading Steps Do You Assign?” to the Peoria MTA on September 27th via Zoom. She has also been busy proof-reading AIM exams for this year’s testing. So far, she is up to 43 students in her studio with two more potential sign-ups!

Catherine Burge was granted a recitalist stipend at St. John UCC in Mascoutah, IL for past and future performances on 5th Sundays. In 2022, her timpanist husband will join her in this endeavor. She is also the keyboardist/pianist for the Belleville Philharmonic and performed Peter and the Wolf with the Youth Symphony (August 2021); Catherine will also perform on her clarinet as an orchestra member on the Halloween (Belleville Art on the Square at **1:00 p.m. October 23**), Nutcracker (**November 20-21** at the Belleville Scottish Rite), and Holiday concerts (**1:00 p.m. Dec. 19** at Lincoln Theater with Bob Heil), as well as Art on the Square Pops. She also volunteers for the St. Louis Symphony and she is an alto vocalist with the St. Louis Symphony Chorus for the 2021-2022 season.

Dr. Joseph Welch shares the exciting news that Blackburn College has approved new voice performance and piano performance degrees that have embedded entrepreneurial components. This has made Joe’s position permanent, making him Professor of Music. Congratulations, Joe! If anyone has students considering a career in music, he would be happy to share more information about their innovative new program. In addition, this fall he began serving as pianist for the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra’s IN UNISON Chorus. Their first concert is “Gospel Christmas” at Powell Hall on Thursday, **December 9 at 7:30 p.m.**

Member **Rebecca Freshour** would like to share this information: Voice teacher **Addie Gramelspacher** has recently moved to O’Fallon and is accepting new students. Addie has over fifteen years of experience teaching music, with ten years teaching voice at the collegiate level. She enjoys helping students at all levels of experience and ability to find their voice. Addie holds a bachelor’s degree in music and theology from St. Mary-of-the-Woods College and a master’s in music performance (voice) from SIUE. Addie is a classically-trained soprano with extensive experience as a singer and choral/vocal director. She is a member of NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing). For more information, contact Addie at acgramel@gmail.com or (314) 578-9643 (call or text).

OPEN POSITION: There is a **part-time choir** and **part-time bell choir director** opening at **St. John United Church of Christ**, 55 West Church Street, **Mascoutah**. The positions can be combined for one person to do both. If interested, call the church office to apply. (618) 566-7311.

Responsibilities: meet once a week for choir rehearsals and twice a month Sunday services during normal season (no summer choirs), meet as needed for bell choir rehearsal plus Sunday services once a month at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. More music required for Christmas and Lenten services.

CONFERENCE LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Out of an abundance of caution due to COVID, ISMTA has decided that the 2021 conference will again be virtual. The 2021 State Conference will be held online **November 5-6, 2021**. Stay tuned for more details! <http://www.ismta.org/conference> The

Conference features Clinician Dr. E. L. Lancaster and Conference Artist Dr. Ian Hobson. I hope that many of you will take the opportunity to “tune in,” especially if you’ve never been able to attend the conference in-person in the past.

8 Tips for Making the Most of a Virtual Conference

Click on the above link from Music Matters Blog (by Natalie Weber, an independent piano teacher from Kansas) for great tips on making the most of a virtual conference.

ISMTA HISTORY



With the November State Conference soon approaching, it seems fitting to mention a few words about the history of ISMTA. The first meeting was held on June 23, 1886, in Central Music Hall in Chicago. By the late 1920’s, Illinois Music Teachers Association lost momentum and finally ceased to exist. Through the efforts of Bessie Ryan, the organization was revived, and at a meeting in Chicago on November 26, 1940, became [Illinois State Music Teachers’ Association](#). In 1955 the Chicago members of ISMTA felt the annual meetings were not sufficient and that they wanted to hold monthly meetings in their area. They held an organization meeting and elected Verona Pendell president. Other groups in the Chicago suburbs and around the state followed suit. Of the current 19 active local associations, several have already celebrated their 20th anniversary.

The ISMTA has had an important leadership role in the history of MTNA. First, certification was an abiding concern of ISMTA and its predecessor long before a national certification plan was developed. From the beginning of her activity, President Bessie Ryan urged the idea of certification upon all members, and ISMTA was among the first states to embrace the concept of national certification in 1967.



Interested in knowing how to become a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music? Learn more about the certification profile projects for teachers with independent music studios or the administrative verification process for college or university faculty. Check out the MTNA Certification webpage at <http://www.mtnacertification.org/>. Our own Gill Cerbin is the ISMTA Certification Chair.

Email: gillcerbin@yahoo.com

Cell: (618) 980-5870

Need a goal for theory and performance?

This is it!

Achievement in Music (AIM) is a statewide exam devised to be practical and student-friendly. AIM offers a comprehensive curriculum that includes theory and technique as well as piano performance. The AIM Syllabus provides teachers with a sequential outline of piano study helpful in preparing students for yearly assessments. Students benefit by having specific goals to achieve at every level, while teachers and parents are given an independent evaluation of student progress.

AIM NEWS

AIM Theory Exam Dates

Saturday February 12, 2022 and Sunday, February 13, 2022

AIM Performance Exam Dates

Saturday, April 2, 2022 and Sunday, April 3, 2022

Saturday, April 9, 2022 and Sunday, April 10, 2022

Note that this year's Performance exams are a little earlier than usual. We are hopeful that this year's exams will be in-person, but that is still to be decided. We will keep you informed as we are able.

Here is some additional information as you plan ahead:

- Students must enroll in the same level for Theory and Performance exams.
- Students must pass the Theory exam before taking the Performance exam. Passing score is 65.
- Students can perform pieces at a higher level than the enrolled level.
- Students can skip a level at the discretion of their teacher from one year to the next, but not between the theory exam and the performance exam.
- Students can choose to do the theory exam one year and the same level performance exam the following year. Students would need to re-enroll and pay the re-enrollment fee, but would not need to take the theory exam again if passed the previous year.
- Two pieces must be memorized at ALL levels to pass. Bonus points are awarded for additional memorized pieces.
- Repertoire not listed in the syllabus may be used upon consent from the State Repertoire Substitution Chair, Stephanie Myers. Scan the first and last pages of the piece with your request and include which list (List A, B, C or D) you are requesting the piece and email her at hisamimyers@gmail.com. **Deadline for submitting request is January 15, 2022.** Requests that come after this date will not be considered.
- All Level 12 repertoire must receive approval, currently from the State Repertoire Substitution Chair, [Stephanie Myers](#). Approval should be obtained at least 5 months prior to the exam or recital date so that in rare cases where a piece is not approved, the student would have time to add a different piece. Wherever possible, please include the syllabus page that the repertoire is found.

If you are new to AIM or have any questions regarding AIM, please contact [Gill Cerbin](#), AIM Chairperson.

MUSICLINK

If you have thought about teaching a deserving student in need, but don't know how to link up with one, contact your local or [state coordinator](#) for assistance. Perhaps you are already teaching a student for a reduced rate or no fee. That is even easier! You can register your student in the MusicLink program with one form available online through our website.



To volunteer or register a student:

1. Log onto our 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."

Each active MusicLink Teacher receives an I.D. number and a copy of our Discount List which makes it possible to take advantage of discounts and offers on music and materials.
Join us and make a difference in a child's life!

MTNA FOUNDATION FELLOW

This year's ISMTA nomination, **Cathy Albergo**, is a former ISMTA member and Past President of ISMTA; she also served as National Certification Chair of MTNA. Once a fellow is nominated, the State must contribute \$1,500 to the MTNA Foundation Fellow Fund. I would encourage you to do your part and contribute to the MTNA Foundation Fund by helping fund the ISMTA fellow. Go to the [ISMTA](#) website, click on "For Teachers" and then choose **MTNA Foundation Fellows** from the drop-down menu. Click on the donate button. Be sure to enter the name Cathy Albergo for Foundation Fellow. Thank you!

GAE Website

If anyone has information that they would like to see added to the website, please contact Tara or [me](#). We have added our Member-of-the-Year list and I would like to thank many of you for sending me your bio and/or photo. If you were not contacted but would like to share updated information about yourself, please let Debbie know.

September 2021 GAE Treasurer's Report

Account balance 9/29/21	\$7,784.96		
	2021-22 Budget	Sept 2021	YTD
INCOME			
Memberships	\$205.00	\$10.00	\$200.00
AIM Entry Fees	\$1,580.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Yearbook Ads	\$75.00	\$50.00	\$75.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,860.00	\$60.00	\$275.00
EXPENSES			
AIM Expenses Total	\$949.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AIM Medals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AIM Misc. Supplies	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AIM Pins	\$137.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AIM Printing & Mailing	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ISMTA Student Foundation	\$212.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Student Award Checks	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
SWIC Foundation Arts Fund (donation for use of facilities)	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AIM Syllabus for New Members	\$28.00	\$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)	\$85.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Programs	\$900.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Teacher's Assistance Fund (partial dues scholarship for new members and partial reimbursement of first time certification fee)	\$128.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Website Expenses	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,375.00	\$250.00	\$250.00