



Gateway Arch East  
Music Teachers Association

# Gateway Arch East

Music Teachers Association

November 2022 Newsletter

gatewaymusicteachers.org

## Letter from the Editor

Hello, friends!

Another great conference has come and gone! Though I was only able to attend Saturday, I found many useful presentations. Sean Chen's masterclass and presentation were great, and I hear his recital was incredible!



It was great to see Lisa Cripe at the Spring Church grand opening! As it turns out, her former student, Ja'Quis Hardin, was performing with the IN UNISON Young Artists. It is a small world! The IN UNISON Young Artists are available to perform at celebratory functions such as this. You can reach out to the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra (through me, if you like) if you have an event that needs special entertainment!



Our programs continue with an upcoming presentation from Florida State University's Dr. Diana Dumlavwalla speaking about creating an inclusive studio. Please make note of our special start time of 9am for this presentation.

Be sure to check out everything in this very full and informative newsletter! There is so much going on!

Joe

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**Friday, November 18, 9am**

**Dr. Diana Dumlavwalla**

**The Inclusive Studio**

**via Zoom**

Diana Dumlavwalla will provide us with an overview of some types of disabilities we may encounter in the studio, as well as suitable adaptations and modifications we can use to create an inclusive studio, meeting the needs of each individual student.

Additional resources will be recommended.

Topic: The Inclusive Studio with Dr. Diana Dumlavwalla

Time: Nov 18, 2022 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://blackburn.zoom.us/j/87652604859?pwd=c3BOVndGWWRFaTZ3aW5wejE2T0o3dz09>

Meeting ID: 876 5260 4859

Passcode: 760375

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,87652604859#,,,,\*760375# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 876 5260 4859

Passcode: 760375

Also coming up quickly is our January group trip to the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra! Look for an upcoming email with more information!

## Recording of October Meeting

Dr. Benjamin Schoening gave a fascinating presentation about the influence of music on presidential elections in the United States in October! If you missed it, you can view it at the following link. You will need to click the link and then enter the Passcode: r#&n358N

[https://blackburn.zoom.us/rec/share/hhuULMdi9c5V1hcHWczpIF2HMAMQ8DxGaatLjG30QG93Du8pXGe55r1DeTDU\\_rRo.u4hRaZHB27ZMEyUA?startTime=1666364576000](https://blackburn.zoom.us/rec/share/hhuULMdi9c5V1hcHWczpIF2HMAMQ8DxGaatLjG30QG93Du8pXGe55r1DeTDU_rRo.u4hRaZHB27ZMEyUA?startTime=1666364576000)

## Upcoming Performances and Opportunities

*The Belleville Philharmonic Society Presents*



**Coffee Concerts**

Great Music,  
Coffee,  
Pastries, &  
Conversation

**Nada, piano**  
November 11, 2022  
10:00 am  
Philharmonic Hall  
116 N Jackson St, Belleville

Coffee and pastries will be served starting at 9:30 AM! Join us for this social event.  
**THANKS TO LINDA WEISENSTEIN from LIVE DELICIOUSLY FOR COFFEE AND PASTRIES!**



# INSPIRED BY MUSIC?

Check out the Belleville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. Rehearsals are Mondays 5:30 to 7:00 116 N. Jackson in Belleville. Signup for auditions at [signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4faca728a5f49-20222023](https://signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4faca728a5f49-20222023) For info email [byo@bellevillephilharmonic.org](mailto:byo@bellevillephilharmonic.org)



## Masterworks CHORALE & CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Masterworks Chorale and Children's Chorus 2022-2023 Concert Season  
(Schedule subject to change)



September 18, 2022, 6:00 p.m. - *Masterworks Oktoberfest*  
Guest Accordionists  
Eckert's "The Shed," Belleville, IL

*Poetry in Music - For Better or for Verse*  
Masterworks Chorale and Soloists  
October 8, 2022, 7:30 p.m.  
Carmelite Monastery, Ladue, MO  
October 9, 2022, 3:00 p.m.  
Saint Clare Catholic Church, O'Fallon, IL

October 30, 2022, 3:00 p.m. - *Music for Young Voices: The Magic of Singing*  
Masterworks Children's Chorus  
Saint Clare Catholic Church, O'Fallon, IL

December 11, 2022, 7:30 p.m. - *Christmas at the Cathedral*  
Masterworks Chorale, Children's Chorus, and Orchestra  
Saint Peter's Cathedral, Belleville

February 4, 2023, 5:30 p.m. - *Annual Masterworks Gala: Carnavale*  
Masterworks Chorale and Children's Chorus  
Saint Clair Country Club

*A Masterworks / Christine Brewer residency at the Hett*  
Masterworks Chorale, Children's Chorus, and Jazz Ensemble  
Hettenhausen Center for the Arts, McKendree University, Lebanon

February 24, 2023, 10:00 a.m.  
*Morning Coffee with Christine Brewer & the Masterworks Chorale*

February 25, 2023, 2:00 p.m. (Free to the public)  
*A Master Class with Christine Brewer*

February 26, 2023, 3:00 p.m.  
*Old Time Radio Show with Masterworks Chorale & Christine Brewer*

April 23, 2023, 3:00 p.m. - *Voices of Spring: Sing We and Chant It*  
Masterworks Children's Chorus  
Saint Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville

April 30, 2023, 3:00 p.m. - *A Schubert Spring*  
Masterworks Chorale and Orchestra, Stella Markou, soprano  
Saint Clare Catholic Church, O'Fallon

Buy your tickets at [www.singmasterworks.org](http://www.singmasterworks.org)! Season ticket packages available.



[www.facebook.com/singmasterworks](https://www.facebook.com/singmasterworks)  
The Masterworks Chorale is supported in part by the Illinois Arts Council Agency, and by the National Endowment for the Arts.



## Belleville Philharmonic Society

116 N. Jackson St., Belleville, IL

[www.bellevillephilharmonic.org](http://www.bellevillephilharmonic.org)

All concerts start at 10:00 a.m. Coffee and pastry will be served starting at 9:30 a.m.

*Coffee and Pastry by Grimm & Gorly Flowers & Gifts, 324 E. Main St., Belleville, IL*

### **Meet Our Pianist!**

#### **Kiawei Zhi**

Kiawei Zhi is a pianist based in New York City. Over the course of his career, he has performed concert, recitals, and chamber music all over the world.



#### **Pianist Nada**

Pianist Nada has performed internationally from concert halls in Paris, Tokyo, Belgrade, Lebanon, and Salzburg. Her motto is: "Music is my first language!"



#### **Melissa Jennings**

Melissa Jennings is an award winning Irish pianist. She has performed many solo piano recitals, chamber music concerts internationally.

League  
of American  
Orchestras



ICO

**Coffee Concerts**

Great Music,  
Coffee,  
Pastries, &  
Conversation

**Kiawei Zhi, piano**  
October 14, 2022  
10:00 am  
Philharmonic Hall  
116 N Jackson St, Belleville

**Coffee Concerts**

Great Music,  
Coffee,  
Pastries, &  
Conversation

**Nada, piano**  
November 11, 2022  
10:00 am  
Philharmonic Hall  
116 N Jackson St, Belleville

**Coffee Concerts**

Great Music,  
Coffee,  
Pastries, &  
Conversation

**Melissa Jennings, piano**  
January 13, 2023  
10:00 am  
Philharmonic Hall  
116 N Jackson St, Belleville

The Belleville Philharmonic Society

With

The Belleville School of Ballet



The Nutcracker, 38th annual Production  
with the Belleville School of Ballet



Saturday, November 19, 2022

2:00 PM & 7:30 PM

Sunday, November 20, 2022

3:00 PM



Love Church (formerly Scottish Rite)

1549 Frank Scott Parkway West, Belleville, IL

General Admission: \$25 - Free Parking

Buy tickets on-line: [bellevillephilharmonic.org/tickets.html](http://bellevillephilharmonic.org/tickets.html)



I'm Michelle Schodowski, the director of the [2022 Radda Rise International Piano Competition](#), a virtual competition uniquely designed for pianists of all ages with many opportunities for each applicant, as well as the [Radda Rise Achievement Piano Festival](#), an event we just created for pianists who may not be ready for competitions yet. I noticed you're involved with the Illinois MTA as Gateway Arch East President on the website, and I wanted to see if this is something you'd be interested in sharing with the members of your association and their students?

Our competitions are designed to give every applicant a valuable educational experience in addition to prizes for the winners. All applicants receive video feedback on their performances before the judging round and have the option to resubmit new recordings after learning from their feedback. Each applicant also receives fully written English biographies or revisions of their current biography, a complimentary mentoring session with me via Zoom, and detailed video comments from each juror: [Congyu Wang, Vasco Dantas, and Chih-Long Hu](#). On top of that, the jurors will select several competition participants for private mentorships, and they'll receive special discounts on custom websites, live virtual lessons, and Radda Reviews.

There are four age categories: Category 1 - 9 years old and under; Category 2 - 10-13 years old; Category 3 - 14-17 years old; and Category 4 - 18 years old and up. The repertoire requirements for each category are two solo pieces that contrast in some way. If your students have any recordings that they've completed in the past year, they're welcome to submit those. Our competition is completely virtual, and the jurors will be adjudicating the recordings.

If students don't feel ready for competitions or maybe feel intimidated by them, the [Radda Rise Achievement Piano Festival](#) is for pianists of all ages and skill levels to learn and challenge themselves to improve their performances. Rather than competing against other musicians, Achievement Festival participants will submit their initial recording(s) for feedback from a Radda Reviewer. After receiving this feedback, participants will "compete" against their initial performances and strive to improve over the course of 6 weeks. At the end of the 6 weeks, participants will submit their second round of recordings to receive additional comments, potential recognition and awards, and an official rating on their overall performances and improvement between rounds from their Reviewer.

Let me know if you have any questions, and I look forward to hearing from you!

**Michelle Schodowski**

Founder, Radda

Director, Radda Rise Competition Series



+1 (423) 360-3968

[RaddaConnect.com](http://RaddaConnect.com)

## **GAE Member of the Year Honored at ISMTA Conference**

Deborah Meier has been an independent piano teacher for more than 40 years. She has a B.S. in Elementary Education from Concordia University Nebraska (1974) and an M.S. in Elementary Education from S.I.U.-Edwardsville (1981). After teaching in Lutheran schools for nine years, she pursued an interest in piano teaching. In addition to teaching in her home studio, she also taught in the piano program at Holy Cross Lutheran School in Collinsville, IL. Her students actively participated in recitals, A.I.M., National Guild Auditions, Clavinova Festivals, Illinois Grade School Music Association Contests and Mid-America Music Association Festivals.



A member of the Gateway Arch East MTA since 1985, Deborah has served as Southern District Auditions Chair, Treasurer, A.I.M. Co-Chair, Vice-President, President and currently holds the position of Newsletter and Yearbook Editor. She is also a MusicLink teacher (1999—present) and serves as the MusicLink State Coordinator for Illinois. In addition, she has been serving as church organist for nearly 50 years after first being introduced to the organ when she was in junior high. In addition to playing the organ, she has served as a choir director, accompanist, and handbell ringer. She also enjoyed accompanying the choir at Metro East Lutheran High School in Edwardsville and went on performance tours with their band and choir. She continues to stay involved by playing in the MELHS Pit Orchestra for their spring musicals.

Deborah currently teaches a few students in her home studio and takes time with her husband to visit their two grown children and 5 grandchildren. She is thankful for all the joy that music has brought to her life and appreciates the friendships she has made with the members of her local chapter.

## Auditions and Job Openings

**Masterworks Chorale and Masterworks Children's Chorus** accept new members throughout the year. Lisa Cripe sings with MW and assists with MWCC. The MWCC audition is very simple: Dr. Mager usually asks the student to sing a simple song like My Country 'Tis of Thee, and families are welcome to visit a rehearsal to participate/observe.

## News from Former Members

### Heidi Shepherd

Your kind words were appreciated and yes, the bonds of music are so lasting And rewarding. I hope my bio expressed enough of how much my association with the (active) GAE teachers helped and motivated me in my piano teaching business.

We've had two grandsons (and their parents) living with us since last August. My summary for the experience is: It's noisier, messier and FUNNER! Both boys are learning piano from Grandma Heidi. And we just received the news that our daughter, Lindsey, an active and in demand piano teacher in the Rexburg, ID area, is expecting twins in December!!! Good thing she's decided to take a break from teaching for a while (2 more means she'll have 8 children!). That will bring our total to 22!!

(On Kayla, Heidi's granddaughter, who was diagnosed with bone cancer.)

Thanks for asking about Kayla: currently she is enjoying being an 11-year-old.... She can swim and bike and almost walk 'normal'. Her cancer is defeated but in time she'll need a knee replacement and it is uncertain if her legs will be the same length. So this summer is already a good time (they have a community pool close by). For the present, all is well. All the best to you and yours.

**Darice Palmier**

The website looks great and I enjoyed reading through many of the bios and the activities calendar, as well as a couple newsletters. I am glad to see GAE is alive and Well! I have been in sort of another world out here, lots of accompanying and performing and it has been a gift to keep my playing skills good or dare I say better in many ways since I was able to devote myself to just playing piano. I only taught a couple of students because we have traveled quite a bit mainly to visit family and friends but a few trips to Europe and other places in the states. I was up to 8-9 flights a year before Covid hit since I was trying to get back to see my kids and grandkids at least 4 times a year or more. Las Cruces has a wonderful music scene and you could go to a performance of some type almost every day if you wanted to. They have a symphony, a community symphony, community band, the university symphony and a youth orchestra and chorus as well as a wonderful professional chamber group and various music academies that are affiliated with these organizations. Those are just the ones that I am most acquainted with and have worked with many of the musicians. There is a strong Latin/Hispanic presence so I have learned some great music by living Mexican composers as a result. And of course, there are some great Mariachi groups and an annual Mariachi Festival Conference here. We love living here and hope to hang in there as long as possible but we will probably eventually move to Cincinnati when we can't take care of ourselves as well! Our daughter doesn't have children so we figure she will have us to take care of someday. Our last grandchild, Leni was born on Dec. 29, 2020 and had complications right after birth; a brain bleed. She has hydrocephalus as a result and had surgery recently called ETV/CPC to alleviate her ventricles not draining the Cerebral spinal fluid properly. We are holding our breath for it to be

completely successful but if it is not, she will get a shunt, which is the more common procedure. So we have been in Columbia 5-6 weeks since Christmas to help with this and that. She is adorable and has done extremely well in spite of everything. She is joining in when we sing “Do-Re-Mi” to her which is very encouraging! And our grandson Lou is enthralled with music and cars! So that is the back story! But here is a bio. Let me know if I need to edit, shorten, etc. and thank you so much for reaching out to me. I am glad to know you are doing well, still teaching and enjoying lots of grandchildren too!

### **Donna Guillaume**

Our daughter, Solange and her husband live in San Francisco and have 2 girls, ages 2 and 6. J.P and Anna have 5 children, 4 boys and a girl, ages 5, 10, 11, 12, and 14. I’m retired from teaching, but do teach the five grandchildren here in Kansas. Congrats to Amy Jo on TOY and Foundation Fellow! I’m working on the bio. Thanks for the GAEMTA link to get ideas for writing up my bio. Should be ready soon. Just wanted to let you know I haven’t forgotten.

## **From the Archives: GAE History Tidbits**

### **NEW NAME FOR SYLLABUS**

The State Syllabus committee has come up with 4 nominations for a new name for “Syllabus.” State Coordinator, Mary Veverka, has asked me to discuss these names with our Syllabus teachers and send in a vote. The 4 nominations are as follows:

1. MAP This acronym stands for Music Achievement Program.
2. ISMTA CURRICULUM and ISMTA Curriculum Day
3. A.I.M. - Achievement in Music
4. ISMTA ACHIEVEMENT DAYS

## October 2022 GAE Treasurer's Report

|   |                   |                     |                 |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Account balance 11/2/2022</b>  | \$7,570.65        |                     |                 |
|   | <b>2022-23</b>    | <b>Aug/Sept/Oct</b> |                 |
|   | <b>Budget</b>     | <b>2022</b>         | <b>YTD</b>      |
| <b>INCOME</b>   |                   |                     |                 |
| <b>Memberships</b>  | \$210.00          | \$70.00             | \$190.00        |
| <b>AIM Entry Fees</b>   | \$1,300.00        | \$0.00              | \$0.00          |
| <b>Yearbook Ads</b>   | \$75.00           | \$50.00             | \$50.00         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>   | <b>\$1,585.00</b> | <b>\$120.00</b>     | <b>\$240.00</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>   |                   |                     |                 |
| <b>AIM Expenses Total</b>   | <b>\$925.00</b>   | <b>\$0.00</b>       | <b>\$0.00</b>   |
| AIM Medals  | \$0.00            | \$0.00              | \$0.00          |
| AIM Misc. Supplies  | \$30.00           | \$0.00              | \$0.00          |
| AIM Pins  | \$120.00          | \$0.00              | \$0.00          |
| AIM Printing & Mailing  | \$120.00          | \$0.00              | \$0.00          |
| ISMATA Student Foundation   | \$180.00          | \$0.00              | \$0.00          |
| Student Award Checks  | \$375.00          | \$0.00              | \$0.00          |
| SWIC Foundation Arts Fund<br>(donation for use of facilities)   | \$100.00          | \$0.00              | \$0.00          |
| <b>AIM Syllabus for New Members</b>   | <b>\$30.00</b>    | <b>\$0.00</b>       | <b>\$0.00</b>   |
|   | <b>\$250.00</b>   | <b>\$250.00</b>     | <b>\$250.00</b> |
| <b>ISMATA Foundation Fellow Donation</b>  |                   |                     |                 |
| <b>Member of the Year Conference Expense</b>  | <b>\$100.00</b>   | <b>\$0.00</b>       | <b>\$0.00</b>   |
| <b>Miscellaneous</b>  | <b>\$25.00</b>    | <b>\$0.00</b>       | <b>\$0.00</b>   |
| <b>President's Conference Expense</b>   | <b>\$100.00</b>   | <b>\$100.00</b>     | <b>\$100.00</b> |
| <b>Printing/Mailing</b> (yearbook, newsletter, other besides AIM)   | <b>\$50.00</b>    | <b>\$0.00</b>       | <b>\$0.00</b>   |
| <b>Programs</b>   | <b>\$1,200.00</b> | <b>\$150.00</b>     | <b>\$150.00</b> |
| <b>Teacher's Assistance Fund</b> (partial dues scholarship for new members and partial reimbursement of first time certification fee) | <b>\$136.00</b>   | <b>\$0.00</b>       | <b>\$0.00</b>   |
| <b>Website Expenses</b>   | <b>\$60.00</b>    | <b>\$0.00</b>       | <b>\$0.00</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>   | <b>\$2,876.00</b> | <b>\$500.00</b>     | <b>\$500.00</b> |

## News from Members

**Gill Cerbin** attended the first of the Belleville Philharmonic Society's Coffee Concerts in October. The young pianist Kaiwai Zhi was outstanding, performing mainly 20th works including a Scriabin sonata and Stravinsky Petrushka Ballet Suite, for piano, as well as two sets of Brahms Paganini variations. Sadly only a handful of people attended. Colleges and schools are encouraged to support this initiative in Belleville of world class pianists. It really is a wonderful opportunity and free! The next performance will be November 11th. All are welcome.

### Health Update from Deb Meier:

I have had issues with atrial fibrillation for the past 7+ years, which have not been too serious (in my opinion). However, in August, I was in A Fib for close to a week and after contacting my cardiologist, he scheduled me for a cardioversion (outpatient) to shock my heart back to normal rhythm. That worked! (for 2 weeks...and back in A Fib) Then I met with an Electrophysiologist (specialist in heart arrhythmias) and together we decided I should have an ablation (a procedure in which bad parts of the heart are burned or cauterized). That was done on October 12. Everything seemed great and my heart was back in rhythm. Then on October 23rd, back in A Fib! I am once again scheduled for a cardioversion on Friday, November 4. Meanwhile, today, October 31, I think my heart has converted itself back to normal rhythm. I will have another EKG on Thursday morning to find out for sure. If that is the case, I will not need the cardioversion. Then time will tell if my heart decides to behave itself or if it still has a mind of its own!

Nov 3 Update: Just got back from having the EKG. And my doctor just called me to let me know he's been keeping tabs on what's going on. Everything is good. I have no restrictions...just keep doing what I'm doing. He said it takes about 3 months to see the whole effects of the ablation. That was not a "cure-all" but will hopefully lower the instances of A Fib, etc. So, I'm scheduled for my follow-up with him on Nov. 22. He was glad that my heart self-converted and so if this happens again (which it very well could), hopefully it will again take care of itself without having to do a cardioversion.

Stephen Leatherman, piano student of **Dr Stephanie Owen**, competed in Town and Country concerto competition. He played Concerto K 466 accompanied by Dr Owen. First movement Oct 15 2022.

GAE member, **Amy Jo Sawyer**, recently performed at an International Reed Organ Society Festival held at the Reunion United Methodist Church in Belleville, Oct. 16. Amy Jo performed and demonstrated the accordion which has the same “reed mechanism” as the Reed Organ. She performed “Sonata” in a minor, K. 149, by Domenico Scarlatti, “Lieber Tango” by Astor Piazzolla, and her own composition, “In My Solitude”. Pictured are performers from California, Missouri, Alabama, Canada and local artists.



**Karen Koch's** student, Linnaea Ellis, was selected to perform for a master class with Dr. Ayako Tsurata of the University of Missouri before the St. Louis Piano Teachers Round Table in October. She played both movements of Clementi Sonatina Op. 36, No. 6 and received many compliments, both for her performance and her “teachability” (of which Karen was already aware!).

In addition to the Spring Church performance, **Joseph Welch** performed a celeste part with the Illinois Symphony Orchestra in September. Blackburn has been busy hosting two guest artist events in addition to an opera residency with Evan Bravos for their upcoming performance of *The Billy Goats Gruff* for over six hundred kids! On the horizon is a busy December calendar, including Opera Edwardsville's Fifth Anniversary Concert, Christmas at Blackburn, the Joy of Music series at Manchester United Methodist Church, recital with students of Tessitura Music (Amy Prince's studio), and IN UNISON Chorus with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. Please check [drjosephwelch.com](http://drjosephwelch.com) or reach out if you want more information about any of these events!




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Do you have feedback on the newsletter? We would love to hear from you! Let us know what you want to see more of and what we no longer need to include: [pianowelch@gmail.com](mailto:pianowelch@gmail.com)