



Gateway Arch East

Music Teachers Association

September 2022 Newsletter

gatewaymusicteachers.org

Letter from the Editor

Hello, friends! I am so thankful for our newsletter editors, most recently Deb Meier. We appreciate your hard work! I have agreed to take on the role for a while, but much of the assembly of the newsletter will be done by students at Blackburn College. They have already jumped in and created a format that mirrors the color scheme on the GAE website.

There is a lot in this month's newsletter! Here are the highlights:

- Calendar of Upcoming Events
- Membership Updates
- Auditions and Job Openings
- ISMTA Conference Information
- Foundation Fellow: Amy Jo Sawyer
- Website Update and Thank Yous
- From the Archive of GAE History
- News from Members

I am very excited about the programming we have for this fall. First up is our Recipe Swap and Picnic. It will be a casual and welcoming environment, so please invite any music making friends who may be interested in connecting with GAE! Please let me know by September 15 if you are able to make it. I hope to see you there!

Joe

Calendar of Upcoming Events

The Arch Cup competition will take place at Webster University Music Department on Sunday, October 16th. Entries are due September 17th. There is also a virtual option. Check out the website : www.hixsonpiano.com

Saturday, September 17, 9am-noon

Recipe Swap and Picnic

Joe Glik Park, Edwardsville, IL

Join us for a morning of food and fun! This family friendly event is a casual opportunity for us to get to know each other and bring friends who may be interested in the GAE. For the "Recipe Swap", come prepared to share something you love using in your studio. It could be a practice motivator, reward system, teaching tool, or anything you find useful! We will have a late morning lunch; please bring a side or two to share with the group. We will have games in addition to the playground, basketball court, walking paths, volleyball court, and lake.

Friday, October 21, 10am

Dr. Benjamin Schoening

Music and Politics

via Zoom

As we head into election season and are flooded with campaign ads, have you wondered how music affects elections? Co-author of "Don't Stop Thinking About the Music: The Politics of Songs and Musicians in Presidential Campaigns", Benjamin Schoening, will provide us with a look at music's historical influence on the campaign trail and its role in elections.

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.

Membership Updates

Treasurer Deb Meier informs us that we have a healthy membership and all but one or two have renewed their dues. She recently spoke to Marshall Gurley and though he will not be renewing his membership, he wishes to greet everyone and adds that he will miss the camaraderie and connections with our group. He is getting along okay but says the biggest problem is his eyesight.

A warm welcome to our newest GAE member, Abbey Hayden. She found out about GAE through Gill Cerbin. Abbey is a member of both SLAMTA and GAE as she teaches in both locales. She lives in Belleville. Her address is 511 N. 16th St., Belleville, IL 62226-6545 and her phone number is (314) 885-3509. Email: missapianostudio@gmail.com

Her husband, Ian Hayden, has worked with Joe previously. Abbey is somewhat new to the area and has been in the Metro-East since 2015, and teaching in the area since 2017. Here is her bio:

Abbey has been a music educator for 15 years, and has studied piano her entire life. Her most recent studies culminated in a Master's of Fine Arts in Piano Performance (as well as a Certificate in Piano Pedagogy) at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Previous to that, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Millikin University. Her past teachers include Dr. Angela Kim, Professor Judith Mancinelli, Dr. Susan Teischer, and Dr. Mirta Donnelley. She currently teaches Class Piano at SIUE, and serves as a collaborative pianist. Additionally, Abbey runs a private piano studio with 25+ students, ranging from ages 5-99.

As a teacher, Abbey believes in a personal connection on the individual level of the student; each student will learn something different from piano and music, and those students deserve to have lessons built just for them.

On a personal level, Abbey maintains that music should hold meaning. Exploration of phrasing and color is a must, and every performance should be a unique experience. There is a time and place for virtuosity, but there is also much more time -and many more places- for lyricism and musicality. As any of her students will tell you, “Anyone can play fast! But not everyone plays WELL.”

We look forward to meeting Abbey!

We would also like to welcome back former member Lisa Cripe! She has reinstated her membership and looks forward to a more active role in our group by once again participating in A.I.M. Lisa Cripe will also be the one offering both the Musikgarten Early Childhood Music and Movement Family classes through the O'Fallon Parks and Recreation Department.

Lisa Cripe has a Music Bachelor's in Keyboard Area Performance from Depauw University of Greenscastle, Indiana, a Master's in Church Music from the Christian Theological Seminary of Indianapolis, Indiana. She completed studies in Organ Performance, Literature, and Pedagogy at University of Evansville, Indiana and also took courses in Piano Literature and Pedagogy, Class Applied Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion and Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville, Illinois. Lisa has worked as an Instructional Aide and Music Librarian for District 90 Junior High Bands and Choirs

and also teaches piano, horn, and trumpet lessons at O'Fallon, Illinois junior high and Music and Arts store in Fairview Heights, Illinois She was also the organist and Music Coordinator for the Webster Groves Christain Church. Lisa is currently a member of the Masterworks Chorale, No Name Chorale, and Metro East Chorale. Lisa enjoys hiking, wildlife watching, knitting, volunteer ushering for Union Avenue Opera and Winter Opera.

Lisa is offering the following classes through the O'Fall on Parks and Recreation Department. Please share with anyone who may be interested:

Family Music: Sing With Me

15 mo. to 3 years 11 mo. with their Parent/Guardian

Tuesdays, 5:30-6:00pm

Location: Grange Log Cabin, Community Park (diagonally across E. 5th Street from the Katy Cavins Community Center)

Instructor, Lisa Cripe

Register at <https://ofallonparksandrec.com/product/family-music-sing-with-me/>, by phone 618-624-0139, M-F 8:30am-5:00pm, or in person at Katy Cavins Community Center, 308 E. Fifth Street, O'Fallon, IL 62269

These weekly classes are action-filled for toddlers and young preschoolers—full of energy, often on the move, always exploring and learning—and their parents. Together you'll sing, chant, move, dance, listen, and play simple instruments, all activities that bridge the natural connection between music and movement through four wonder-filled semesters.

Each lesson features movement activities for coordination, body awareness and control, exploration of space, and instruments such as rhythm sticks, jingles, rattles, drums, and resonator bars. Family Materials for home include: Parent Book (36p), CD and digital code, 2 Pair Rhythm Sticks (The Family Materials cost is in addition to class registration fees, and paid directly to the Instructor.)

Sing With Me, Sessions #1 + 2 Combo (16 weeks): September 13, 2022 - January 17, 2023 (no class Nov. 22, Dec. 27, Jan 3)

\$150.00 (\$113.00 for additional sibling in the same class) + \$39.50 for Family Materials.

Sing With Me, Session #1 only (8 weeks): September 13 - November 1, 2022

\$80.00 (\$60.00 for additional sibling in the same class) + \$39.50 for Family Materials.

Sing With Me, Session #2 only (8 weeks) November 8, 2022 - January 17, 2023 (no class Nov. 22, Dec. 27, Jan 3)

\$80.00 (\$60.00 for additional sibling in the same class) + \$39.50 for Family Materials.

* Families may join the class mid-session for a prorated registration fee, but the Family Materials cost remains the same.

Family Music for Preschoolers: Cycles of Seasons - Wind Dancers

3-1/2 to 5-1/2 years (PreK) with their Parent/Guardian

Tuesdays, 4:30 - 5:15 pm

Instructor, Lisa Cripe

Register at <https://ofallonparksandrec.com/product/cycles-of-seasons-wind-dance/>, by phone 618-624-0139, M-F 8:30am-5:00pm, or in person at Katy Cavins Community Center, 308 E. Fifth Street, O'Fallon, IL 62269

The Cycle of Seasons is a musical celebration of the four seasons, using activities that build on the child's growing independence and competencies. It nurtures the children's ability to use language and capitalizes on their delight in dramatic play within the musical context.

Celebrate your Preschooler's growing independence and love of the outdoors with activities involving the four seasons in The Cycle of Seasons. Developed to build attention and self-expression, activities include singing, chanting, moving, focused listening, musical games, exploring musical instruments, creative movement, and storytelling. The Cycle of Seasons nurtures your growing child's ability to use language and participate in dramatic play within a musical context.

Fun family packets, including a Parent Book (48p), 2 CDs, 12 Animal Cards in Cloth Bag, are for use at home to increase family involvement in the learning process. (The Family Materials cost is in addition to class registration fees, and paid directly to the Instructor.)

Cycle of Seasons is a part of the **Musikgarten** Music and Movement series for families with Infants to 8 year olds, and fosters musical play and enjoyment for the entire family. Continuation through this program builds music literacy and builds a solid foundation for instrumental lessons and participation in Band and Choir ensembles in later childhood and adolescence.

Cycle of Sessions - Wind Dancers #1 + 2 Combo (16 weeks): September 13, 2022 - January 17, 2023 (no class Nov. 22, Dec. 27, Jan 3)

\$180.00 (\$135.00 for additional sibling in the same class) + \$49.95 for Family Materials.

Cycle of Seasons - Wind Dancers, Session #1 only (8 weeks): September 13 - November 1, 2022

100.00 (\$75.00 for additional sibling in the same class) + \$49.95 for Family Materials.

Cycle of Seasons - Wind Dancers, Session #2 only (8 weeks) November 8, 2022 - January 17, 2023 (no class Nov. 22, Dec. 27, Jan 3)

\$100.00 (\$75.00 for additional sibling in the same class) + \$49.95 for Family Materials.

* Families may join the class mid-session for a prorated registration fee, but the Family Materials cost remains the same.

Auditions and Job Openings

The **Masterworks Chorale and Children's Chorus** is currently holding auditions for Masterworks Chorale singers (adults) and Masterworks Children's Chorus singers (grades 3-12). They also have two professional positions open: Piano Accompanist and Tenor Principal Singer. To audition for the Chorale, visit:

<https://www.singmasterworks.org/audition> If you are interested in one of the professional positions, please contact conductor@singmasterworks.org



Tenor Principal Singer Position Available 2022-2023 Concert Season

The Masterworks Chorale located in Metro East is seeking one Tenor Principal Singer for our upcoming 2022-2023 concert season. *This position is open and available immediately. Applications will be considered until suitable candidates are found.*

Masterworks is an ensemble of auditioned singers who enrich the Metro East and St. Louis regions with performances of significant choral literature. The Chorale offers a disciplined, professional approach to the experience, understanding and appreciation of music through musicianship, quality literature and excellence in performance. Additionally, the Chorale sponsors the Masterworks Children's Chorus, which shares the same musical objectives.

The Masterworks Chorale season runs from mid-August through early May with periodic performances throughout the year, including an annual *Christmas at the Cathedral* concert in December and a *Broadway Pops* concert in the early spring. For concert dates visit www.singmasterworks.org.

Weekly rehearsals:
Tuesdays, 7-9:30 pm
Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC), Room 2350
2500 Carlyle Ave., Belleville, IL 62221

Expectations:

- Qualifications: Degree in Music or equivalent experience in choral singing and solo singing required
- Facility at music reading and solo performance
- Available for all rehearsals and performances annually
- Ability to provide guidance & coaching to non-professional singers

Compensation:
Paid quarterly, approximately \$300-360 (\$30 per appearance) per quarter, late August through late April/early May

For more information, or to schedule an audition, please contact:
Dr. Stephen Mager, Artistic Director and Conductor
conductor@singmasterworks.org



Piano Accompanist Position Available

The Masterworks Chorale located in Metro East is seeking a piano accompanist, for rehearsals and performances, for our upcoming 2022-2023 concert season and beyond. *This position is open and available immediately. Applications will be considered until suitable candidates are found.*

The Masterworks Chorale is an auditioned community ensemble, with a core group of professional principal singers. Our season runs from mid-August through early May with periodic performances throughout the year, including an annual *Christmas at the Cathedral* concert in December and a *Broadway Pops* concert in the early spring. You can find out more about the ensemble at our website, at www.singmasterworks.org.

Weekly rehearsals:
Tuesdays, 7-9:30 pm
Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC), Room 2350
2500 Carlyle Ave., Belleville, IL 62221

Concert dates (some of which may require a pianist)
October 8 & 9, 2022
December 11, 2022
February 24-26, 2023
April 30, 2023

Compensation:
Masterworks offers competitive compensation in monthly payments, August-April/May

Audition information:
An audition and interview can be arranged in either the Saint Louis or Metro East area, at your convenience.

For more information, or to schedule an audition, please contact:
Dr. Stephen Mager, Artistic Director and Conductor
conductor@singmasterworks.org

Dr. Joseph Welch is looking for a paid-intern or assistant (depending on qualifications) to assist in running the business of his freelance work. The ideal candidate would be a pianist in the area who is business/tech-savvy and also interested in vocal-piano music, potentially taking on performance opportunities as they arise. Please contact pianowelch@gmail.com for a full description or to apply.

ISMTA Conference Information

After two years of having virtual conferences, it will be exciting to get together at the upcoming conference! The Illinois State Music Teachers Association (ISMTA) is hosting the 2022 State Conference on November 4-5, 2022 at [Eastern Illinois University](#), Charleston, IL. Go to <https://ismta.org/conference/> for more information. Let's have a great representation from Gateway Arch East this year—the driving distance is only about 2 ½ hours -- sure beats driving all the way to Chicago!

Registration opens September 15.

Early registration deadline October 23.

Registration Fees:

[Registration \\$100 \(Early Bird\) / \\$130 \(Regular\)](#)

[Students \\$0 \(Must still register and pay for meals.\)](#)

[Single Day \\$75 / 95](#)

To attend the Friday night banquet or lunches (for an additional fee), you must register by October 23.

Conference Hotel:

[Unique Suites Hotel](#): Thursday \$90.90 before tax. Friday \$92.70 before tax. Call to make the reservation and request the ISMTA conference rate.

[EIU Dorm](#) \$25: Reservations can be scheduled by contacting the Conference Services Office at 217-581-7482 or by e-mailing Matt Boyer at mboyer@eiu.edu. Guests can pay by cash or check.

State Convention:

Was it worth anything? Money lost from not teaching, travel and hotel expenses, food, time away from family and other commitments—all of these add up, both emotionally and financially. What does it take to equal all the negatives and maybe even put attendance at a convention into the plus category?

+ Maybe hearing even one speaker present an interesting approach to teaching that could alter your entire teaching style

+ Maybe opening your mind to something different, something you've never heard before.

+ Maybe being with people you've never met, yet feeling like "old friends"

+ Maybe being encouraged and strengthened to deal with the problems of teaching and discovering that others have the same problems—that you are not alone

+ Maybe even having a bit of fun. (When was the last time you had fun?)

+ Maybe just the chance to get away from the same-old same-old

+ Maybe a sense of renewal

To be fresh and meaningful, and worth the time and money, conventions are definitely worthwhile, especially when combined with other elements—visiting old friends and family, getting away, a chance to see and hear some leading musicians. Anyone can plan a year in advance, save the time and money for a memorable, worthwhile event. Aren't you worth it?

--Tucky Rodrigue, April 2001 Newsletter, California

Association of Professional Music Teachers, Inc.

Foundation Fellow Program

The Music Teachers National Association Foundation Fellow program offers a meaningful method for honoring deserving individuals while supporting the efforts of the MTNA Foundation Fund through a donation to the Foundation Fund in an individual's name.

Each year new MTNA Fellows are recognized at the MTNA National Conference. Fellows receive a complimentary ticket to the Gala, an attractive MTNA Fellow certificate and pin. A press release will be sent to media outlets selected by the Fellow.

Gateway Arch East MTA is honored to have member **Amy Jo Sawyer** chosen as this year's 2023 Illinois Foundation Fellow. Her bio follows:

Amy Jo Sawyer joined MTNA in 1978 and became a Nationally Certified Teacher Member in 1989. Sawyer, who received an MA in Jazz Performance and BA in Piano Performance and Composition, is past President, Certification Chair, AIM Chair for the ISMTA Gateway Arch East chapter. She was Chapter "Member of the Year" 2000, 2014 and 2019, and received the ISMTA Composer Commissioning Award in 2014. She was voted ISMTA Teacher of the Year in 2019. She served five years on the ISMTA Board as the Composer Commissioning Program Chair. The Salt Creek Chapter (Chicago) commissioned her to write piano music for "Eight Hands" for their Glorious Grands concert in 2017, for which she composed a three movement "Sweet Salt Creek Suite". She composed charts for eighteen-piece Jazz Bands that were performed by the Brigham Young University "Syntheses" Band, and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Concert Jazz Band. Her piano students have participated in the AIM program finishing level twelve with high honors. Several students have won competitions in Ragtime Contests in St. Louis. One compositions student won 2nd place and tied for 3rd place in



consecutive years in the Hal Leonard Composer competition. Eighteen of her original piano compositions are approved for the AIM Repertoire Program.

Amy Jo served as President (two terms) for the Accordionists & Teachers Guild, International, and is currently serving on a committee to develop a Syllabus program for the accordion. She composed eighteen songs for the Syllabus. Sawyer is accordionist with the St. Louis Symphony and performed “Italian

Love Songs” accompanying Luciano Pavarotti when he performed in St. Louis. She also performed with the St. Louis Symphony orchestra as accordionist supporting the movies “Ratatouille”, “The GodFather” and “Lord of the Rings”. Her original Accordion Orchestra, solos and duets have been performed internationally. She has performed in accordion orchestra and as soloist in many European countries, Russia, Australia, and New Zealand. Her accordion orchestra composition, Tango, “Recuerdos” (Memories), was performed at the World Accordion Festival in Lithuania in 2018. Another, “Juntos” (Together) Tango, was performed in Castelfidardo, Italy in 2012. Sawyer has produced two Accordion CD’s: “According To Amy” (Jazz) and “Classically Amy” (Classical). In July, 2019, she was inducted into the Accordionists & Teachers Guild, International Accordion Hall of Fame. She has served as organist and music chair of her church, and maintains a studio teaching piano, accordion, jazz, theory and composition.

Website Update and Thank Yous

Webmaster Tara Wright, together with past president Debbie Meier, have been hard at work this summer updating the [GAE website](#). Debbie was able to get in touch with all but one of our past Member of the Year recipients, and you can catch up on the whereabouts of some of our former members that have since moved out of the area. Debbie enjoyed hearing from Darice Palmier, Donna Guillaume, Linda Perry, and Heidi Shepherd! Also, added soon on the website will be the 2022-2023 Yearbook/Membership Directory, along with the AIM Supplement which includes all the AIM forms and the deadlines and dates for registration and exams. Thank you for all your work, Tara and Debbie!

From the Archives of GAE History:

Life Goes On (A.K.A. Karen Rogers To Retire)

Karen Rogers has been at SIU-E since 1978, and prior to that, she taught for 4 years at WIU. She is moving to the San Francisco Bay area at the end of summer, to be near her children and her grandchild! We wish her well, and we are certainly going to miss her. Our group is greatly indebted to Karen for her help in getting the group started, (Springfield South Area group, chartered in 1981) for her guidance and much more. She has been a prominent fixture in our GAE organization for many years and because of her, the Syllabus program of our group has been a very solid and strong one. She has worn many hats, serving as President, Vice President, and as Syllabus Chair for at least 10 years. She has been an active member of the ISMTA for 28 years and MTNA for 29 years. At SIU, she serves as head of the Keyboard Development program. Karen was awarded a grant to work on a manual for syllabus teachers, which she completed in the summer of 1985. She is presently working on a new manual for the revised Achievement in Music program (formerly, Syllabus). Farewell, and thank you, Karen!

News from Members

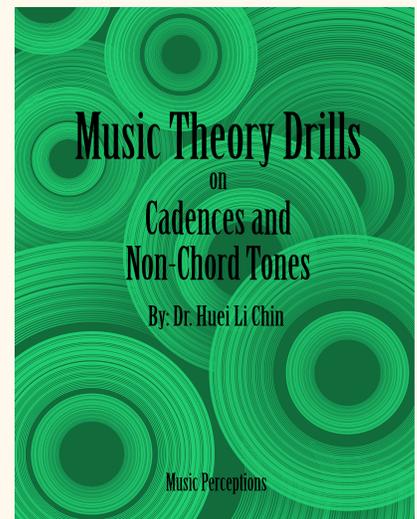
Gill Cerbin's studio participated in MAMA at the end of July and all had a great time, bringing home an abundance of trophies.

Marcie Monaco started graduate school to study flute performance at SIUE last month!

Evan Totsch, vocal student of **Dr. Stephanie Owen**, won the supporting lead role of Bruce in Matilda put on at Alfresco Theatre in Granite City.

Dr. Huei Li Chin has a new book published by Music Perceptions, "Music Theory Drills on Cadences and Non-Harmonic Tones." This is the 5th book she has written. The other books are: Music Theory Drills on Intervals, Music Theory Drills on Scales and Keys, Music Theory Drills on Triads and Inversions and Music Theory Drills on Seventh Chords.

Leann Halvorson says she is about to complete another book for SuperScore Music, stating she is about two-thirds done. Due to the health conditions of her 14 year old dog, she has to spend most of her time caring for him, often causing her to postpone her work for her book.



Karen Koch would like to share the highlight of her summer: preparing and performing in a 2-piano, 8-hand concert which took place July 3rd. The program included a wide variety of music from Bach, Grieg, Rachmaninoff, Kevin Olson, and Christopher Goldston. She also spent a week in Santa Barbara for her younger daughter's wedding, and a week at Chautauqua, NY, where the effects of the Salman Rushdie attack were evident in greater security, but no lack of nightly concerts and thought-provoking speakers. Favorites were Ballerina Misty Copeland and a sibling singing folk trio, Girl Named Tom, who were the winners of NBC's "The Voice" last December.

GAE member, **Amy Jo Sawyer** performed at the International Accordion Festival in Chicago, July 22. She and duet partner, Joseph Natoli, from Warren, Ohio, performed Amy Jo's composition "In My Solitude" at a concert for Original Music for Accordion. The event was held at Wheaton College, Naperville, Illinois. Festival concerts included accordion artists from Canada, Italy, Austria and the U.S. Amy Jo is past president of the sponsoring organization, Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International. Amy Jo and Joseph have represented the USA in the World Accordion Competition in past years.



Dr. Joseph Welch has taken on the mantle and responsibilities of Chair of the Department of Music and Theatre at Blackburn College. In addition to several music camps over the summer, he also music directed *Goldilocks and the Three Singing Bears* for Opera Edwardsville. His

next performance is a free concert in the park with Opera Edwardsville on Friday, September 30. The concert features an all-star cast of singers including Emily Birsan, Sofia Troncoso, Emily Fons, Eric Ferring, Matthew Newlin, Robert Mellon, and a special appearance by Christine Brewer.

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