



GAE NEWSLETTER

March 2022

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Friday, Mar. 18 | Charlie Kuhn – “Saint Louis as a Cradle of Ragtime” – ZOOM meeting |
| March 25-30 | MTNA Virtual Conference |
| April 9 & 10 | AIM Performance Exams |
| Friday, May 13 | End-of-Year Luncheon and Annual Business Meeting
Elections, Member-of-the-Year selection, etc., Venue TBA |

MARCH MEETING



St. Louis – The Center of Ragtime Music 1895-1910

From the early days of Ragtime, St. Louis attracted many of the great players and composers of the era. This was especially true of the years just prior to and after the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904 (The St. Louis World's Fair). We will take a closer look at the role St. Louis played during this period and the piano styles that followed this popular music genre.



Charles Kuhn is a retired businessman/educator who has always been fascinated with the music and history of ragtime and early jazz. An amateur pianist, Charles recently facilitated classes at

the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Washington University in the history of ragtime music and the music of the 1904 World's Fair. Originally from Trenton, Illinois, he now lives in St. Louis with his wife, Evelyn. His three daughters also play piano (all former students of Karen Koch). His oldest daughter, Emily, currently teaches instrumental music in the Webster School District.

Here is the link for the March 18th meeting:

Joseph Welch is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Saint Louis as a Cradle of Ragtime - Charlie Kuhn

Time: Mar 18, 2022 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://blackburn.zoom.us/j/82280543239?pwd=djdhZkRWQ0JQb3dRaEdPQ1ZzR3Y0QT09>

Meeting ID: 822 8054 3239

Passcode: 955317

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,82280543239#,,,*955317# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,82280543239#,,,*955317# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 720 707 2699 US (Denver)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 822 8054 3239

Passcode: 955317

Find your local number: <https://blackburn.zoom.us/u/kEMIhPTtk>

A.I.M. NEWS



AIM Chair, Gill Cerbin tells us that the in-person theory exams at SWIC and the virtual exams went well...no glitches there! Thank you, everyone, for doing your part. We appreciate everyone's flexibility and for putting in extra time to make this work. Now on to our up-coming Performance exams in April. Debbie would like to thank everyone for getting their Repertoire lists in on time!

MEMBER NEWS AND NOTES



Notes from Karen Koch:

Regarding the **MEC Conference**, not only did I attend almost all of the sessions (which were excellent), but I presented one called “Beginner Boot Camp: Giving Students a Head Start”. It went well except that for some odd reason, about 4 slides froze near the end of the session. Fortunately, they loosened up in time for the final slide! I have been starting all my beginners with a “boot camp” that ranges from one to as many as six sessions before giving them a method book—depending on their age and ability. It works well with many transfer students too, as I can identify anything that may need extra attention. We learn basics such as finger numbers, key names, quarter/eighth/half notes, posture, rote pieces and performance bows, recognizing line vs. space notes, and recognizing the sound, notation, and fingering for 2nds and 3rds. It is up to them how quickly they can complete the Boot Camp Checklist of knowledge. Then, when they get their books, they can fly through the first few pages (or review, if needed) which are familiar, and go right on to the pieces with little effort and lots of more eager practice because they are immediately making music. I wish I had figured this out long ago!

I am still debating about the **MTNA Conference**, but probably will attend. It will be less expensive than in person, but also less fun! Last year it was so technically complicated that I hardly got any benefit from it, but I think they and I have both learned a lot in a year’s time. I am comfortable with setting up a zoom session, and have noise canceling headphones and a mic, but my zoom is the free version that shuts down after 40 minutes if there are more than 2 people in the meeting.

It was interesting to me how many people participated in the **Bach/Beethoven session**. I don’t know whether to attribute to the topic, the Zoom accessibility, or both, but I think people are finding that they can learn quite a bit on zoom without having a half day to attend a session. Those of us who know each other, though, are definitely missing the live interaction.

 In February 2022, Alex Petrabor, piano student of **Dr. Stephanie Owen** submitted a video of the Khatchaturian Toccata to the Manhattan Contest of New York City.



From our President:

Here is some additional information from our newest member,
Daniel Fry:

I have a BS in piano pedagogy and MS in Choral Music Education from University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Doctoral studies in vocal coaching/accompanying from same.

I currently serve as a piano/voice teacher in Quincy, IL, instructor of voice/piano at University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy, St. Louis, and as Director of Music at Union United Methodist in Quincy, IL. I do a good bit of freelance accompanying in the area.

Previous music appointments include Central Presbyterian, Clayton, St. Paul UCC, Belleville, First United Methodist, St. Charles, as well as Webster's Community Music School, Opera Theater of St. Louis' AIT program, SLU, and UMSL, as well as The Principia and O'Fallon Twp. HS.

If you did not add his contact information to your membership book, here it is:

Daniel Fry
3400 Callaway Dr
Quincy IL 62301
(217) 390-0062
ddfry3@yahoo.com
Teaching areas: Piano, Voice
Teaching status: Church Music

We had a good attendance at last month's meeting with **Dr. Mark Ruff**. I had a nice reply back from him which I'll share:

 *It was my pleasure to have been invited to deliver the presentation. The questions were extremely engaging and I really appreciated the attentiveness and energy which the listeners brought to our discussion afterwards. It seems that we had a greater audience online than we would have had in person. I am off to give a recital (on Wednesday, Mar. 23) -- playing a Handel suite, several Chopin etudes and Ravel's Miroirs).*

Sounds like another interesting GAE program for the future!



2022 BHEF Wall of Honor Inductee

Dr. Joseph Welch - Class of 2005

Congratulations to **Dr. Joseph Welch** on being selected the 2022 BHEF (Bunker Hill Education Foundation) Wall of Honor Inductee! We already know how talented this guy is! He continues to amaze us.

Joseph Welch graduated from Bunker Hill High School, valedictorian of the class of 2005. He accepted the Meridian Scholarship to attend SIUE, where he completed his Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance, *summa cum laude*. He continued his studies at the University of Minnesota, where he earned his Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts in Collaborative Piano and Vocal Coaching.

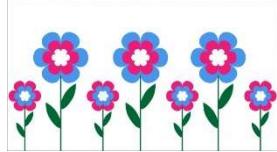
Welch's musical versatility and supportive collaborative spirit have made him a highly valued pianist, coach, and teacher. A sensitive collaborator, Welch has a thriving career in the vocal arts. His performances include collaborations with Christine Brewer, Mathilda Edge, Kevin McBeth, Brennan Blankenship, and Chase Hopkins. His active role in Opera Edwardsville includes playing for outdoor and Christmas concerts as well as music directing a children's opera each year. He also enjoys an on-going relationship with Arts & Faith St. Louis, an organization dedicated to uniting diverse faiths and cultures through music, visual art, and spoken word.

Welch serves as pianist for the In Unison Chorus, and with this ensemble performs at Powell Symphony Hall with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. Other recent choral accompanying credits include the SLSO's Holiday Festival Chorus and St. Louis Children's Choirs' Young Men's Chorus. He trains young singers through the Opera Theatre of St. Louis Artists-in-Training program and, since 2019, has served as Assistant Music Director for Variety Theatre, a one-of-a-kind musical theatre company featuring an inclusive children's ensemble. Additionally, he is the founder and artistic director of St. Louis Art Song, which recently hosted internationally acclaimed composer Libby Larsen in residency through a partnership with SIUE.

Welch serves as Professor of Music at Blackburn College, where he wrote the curriculum for a new Bachelor of Arts in Music. The course of instruction is artist-centric and prepares pianists and singers to launch their performing careers. The foundation of the curriculum is rooted in Welch's doctoral project, "Collaborative Piano in Higher Education". The concepts have been presented in both workshop and presentation form as "The Business of Being a Pianist", which Welch has shared with the Illinois State Music Teachers Association and local chapters of the MTNA.

Welch was a 2021 Intern with the National Association of Teachers of Singing. He has been named Gateway Arch East (ISMTA) Member of the Year and Adjunct Instructor of the Year at Blackburn College. He recently received a faculty grant to pursue a professional certificate in blues, pop, rock, and jazz piano styles at Berklee Online. Continuing an active presence in the communities he grew up in, Welch serves on the boards of Southern Illinois Young Artist Organization and Bunker Hill Education Foundation.

...In Joe's own words: This is very cool and humbling. You can come celebrate with me at Bunker Hill High School on Saturday, March 12! Tickets are \$25 per person and Fema's Catering will provide dinner. Most importantly: the proceeds from this event will be used by the Bunker Hill Education Foundation to provide scholarships for this year's BHHS graduating class.



I also want to share this information from GAE member **Marcie Monaco**:

She says: I know we have several amazing piano teachers in this group. While I am primarily a flutist, I took a few piano students on as a favor because the students' moms were friends of mine and I have adequate piano skills.

I was hoping that maybe I could connect with a few piano teachers to sit in on a lesson or two (or maybe they could just record a lesson and send it to me?) so that I have some ideas where I can send my young pianists once they "graduate" from me.

I also have a very full roster and continue to get several inquiries about piano lessons each month. While I do refer these potential students out to the teachers I know of in my local area, I don't know who has room in their studio, or who is particularly good with wiggly boys, or who has technique that is compatible with my own philosophies. You know, all the important things.

Would you mind terribly sending out an email on behalf asking for piano teachers to reach out to me?

~Marcie

Marcie lives in O'Fallon but I'm sure she has students that live in other areas, too. If you are able to help with her request by letting her observe your teaching or sending a recording of a lesson, she would be grateful for that. Also, let her know if you have room for more students in your studio. **Please reach out to her.** Her phone number is (843) 814-3397. Marcie informs me that she has had a couple of teachers reach out, and hopes a few more will call/text after the Match newsletter comes out. She appreciates your help!

MTNA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

The Early Registration Deadline has been extended to March 15, 2022 for the upcoming 2022 MTNA Virtual Conference. Rates will change after 12:00 Midnight Eastern Time. Stay tuned for more details about what to expect for this highly anticipated virtual event.

The 2022 MTNA Virtual Conference is still planned for **March 26–30, 2022**. Building on its success in 2020 and 2021, it is expected to be the most refined, innovative and engaging virtual event MTNA has ever presented.



And, last but not least, our Treasurer's Report from Joan:

March 2022 GAE Treasurer's Report

Account balance 3/8/22	\$8,534.66		
	2021-22 Budget	Feb 2022	YTD
INCOME			
Memberships	\$205.00	\$10.00	\$210.00
AIM Entry Fees	\$1,580.00	\$95.00	\$1,230.00
Yearbook Ads	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$75.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,860.00	\$105.00	\$1,515.00
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	\$30.30	\$30.30
Programs	\$900.00	\$100.00	\$650.00
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	\$60.00	\$60.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,375.00	\$190.30	\$740.30