

GATEWAY ARCH EAST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

November 2014

<http://gatewaymusicteachers.org> Illinois State Music Teachers Association

President: LeAnn Halvorson; Vice President/Programs: Mary Anderson; Secretary: Stephanie Owen; Treasurer: Karen Koch

Please send newsletter information to: Karen Koch, 618-224-7102, kk@musicedmarket.com



THANKFULNESS SEASON

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Fri., Nov. 21** "Pathfinders: Women Artists and Composers," 10 a.m. by Barbara Kramer and Ann Davidson; Lewis and Clark Community College, Godfrey, IL
- Wed, Jan 14** AIM Theory Registrations for Level 3-12 due by midnight: Student Registration Fee Form to Karen Koch, teacher Judging and Student Enrollment Forms to LeAnn Halvorson (forms available on website)
- Thur, Jan 15** AIM Repertoire Change Requests Due to Stephanie Myers
- Fri, Jan 23** GAE Schubertiad: Art Gallery Tour, Teacher Performances, and Luncheon. SWIC Schmidt Art Center. Call Heidi Shepherd to register as a performer.

Note: The future events calendar for the remainder of 2014-15 is attached below.

WOMEN IN THE ARTS FEATURED AT NEXT MEETING

Be sure to star Friday, Nov 21 at 10 AM on your calendar so you won't miss the special treat that is planned for the November GAE meeting. Our member Barbara Kramer and her collaborator Ann Davidson of Lewis and Clark Community College will present "Pathfinders: Woman Artists and Composers" on the campus of Lewis and Clark College in Hatheway Cultural Center. Ann Davidson will lead a lecture and slide show on women artists in the Lewis and Clark Art Collection, including commissioned sculptures in the gardens immediately outside the Hatheway Cultural Center and Barbara Kramer will perform music by women composers Clara Schumann, Cecile Chaminade, Marian McPartland, and Carol King.

An optional "add-on" will be lunch at the famous Josephine's Tea Room just across the street from the College, but reservations are needed for that so if you wish to join in the informal

post-program lunch bunch, please make your intention known no later than Tuesday, Nov 18 by phoning Mary Anderson (618-233-4584) or emailing Karen Koch kk@musicmarket.com so that we can avoid a long wait for luncheon without reservations.

DIRECTIONS: Take 255 North to Godfrey – go South on U.S. 67 ---a few blocks to the North entrance of the Lewis and Clark - security office is at that entrance and can supply directions to Hatheway.

Barbara Kramer holds a M.M. in piano performance and M.M.E. from SIUE, as well as a B. Mus. in piano performance from Lindenwood University. She studied with Rosina Lhevinne, Ozan Marsh, and Ruth Slenczynska. Her teaching career has involved being a piano instructor at Lewis and Clark Community College, Blackburn University, along with private teaching. She also taught general and choral music at Southwestern Jr. High School and has been an organist and choir director, and serves as local auditions chair in Alton for the American Guild of Musicians auditions.

ISMTA STATE CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Millikin University in Decatur was the host for the 2014 ISMTA Conference on November 7-9. Among GAE members in attendance were Dr. Huei Li Chin (Convention Chair), Dr. Catherine Burge (clinician on “Golandsky/Taubman Technique in Everyday Life “), LeAnn Halvorson (ISMTA board member), Amy Jo Sawyer (state composition contest winner), and Karen Koch (exhibitor). Also seen: Gill Cerbin and Mary Anderson & her student, Walter.



Amy Jo's pieces were performed by students at a special session of the Conference. The photo shows her with performers Phyllis Wang, student of Jennifer Cohen, Felix Yang, student of Brenda Conroy, William Mallard, student of Chungha Kim, and Dr. Joshua Russell, state chair of the Composer Commissioning Program. The students were presented with copies of the first page of the pieces they performed, as Amy Jo dedicated each piece to its individual performer.

AIM QUESTIONS? CONTACT. . .

For AIM information, here are state contact persons: Questions on new Theory Exams: Rita Brown, AIM Theory Chair, 630-668-0649. Questions on Technique or Repertoire or Level 12 Repertoire Permission: Debbie Gillette, AIM Repertoire Chair, pianodeb@msn.com Repertoire Substitution Requests- Stephanie Myers: hisamimyrs@gmail.com

CLAVINOVA FESTIVAL AND MUSIC LINK

(From Debbie Meier and LeAnn Halvorson)



A Clavinova Festival was held on November 1, 2014 at Piano Distributors in Fairview Heights, Illinois featuring performances by 27 students from 4 participating teachers. (LeAnn Halvorson, Katie Hanley, Pam Masching, and Deb Meier) A big thank you to Yamaha and Piano Distributors for sponsoring this successful event! Manager Steven Trawford organized the festival and plans to continue this yearly event, along with the collaboration with MusicLink through Gateway Arch East MTA and Illinois MusicLink Coordinator, Deborah Meier.

Students participating in the Clavinova festival received a t-shirt, certificate, and a goodie bag containing treats, a lanyard and sunglasses. Each student was entered into the grand prize drawing for a Yamaha digital keyboard (P-255). Mitch Baldwin, (9), student of LeAnn Halvorson was the lucky winner. A few months after he started piano, his little sister, Lucy, who just turned 7, started piano lessons. At the Clavinova Festival, Mitch's mother mentioned that their 2 foster children, Xander and Connor will start piano lessons this week. The family is committed to keeping the kids practicing and learning. Winning the Yamaha digital piano at the Clavinova Festival is great for this family, because they now have another practicing instrument for the 4 children.

A total of \$500 was collected from pledges to benefit Music Link children in Illinois. Funds raised will help pay for practice instruments, music, piano moving and tunings, instrument repairs, expense reimbursement for teachers and Summer Music Camp Scholarships for students. Thanks to all the participants who raised funds through pledges for these performances and promoted MusicLink by "kids helping kids!"

MTNA IN LAS VEGAS

The annual conference of the Music Teachers National Association (March 21-25, 2015) will happen this year in Las Vegas at the Rio Hotel. Highlights of the Conference will include evening recitals by Lady Jeanne Galway and Sir James Galway, the Canadian Brass, and Ann Schein. Lang Lang will present an advanced piano master class, and Scott McBride Smith will conduct an intermediate piano master class. Conference attendees have the opportunity to network with colleagues from around the globe, experience sessions by internationally known pedagogues and witness performances by accomplished artists and budding student competitors. Schedules and registration information are available at www.mtna.org.



Mitch Baldwin with new Clavinova!



Debbie Meier with Steve Trawford of Piano Distributors, new Business Partner with MusicLink.

AUDITION RESULTS from SOUTHERN DISTRICT ISMTA (from Huei Li Chin)

Results of the Saturday, October 18 at SIUE in the Southern District ISMTA auditions have been announced by Chairman Dr. Huei Li Chin. Bridget Hill placed 1st, Maria Hamilton 2nd, and Allison Komeshak 3rd in the elementary level. They are students of Ms. Gill Cerbin. Jason Pan (student of Dr. Kris Pineda) was winner of the junior category and James Prudent (student of Dr. Cully Bell) was winner of the senior category. Both contestants competed at the state level at Millikin University on November 8. Walter Thomas-Patterson, student of Mary Anderson also competed in Decatur.

Dr. Stephanie Owen provided the information from the SIUE auditions pertaining to her students: Elementary District: Josh Layman, student of Stephanie Owen, rating 1. Junior High District: MyKayla Williamson, student of Stephanie Owen, rating 1.

TIDBITS

Welcome to our newest member, pianist **CHRISTINA WITKOWSKI**. Here is her contact information to add to your membership directory: 1733 Creekside Drive, Swansea IL 62226. 618-407-9588. chrstnwickowski@yahoo.com.

GAE was well-represented by a small, but quite visible, number at the ISMTA Conference at Millikin. **HUEI LI** served her final year as the Convention Chair and clinicians, exhibitors, and teachers of contestants. In addition, Madeline Moylan, freshman music major and one of two Presidential Scholars at Millikin (and former AIM student of **KAREN KOCH**) was in attendance to learn and assist as needed as a monitor for auditions.

Bonus

On October 28, 2014, an article appeared in the Wall Street Journal featuring Ruth Slenczynska, a past speaker for GAE during her time at SIUE and a former teacher of several GAE members. She is approaching her 90th birthday with, as noted in the title of the piece, "no signs of diminuendo".

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/pianist-ruth-slenczynska-89-shows-no-signs-of-diminuendo-1414515528>

END