

GATEWAY ARCH EAST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

October 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@musicmarket.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

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|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fri., Oct. 17 | “Improvisation and Composition,” 10 a.m. by Amy Jo Sawyer; Lacefield Music, Shiloh, IL |
| Sat, Oct 18 | ISMTA South District Auditions at SIUE. Dunham Hall 1109. |
| Sat, Nov 1 | Clavinova Festival at Piano Distributors. Details below. |
| Fri.-Sun., Nov. 7-9 | ISMTA Conference; Millikin University, Decatur, IL |
| Fri., Nov. 21 | “Pathfinders: Women Artists and Composers,” 10 a.m. by Barbara Kramer and Ann Davidson; Lewis and Clark Community College, Godfrey, IL |

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

AMY JO’S TIPS ON TEACHING IMPROV AND COMPOSITION

Our own Amy Jo Sawyer is the presenter for Friday, October 17 at 10 AM. Gill Cerbin and Stephanie Owen will also treat us to a duet performance. Here’s what Amy Jo will share in her “COMPOSITION & IMPROVISATION” presentation. She will discuss improvisation as she performs her three original pieces that won the 2014 Composers Commissioning Project for ISMTA, along with the three newly commissioned pieces that will be performed by selected students at the ISMTA Conference on Nov 8.

AIM - SORTING OUT THE REVISIONS!

The new AIM Syllabus books have been distributed to participating AIM members, and

LeAnn Halvorson conducted a tutoring session on the new AIM updates on Oct 3. **The handout that she prepared is attached as this month's BONUS offering**, and will be available on the website as well. She has offered to do another session on Levels 8-12 upon request, so let her know.

Additional AIM change coverage will happen on November 8 at the ISMTA annual conference at Millikin University, where Debby Gillette will conduct an AIM session to inform teachers about the changes. For additional 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

RESIDUAL ASSISTANCE FROM SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September AIM meeting was highly successful from the standpoint of both attendance and content. LeAnn Halvorson filmed the presentation and is attempting to make Heidi Hamernik, PhD, a clinical psychologist and Kristine Konrad, a private piano teacher in River Forest, teamed to present a fascinating and useful presentation on defining, recognizing, and accommodating dyslexia in students. They pointed out that 6% of the population has diagnosed dyslexia in some degree, and a much higher proportion of the population has not been diagnosed. Accommodations for teaching these students are highly individual and require experimentation and patience, but their handout offered many specific suggestions. Following the presentation, Dr. Hamernik offered to reply to any questions and gave this contact number: 708-297-1969 along with her invitation to use it.

MULTIPLYING MTNA MEMBERSHIP

(from Debbie Meier)

MTNA is encouraging growth of membership, and in that effort, we are asking current GAE members to invite any music teachers attend our October meeting. If you will send their contact information, Deb will make a direct contact with them to invite as well. (Meet our newest GAE member below in TIDBITS)

ISMTA STATE CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Millikin University in Decatur will be the host for the 2014 ISMTA Conference on November 7-9. GAE members often carpool, and the contact person will be LeAnn Halvorson for arrangements. She and Hwei Li will be going on Thursday night. Others may depart early on Friday morning. GAE member Dr. Catherine Burge will be a clinician on "Golandsky/Taubman Technique in Everyday Life" and many other sessions will be available. Conference schedule details are online at <http://www.ismta.org>

. The conference hotel discount was guaranteed until Oct 8, and some members have already reserved an extra bed or two. Conference meals can be ordered online.

AIM REPERTOIRE CHECKER NEEDED

As mentioned last month, our main AIM repertoire checker, Kate (Hyatt) Braatz, may be moving to Texas for her new husband's move. If this happens, we are in need of someone else to take over responsibility for receiving the repertoire lists for AIM performance exams and verifying that the chosen repertoire for each student meets the requirements. If you would be willing to stand by for help with this, please contact LeAnn Halvorson, (618)281-6286; halvorso@htc.net.

CLAVINOVA FESTIVAL AND MUSIC LINK PARTNERSHIP

(From Debbie Meier)

A number of Gateway Arch East Music Teachers Association members (and anyone else who is interested) will have students participating in the Clavinova Festival at Piano Distributors, 455 Salem Place in Fairview Heights on November 1 at 2:00 PM. Students can play any song



they like with the only catch being that they have to use the Clavinova's features in some way. Each participant has a **chance to win a brand new Yamaha Digital piano** in the drawing that will be held immediately after the final performance! Entry deadline was October 1.

Once again, MusicLink is collaborating with the Clavinova Festival. We are hoping to raise funds for students who are unable to afford music instruction. This organization helps provide assistance to disadvantaged children who wish to take music lessons by offering them instruments, discounted music, and scholarships to music camps, along with paying for contest fees.

The MusicLink program has been in existence for the past 22 year and has reached almost 6,000 students in all 50 states providing over 372,000 hours of instruction equivalent to over \$10 million in scholarship donation by teachers and sponsors.

In light of the fact that many of the GAE members are not participating in the Clavinova Festival, would you consider giving a donation to MusicLink Foundation? All donations are tax deductible and will benefit Illinois children. Please make checks out to MusicLink Foundation or give cash gifts to Debbie. Tax receipts will be provided. Please help us MEET or BEAT last year's donation of \$560!

AUDITIONS for SOUTHERN DISTRICT ISMTA (from Huei Li Chin)

Saturday, October 18 at SIUE will be the Southern District ISMTA auditions. Chairman is Dr. Huei Li Chin, Campus Box 1771, Music Department, SIUE, Edwardsville, IL 62026-1771.

TAKE A CHANCE ON THE 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.

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.

Lauren Cerbin, daughter of **GILL CERBIN** and a vocal student of **STEPHANIE OWEN** sang "Summertime" at the Belleville 200 Idol Contest and was a finalist. Here's a link to her [performance](#). Another student of **STEPHANIE's**, Olivia Gregory, has won a place by audition for the St Louis Children's Chorus.

GILL CERBIN and **STEPHANIE OWEN** filmed their impressive 2-piano Rachmaninoff performance and posted it on Youtube [here](#) for us to enjoy.

Here's a nice idea! Since some of the former AIM repertoire pieces have been removed from the new syllabus, **DEBBIE MEIER** will be bringing some of these outdated pieces to the upcoming meeting to give away free. She suggests that teachers may find the "discards" useful for sight-reading or as giveaway music for students on a tight budget.

If you or any students are contemplating the purchase of a new piano, this information from **CATHERINE BURGE** may be of interest. [Yamaha Scholarships Available](#)

Bonus

"Comparison of 2014 and 2003 AIM Requirements", compiled by LeAnn Halvorson.
(Click on the attachment to this newsletter if you wish to print this out)



For your calendar: Looking Ahead to . . .
2015 GAE Programs and Events

Wed., Jan. 14th, 2015 – Level 3-12 AIM Theory Registrations due by midnight to the following: Student Registration Fee Form to Karen Koch, Teacher Judging and Student Enrollment Forms to LeAnn Halvorson (forms available on website)

Thur., Jan. 15th – AIM Repertoire Changes Due to Lynette Zelis, 203 E. Hawthorne, Wheaton, IL 60187-3607; lzmusic@sbcglobal.net; (630) 260-9315

Fri., Jan. 23rd, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. – Schubertiad; Art Gallery Tour, Teacher Performances, and Luncheon at The Schmidt Art Center, SWIC. If you are performing, call or email Heidi Shepherd with program information.

Sat./Sun., Feb. 14th-15th – AIM Level 3-12 Theory Exams at SWIC; T.B.A. at SIUE

Fri., Feb. 20th, 10 a.m. – “Collaborative Pieces for Early Advanced Pianists,” presented by Joseph Welch; McKendree University, Lebanon, IL

Wed., Mar. 4th, Midnight – AIM Repertoire Forms due (forms available on website). Send to: Mary Anderson (snail mail), or Kate Hyatt (email) musikate@gmail.com

Wed., Mar. 11th, Midnight – AIM Levels 1-12 Student Registration Forms Due. Fee Form to Karen Koch, Teacher Judging and Student Enrollment Forms to Joan Witte (forms available on website).

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