 GATEWAY **ARCH EAST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER**

April 2017

[http://gatewaymusicteachers.org](http://www.gatewaymusicteachers.org/)  Illinois State Music Teachers Association

President: [LeAnn Halvorson](mailto:halvorso@htc.net?subject=President); Vice President/Programs Gill Cerbin; Secretary: Tara Wright; Treasurer: Karen Koch

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fri, Apr 21, 10 AM GAE Meeting at SIUE. Dr. Chris Tsitsaros from University of Illinois, “Elements of Technique” showcasing his own compositions.

Sat/Sun, Apr 22-23 AIM Performance Exams at SWIC

Sat/Sun, Apr 29-30 AIM Performance Exams at SWIC

Fri, May 19 End of Year Luncheon at Ruby Tuesday Restaurant, Fairview Hgts.

DR. CHRISTOS TSITSAROS PRESENTATION ON FRIDAY

A special opportunity awaits GAE members on Friday in the SIUE Choral Room at 10 AM when Dr. Christos Tsitsaros, Professor and Chairman of the Piano Pedagogy division at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will present “Innovative and Integrated Ways of Approaching, Understanding, and Practicing the Music We Perform: A Path to Reaching Artistic Fulfillment”.

In this session. Dr.Tsitsaros will elaborate on the importance of cultivating the internal ear, and engaging a natural and effective natural approach to technique in order to allow the artistic potential to blossom and reach its full potential. (He may be persuaded to perform some of his own compositions as well.) Please feel free to invite guests to this special presentation.

AIM PERFORMANCE EXAMS ARE TRENDING

The final lap of the 2016-17 AIM Marathon will begin Saturday, April 21. Site Coordinator Heidi Shepherd sent this note: “This time for AIM we’ll have the music rooms w/o added jazz!”.

(For those who weren’t present for the February Saturday exams, she is referring to the enthusiastic participants at the SWIC Jazz Festival who were playing adjacent to our exam rooms.)

GAE ELECTION LOOMING

In some cases the officers who are currently serving GAE are nearing the ends of their terms. President LeAnn Halvorson is thinking ahead. “I will need current officers and chairman to think about if they want to continue in their position/change/ or hopefully not stop being in their

current positions. May meeting will be here before we know it.” (Editor’s Note: Yup! May 19!)

TIDBITS

**STEPHANIE OWEN’S** vocal student, Olivia Gregory, was waitlisted for New York University in opera, and a New York agent has contacted Connor Johnson to submit a clip to try for a touring company of Elf .

Our accordion phenom, **AMY JO SAWYER,** has a dual personality with expertise in both piano and accordion. She is currently serving as president of the international Accordion Teachers Guild and sent this Link to ATG March Bulletin

**RUTH STITH** and **GILL CERBIN** will be performing at the SLU Faculty Recital on Friday, April 28th at College Church, St Louis at 7pm.  All welcome.

 **DEBBIE MEIER** is now, as predicted, a double grandma since the birth on March 29 of Joy Eileen Schelp born at 1:20 a.m., 6lbs 14 ounces. Mama is Katie Meier Schelp, an AIM alum and now a music teacher in Oklahoma.

News from **DR. JOE WELCH** is that he performed the Turina and second Mozart Piano Quartets with members of the Illinois Symphony on their "Around the Town" chamber music series on April 6 and 7.  On Thursday, May 4 at 7:30pm, he will perform “Rhapsody in Blue” with the McKendree University Wind Ensemble in the Hettenhausen Center.  The concert is free.

BONUS

A Prayer for Teachers *from Keyboard Companion, Spring 1991*

\*Help me to teach for as long as I can breathe without wheezing and puffing.

\*Help me to march up and down in the studio in 2/4, 4/4, and 6/8 meters, waltz a little in ¾, swing my arms, and clap my hands until arthritis sets in.

\*Help me to be as enthusiastic with the tenth pupil of the day as I was with the first, even if the material has been used 1—1 times before.

\*Help me to shed any irritation from one lesson before I begin the next.

\*Help me to explain to a student that being provoked with him musically is not the same as being provoked with him personally.

\*Help me to explain how a painter works with canvas and colors and creates something long lasting as does the sculptor and other artists, but as musical performers we must do an exceptional job because we leave only impressions.

\*Help me to convince my students that the quotation, “It takes three to make music: one to create, one to perform, and one to listen, and who can say which is the greatest?” doesn’t mean that he should be the listener. (Apologies to Robert Haven Schauffer for changing appreciate to listen.)

\*Help me to convey to girls that any ape in the jungle can grow finger nails but not everyone has the ability or opportunity to play the piano.

\*Help me not to care too deeply when I lose a pupil or to mourn when a student whom I have taught since early childhood goes off to college and never remembers to call or visit again.

\*Help me to continue shooting those arrows into the air with hope that some will land on fertile soil.

\*Help me to continue supporting the government in the luxury to which it has become accustomed and to furnish myself with the essentials.

\*Help me to teach-teach-teach, even if, at the end, my tombstone reads only:

RUTH BURDINE LOBBIN. She made her pupils count out loud. END

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