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GATEWAY ARCH EAST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

April 2015

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

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



UPCOMING EVENTS (See details in articles)

Sat/Sun Apr 11-12, 18-19
Fri, Apr 24

AIM Performance Exams, All Levels
GAE ,10 AM at piano Distributors. Meeting “History of Stride Piano, Ragtime, and Boogie Woogie” by Stephanie Trick.
GAE, 11 AM Business Meeting and Luncheon at Ravanelli’s Restaurant, O’Fallon. Elections, Member of Year Selection

Fri, May 15

GAE MEETING APRIL 24: What You Have Always Wanted to Know about Stride, Ragtime, Boogie Woogie (and All That Jazz!)

The location for our April 24 meeting at Piano Distributors has been confirmed, even though the store has just sent out a “store closing sale” notice, according to President LeAnn Halvorson. The closing will not happen before our meeting.

Presenter Stephanie Trick was the 2012 recipient of the prestigious Kobe-Breda Jazz Friendship Award and has performed in many parts of the US as well as in Europe, and she has accepted a “gig” as our upcoming presenter for the April 24 meeting. She provided this introduction to what she will “show and tell” at our 10 AM meeting that day:

“Harlem stride piano is a style of piano playing that became wildly popular in the 1920s and 1930s. The term “stride” describes the way in which the left hand makes long leaps across

the keyboard to hit a lower bass note and alternately a chord in the middle register. Stride piano was an offshoot of ragtime, an earlier style born in the Midwest that uses heavy syncopation and elements from marches. Boogie Woogie piano developed in Chicago, coupling the form of the blues with motor-like, more energetic left-hand patterns.”

MARCH 27 GAE MEETING SALVAGED BY A MEMBER

Dr. Stephanie Owen and Gill Cerbin had prepared carefully for their duet performance to be presented at the March 27 GAE meeting. Unfortunately, they and their audience arrived at Piano Distributors only to find the doors locked as a result of a communication mishap. Gill Cerbin stepped in with a gracious offer to host the recital at her Belleville home, so with a short travel delay, the meeting and duo performance was moved south and took place after all. Thank you for the “southern hospitality”, Gill!

NOMINATION TIME

President LeAnn Halvorson needs assistance for a “shoes to fill” position of Nominating Chairman. She is looking for a volunteer who will help her avoid having to appoint someone for the job! Officer terms are two years with an option to extend for one additional 2-year term. Our current President, Vice President and Secretary have all completed just one year of their 2-year terms. Secretary Stephanie Owen has completed her first 2-year term and could renew for another, so this Nominating Chairman should have an easy task.

In addition to these officers, LeAnn has listed other positions that are, or will be, needed to make our excellent GAE chapter continue to function well:

- 1) Webmaster for the GAE website.
- 2) Repertoire Checker for AIM Performance Exams
- 3) Theory AIM Scheduler for 2016
- 4) Theory AIM Printing, Collating, Teacher Binder preparation
- 5) And a new idea: a GAE MTA public relations person to help us become more visible in the area.

Editorial Comment Here: If you value your membership in GAE because of how it enriches you and/or your students, please consider carefully which tasks you could do, and volunteer for something! We are a volunteer organization with a membership of over 30 people, and that should be enough so that just a few individuals do not feel it necessary to do double or triple duty. Obviously volunteer organizations cannot function without VOLUNTEERS! We have enthusiasm for a good thing going, and don't want to run out of fuel. . .

2015 AIM EXAMS: FINAL MOVEMENT

As this newsletter is being sent, the final weekend of AIM exams for 2015 has begun. A report summary will be included in the next newsletter.

NCKP REGISTRATION DEADLINE NOW MAY 1

The National Conference for Keyboard Pedagogy, held in alternating years in Lombard IL, is scheduled this year for July 29-Aug 1. Several GAE members will be attending. The registration deadline for the early discounted registration fee was recently extended to May 1. Information about this conference is available [here](#).

TIDBITS

GAE Student Honors for this month:

Jaleah Powell, piano student of **DR STEPHANIE OWEN** was accepted in March into the commercial music program at University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

Rachel Rivera, student of **KAREN KOCH** was awarded a Superior rating for her performance of “The Great Smoky Mountains” at the Illinois Grade School Music Association



contest.

AMY JO SAWYER played the accordion parts with the St. Louis Symphony for “The Godfather “ movie on March 27-28-29. She reported that the score was 73 pages long and LOTS of accordion music!

Pneumonia nailed **DEBBIE MEIER** and kept her out of circulation and in hospital for a few days followed by several days of testing and even more of recuperation. Along with irregular heartbeat and extreme fatigue, she experienced lack of appetite. Those who know Deb were worried, as she NEVER misses mealtime! Fortunately at last report she is now on the mend, so cards would probably be welcome.

BONUS #1

You'd never know it now, but Wynton Marsalis was apparently a somewhat reluctant music student. [“Wynton’s Twelve Ways to Practice”](#) may be helpful for your students whether learning music, a sport, or any other desired skill.

BONUS #2

If you are seeking a venue for live music performances or for your talented student performances, you may be interested in the following information that was distributed recently concerning the [Tavern of Fine Arts](#) at 313 Belt Avenue in St. Louis:

As the spring semester rolls on, we would like to let you know of performance opportunities for your students at the Tavern of Fine Arts. As experienced music instructors, we know how difficult it can be to find opportunities for students to gain important on-stage experience. So often they work for months or years for a single performance. So much hard work and dedication should be rewarded with more than just one performance. In the past we have featured performances by students from Washington University, Webster University, SLU, SIUE, UMSL, University of Missouri - Columbia, St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Community Music School of Webster University, and numerous high schools and elementary schools from around the area.

The Tavern is the perfect venue to reprise the junior or senior recital, to try out a new piece, or just to gain much needed stage experience in a comfortable environment. The room is small with a great live acoustic that makes it easy to perform. We have a six-foot Yamaha piano that has recently undergone a complete overhaul by Jackson Pianos. They have regulated the action and repaired the pedals and legs. Soon they will be tightening and repairing the soundboard as well. The work has profoundly improved the way the instrument plays and sounds. We will continue our partnership with them to maintain the piano and keep it tuned and in tip top shape.

Open Stage - Second Monday (monthly)

For students who are working on just one or two pieces, we hold an open stage that focuses on classical music. It is a great opportunity for amateurs, students, and professionals to present work in a short format for an appreciative audience. Vera Parkin generously provides accompaniment for singers and instrumentalists who need it during the first hour and a half.



The next two dates are **April 13th** and **May 11th**. There is no need to register in advance, just show up and sign in. We have had performers from ages 6 to 89 on the open stage and we always have a great time.

Cabaret Open Stage - Third Wednesday (monthly)

The St. Louis Cabaret Project holds an open mic night that features music from on and off Broadway, the American Songbook, and other popular genres. Accompaniment is provided by Carol Schmidt for the entire evening and the event attracts a crowd of very talented local singers. The next event will be **April 15th**. There is no need to call ahead, just show up on the night of the event and sign in with the host, Chuck Lavazzi.

Recitals

We are happy to book students of all ages and ability for recitals lasting anywhere from 20 minutes to 2 hours (or more in the unlikely event that they have that much material!). While we have events booked for most days of our calendar, we would be happy to book shorter performances either before or after our main events. Students who have a full-length recital prepared or in the works should call ([314 367 7549](tel:3143677549)) or [email](#) for booking and we can find a date. It is a great way to prepare for an important academic recital or celebrate the completion of one by doing it again!

Studio Recitals

We make our room available free of charge to independent teachers for studio recitals. These are generally on Saturday afternoons and we have received a lot of positive feedback from parents who enjoy being able to order lunch or a drink while hearing their favorite musicians perform. Please call ([314 367 7549](tel:3143677549)) or [email](#) for booking.

We look forward to hearing your students perform at the Tavern!

Sincerely,

Mathew Daniels

[Tavern of Fine Arts](#)

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