**GATEWAY ARCH EAST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER-September 2017**



[http://gatewaymusicteachers.org](http://www.gatewaymusicteachers.org/)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fri, September 15 GAE Meeting at McKendree University. “Interpreting the Composer’s Intent” by Dr. Geoffrey Duce of Illinois State University. 10 AM-11:50.

Fri, October 20 GAE Meeting at Gill Cerbin’s Home. “Introducing Impressionism to Students” by Dr. Daniel Schene of Webster University. 10 am-Noon

Nov 3-5 ISMTA Annual Conference at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais IL.

Nov 17 GAE Meeting at Miller Music Store. ISMTA Conference Feedback sharing from attendees.

**GAE at McKENDREE on Sept 15**

If you have ever wondered what sound the composer of a piece was imagining, you will want to hear Dr. Geoffrey Duce’s presentation on “Interpreting the Composer’s Intent” at the next GAE meeting on Friday, September 15 from 10 AM to 11:50. We will be enjoying the fine piano in the choral room at MeKendree’s Hett, compliments of the McKendree Music Department. Guests are welcome, as are McKendree students and staff. Read more on the attachment. It should be a great meeting. Please attend this wonderful program.

AUGUST GAE OPENING MEETING

GAE began the new school year on August 18 at Miller Music with their hospitality allowing a fine spread of pot luck goodies. There was reporting of summer activities, and some sharing of teaching ideas gleaned from KETS (LeAnn and Debbie), and NCKP (Karen). Gill Cerbin revealed the program plans for the year, and the budget was passed as presented.

GAE YEARBOOK

We are awaiting a few more items to be locked in before releasing the yearbook. AIM dates from SWIC, are the main items. As soon as we get that information, the yearbook will be released. In the meantime, we have the newsletter to keep us on track.

CONCERTS IN BELLEVILLE and ALTON BY

The Belleville Philharmonic is trying a new offering - Great Pianists of the World - Steinway Recital Series. The concerts are normally offered only in major cities, but have been arranged for four performances at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Belleville. This an opportunity for families to provide their talented children with exposure to world-class musical mentors, at an extremely affordable price for subscribers. Information about tickets and concerts is on the website at [bellevillephilharmonic.org](http://bellevillephilharmonic.org/). The concerts are

Saturday, September 23, 2017 at 7:30 pm . Alexander Slobodyanik, piano

Saturday, January 13, 2018 at 7:30 pm. Ian Gindes, piano

Saturday, March 24, 2018 at 7:30 pm. Elena Ulyanova, piano

Sunday, April 29, 2018 at 3:00 pm. Lorraine Min, piano

Greater Alton Concert Association also has this concert line up. [altonconcerts.org](http://www.altonconcerts.org) Click on the link to their website for more information.

Saturday, September 23, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. Let’s Hang on – Frankie Valli Tribute Show

Sunday, October 8, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. Two on Tap – Melissa Giattino and Ron DeStefano sing and dance their way into your hearts

Sunday, November 12th, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. **Steven Vanhauwaert,** concert pianist from Belgium

Sunday, March 18th, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. Tony Pace – Singer, Impressionist, Musician

Saturday, April 14th, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. The Sidestreet Strutters – Award winning Jazz group

TIDBITS

**JOAN WITTE** underwent surgery at Barnes Hospital for removal of her ailing thyroid gland. She is now home with a planned recovery period of three weeks before she will resume her teaching schedule. She will welcome our support as she regains her strength. If you wish to write: 298 W. Oak ST, Aviston IL 62216.

Clavier Companion will be delivered to the homes of several GAE members, thanks to the efforts of **DEBBIE MEIER,** who coordinated a group subscription at a reduced price.

The August [Cotati Accordian Festival](http://www.cotatifest.com) (Year of the Woman) website in Cotati, California incudes an extensive bio and photo of **AMY JO SAWYER,** who was one of several featured performers there this year.

**GILL CERBIN’s** daughter Lauren has just won First Prize in the world-wide Great Composer Series online competition for her “Best Debussy Performance” of the vocal “Nuit d’etoiles”. Competitors come from all over---US, Australia, UK Bulgaria, China, etc. and play or sing. Earlier she also won a First Prize earlier this summer for their “Rising Talents of the World” competition. Lauren is on a roll. She also took 2nd prize in the global Great Composers Competition, “Artist of the Year.” This was open exclusively to previous Prize winners and showcased the best of the best from all around the world across all instruments. Congrats!!!!

**LYNETTE ZELIS** ISMTA State MTA President, is asking all members to check on their dues status and that they have been paid for this year. Gateway Arch East MTA sometimes gets late notification from MTNA, so we thank you if your dues are paid. This will also speed up the completion of the yearbook. She also is asking us to invite friends who are teachers to attend meetings, and tell them of the many benefits from being an MTNA member. One big benefit recently is the 80% discount on some items from Office Depot/Office Max. Check it out.

BONUS

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| [onfucius](http://izquotes.com/author/confucius) | “[I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.](http://izquotes.com/quote/40959)” ―[Confucius](http://izquotes.com/author/confucius) |

**“How to Get Students to Follow Directions the First Time”, byAngela Watson**

***(****Angela is a National Board Certified Teacher with 11 years of classroom experience and 7 years experience as an instructional coach. This is an excerpted version of her article available on Pinterest, for classroom teachers, but many of these suggestions can be very effective in piano lessons too. Give your teaching skills a boost with this read!)*

**. . . .A big part of a teacher’s job is teaching students to listen, follow directions, and be self-directed and independent in their work, and that means LOTS of repetition and reinforcement. It can be exhausting, for sure, so here are some tips to help kids listen to your directions and follow them the first time:**

### Speak up and say exactly what you need.

**There have been many times when I gave directions and heard my students whispering to each other afterward, “What’d she say?” even though I was certain I’d been perfectly clear. Eventually my husband pointed out my habit of trailing off mid-sentence and assuming people  know what I’m talking about. I realized that I’d often given the first part of a direction to the class, and when the classroom began buzzing with the background noise of students getting materials from their desks and whispering to each other, I assumed they knew what to do and didn’t command the same attention for the remainder of the directions. I’ve had to be very mindful about enunciating and making sure I’ve given the full directions very clearly.**

### Use a magic word so students don’t move or talk until you’re done giving directions.

**This is a wonderful trick for elementary-aged students that I picked up from a co-teacher. Choose a silly word like “pepperoni” or a fun vocabulary word and teach students not to lift a finger until they hear you say it. For example: “When you hear the magic word which is? [class says “pepperoni”), you’re going to get out your math journal, pencil, and eraser. [Pause] Pepperoni.” Young students will listen intently to everything you say in anticipation of hearing the magic word, and you can let kids take turns choosing the magic word for the week to keep their interest up. *Note: Good for the eginning of a piano lesson to help focus!***

### Have students repeat directions back to you.

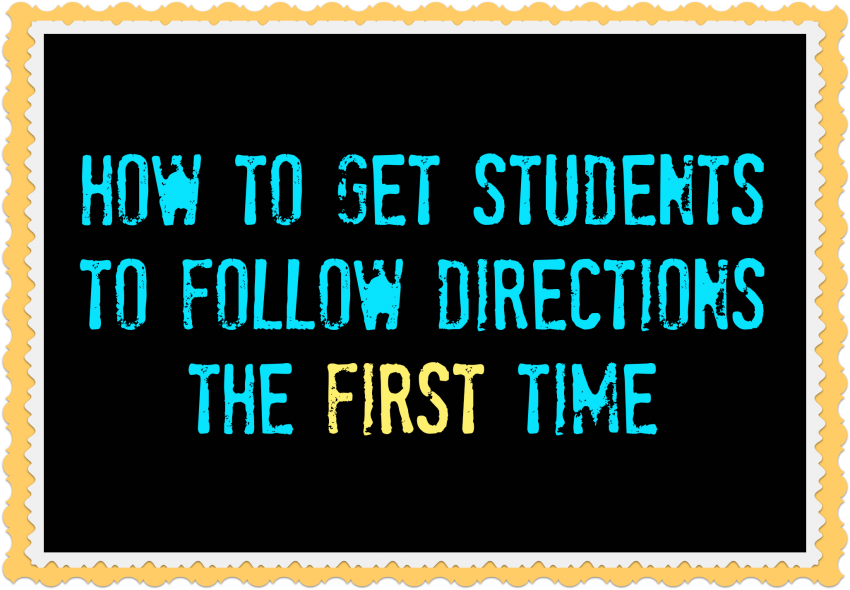
**There are several ways you can do this, and I like to switch it up to keep kids on their toes. Sometimes I’ll say, “Tell your partner what the directions are for this activity” and hold up 10 fingers, slowly putting my fingers down one at a time until I’m at zero, then I release students to begin the activity. Other times I’ll have students repeat the directions back to me in unison: “I need you to take out your math book and turn to page 67. Which page? [67] Thank you, go ahead.” I’ve also known teachers who give students a moment of silence to think about the directions and visualize themselves following through.**

### Write important information in a special place on the board. *(Or on a small post-it note that can be moved from one page to another for home practice)*

**Anytime you mention a page number, a time, or any other detail students are likely to forget, make a note of it in a designated section of your board. Then you can simply point to the board or poster instead of repeating yourself. Many students find this extremel**y helpful, and over time, they will learn to check the board before asking you to give the directions again.

### Use a backwards countdown or timer to keep things moving.

**Isn’t it funny how something as simple as cleaning up math manipulatives can take ten minutes if you allow it to drag on? The timer is your best friend. Tell kids they’ve got 2 minutes to get everything put away and be prepared for the next activity. You can use a real timer and put it under a document camera for students to see, or project an online timer or timer app on your IWB to display the countdown. For really short time periods, countdown verbally and show the amount on your hands: “When I get to zero, I need you to have your backpack on and be ready to line up. 10, 9, 8…” When time is up, move on to the next activity just like you said you’d do, and let stragglers catch up without acknowledging them except to help as needed. If you’re consistent with this, students will learn you mean what you say and they have to keep pace!**



### Give students a purpose for following the directions.

**If you want students to open their novels prior in preparation for a discussion, say, “Please turn to page 214 and find the word quintessential. I’d like you put your finger on that word and be prepared to talk about what it means. . . .**

### Ask, “What should you be doing right now?” *(“How could you fix this mistake?”)*

**When students are off-task, it’s tempting to repeat yourself or nag. Instead, prompt students with questions that require them to think about their choices and the task at hand. Most of the time, students know the correct answer and will either tell you or simply get on task.**

### Talk less.

**The more students hear your voice, the more likely they are to tune you out, and before you know it, you’ve become the teacher on Charlie Brown.** …**try to speak only when you have something important to say, and resist the urge to fill every moment of instruction with commentary. Remember: the person doing the most talking is the person doing the most learning, so that role should go to the kids.**

END

Officers: President LeAnn Halvorson; Vice President Gill Cerbin; Secretary Tara Wright; Treasurer Karen Koch.