



West Suburban MTA

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An Affiliate of the Illinois State
Music Teachers Association

Monthly Newsletter

December 2011

Diane Lindsay, Newsletter Editor

Ruth Daube, Mailing Coordinator

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Sat. Nov. 19, 2011.....***AiM Theory Exams.** McAlister Hall, Wheaton College.

*Thurs. Dec. 1, 2011.....***9:30 a.m. Monthly Meeting, Cookie Exchange, and Presentation: Elvina Pearce: Challenges for the 21st Century Music Teacher.** Trinity Episcopal Church, Wheaton. **Don't forget to bring cookies for our annual cookie exchange!**

*Sun. Dec. 4, 2011.....***3:00 p.m. Student Recital, Wheaton College, Pierce Chapel 104.**
Coordinator: Joanne King at 630-690-1759. Information Deadline is Sat. November 19th. \$7 fee per student.

*Thurs. Jan. 5, 2012***9:30 a.m. Monthly Meeting and Presentation: Michael Fritsch: How To Correct Without Correcting.** Trinity Episcopal Church, Wheaton.

*Thurs. Feb. 23, 2012***9:30 a.m. - 12:30 pm Joint Chapter Workshop with Sally Bonkrude: How to Practice for a Secure and Problem-Free Performance; and Creating a Performance Plan that Works.** Watch for registration form in the January newsletter.

*Sat. March 10, 2012***AiM Performance Exams.** McAlister hall, Wheaton College.

DEADLINES

*Sat. November 19***INFORMATION DEADLINE for December 4th Student Recital.** See above.

*Thurs, December 15***DEADLINE for January 2012 Newsletter.** Please send articles and information to Diane Lindsay via email dmlindsay@ameritech.net or 630-363-7513. YOU MAY ALSO TEXT ME YOUR INFORMATION TO 630-363-7513. This issue will be mailed on Monday, October 17th.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

ABOUT ELVINA TRUMAN PEARCE – 2011



Elvina Pearce, NCTM, attended the University of Tulsa followed by artist study with Isabelle Vengerova in NYC. (Among Mme. Vengerova's students were Leonard Bernstein, Samuel Barber, Gary Graffman, and Leonard Pennario, to name just a few.) She is a 10-year pedagogy student of Frances Clark and one of the founders of The New School for Music Study and the Frances Clark Center for Keyboard Pedagogy, serving for six years as Vice-President on the latter's Board of Trustees. Upon moving to the Midwest, she taught piano and pedagogy at Northwestern University for 14 years, and she has also been associated with North Central College for over 20 years, having designed its current Piano Academy as part of its Division of Preparatory and Community Music.

Elvina's concert career is highlighted by a performance of the Liszt *Piano Concerto in E flat* with the Chicago Symphony, a coast-to-coast radio broadcast over WGN's "Chicago Theater of the Air, and by solo recitals in Carnegie Recital Hall and The National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. She has presented workshops, master classes, and recitals in more than 40 states as well as in The Republic of China, Canada, and Australia, and she has also appeared as a headliner for state, divisional and national conferences.

She worked in behalf of music teacher certification for 17 years, first as the Illinois state chairman, then as the NE Divisional Chair, and finally as MTNA's National Certification Chairman. In 2008 she was named by ISMTA as an MTNA Foundation Fellow, and most recently she received the 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy at its Biennial Conference in Lombard.

Elvina served as an editor for *Keyboard Companion Magazine* for 16 years, and as its Editor-in-Chief from 2000-2006. She has recently authored a book entitled *The Piano Teacher's Handbook* (Guidelines for Professionalism and Practical Tips for Teaching, Practicing, and Performing in the 21st Century) which is planned for publication by the FJH Music Publishers during the late fall of 2011.

Along with her ongoing career as a performer, teacher, author, and lecturer, Elvina is also recognized as a composer of numerous widely acclaimed collections of music for piano students. In addition to the *Handbook*, FJH is also preparing a new collection of her solo piano compositions for publication in 2011.

RECITAL NEWS

The month of April will feature two recitals this year. On April 15 at 2:00, we will hold our Student Recital, open to students from teachers from the Joint West Suburban Chapters. Then at 4:00 we will hold our first AiM Honors Recital. This recital will feature outstanding students from the AiM Performance Exams, who will be selected and nominated by the AiM judges. What a great way to honor these students for their dedicated practice and hard work!

Directory Changes

Please UPDATE your directories!
LYNETTE ZELIS's email has changed to:
lynettezelis@gmail.com

Marilyn Andersen's e-mail address is now:
Marilynpiano88@aol.com

The Glen-Ellyn -Wheaton Music Club will sponsor its annual scholarship contest on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012. There is a piano division for high-schoolers who are residents of DuPage County. In addition there are divisions for winds and strings. The winners receive cash prizes as well as an opportunity for public performance. Applications are due by Jan. 28, 2012. For complete information and application forms contact Laura Kuhlman, contest chairman, at 630-462-5427 or e-mail laura@thekuhlmans.com.

Dear AGO Colleagues and Friends of Gladys Christensen,

Long time AGO member Gladys Christensen (AAGO) died peacefully in her sleep on Tuesday, November 8, 2011, and has joined our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Please pray for her family and friends as this has been a difficult time for many people since her stroke in January of 2011. Gladys was very well known in the community and will be greatly missed. She was very active in the American Guild of Organists having memberships with the Chicago, North Shore, and Fox Valley Chapters over many years. She was a graduate of the Wheaton College Class of 1949, and Professor of Music Emerita at Wheaton College at the time of her death. She served full-time as organ and harpsichord professor in the Conservatory of Music from 1954-1988. She also taught Church Music, Music Theory, and Organ Literature and Pedagogy. She attended many masterclasses throughout the USA and Europe, and studied organ with many of the great teachers of her time. She was well-loved and well-respected throughout many musical circles in Chicagoland.

A Memorial Service to celebrate the life of Gladys Christensen will occur on Saturday, November 26, 2011 at 11:00 AM in Pierce Chapel on the campus of Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois. Wheaton College Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Stephen B. Kellough will officiate, with the Dean of Conservatory, Dr. Michael Wilder, assisting. You can view updates and additional information very soon on the Fox Valley AGO Web Site which is located at www.foxvalleyago.org

Sincerely,

David A. Lincoln

Sub-Dean and Friend of Gladys Chritensen
Fox Valley Chapter - American Guild of Organists
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630-417-7245 (cellular)
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ISMTA State Conference Highlights

By Kathy Sbarboro

I thoroughly enjoyed our ISMTA State Conference this past weekend! It is always so informative, inspiring, and refreshing! The conference featured internationally renowned pedagogue Nelita True, as well as presenters from all areas of our state.

First, let me say what an amazing group of teachers we have here in Illinois. There were a wide variety of topics presented by our Illinois independent music teachers and college/school faculty, and the sessions were outstanding.

Now back to Nelita True. On Friday, she gave a session on which Beethoven Sonatas are most accessible for young students, including many insights into presenting, practicing, and performing them. On Saturday, she gave a master class. I must admit, as I walked into the recital room and glanced at the repertoire to be played in the master class (a Chopin Ballade, a Liszt Concerto) that I thought to myself, 'this probably won't apply to my typically average students.' But I couldn't have been more wrong. As she coached the students through ways to bring out character, practice octaves for accuracy, project a warm *p* tone, work out a smoother fingering for chromatic scales, find the highpoint of the music, etc. I realized that I could (and already have!) use all these ideas with my students, no matter what level. I found Nelita True to be very warm and engaging, and also interested in what *we* do. Throughout the conference, she attended other sessions, asking questions of the presenters and offering her own comments. I was lucky enough to sit at her table for dinner, and enjoyed many stories about her childhood, her own lessons, and her students and colleagues.

Here are some of my other highlights from the conference:

- *AiM judging session* – no matter what happens in the room on exam day, our most important duty as the judge is to encourage the student to keep practicing and enjoying music.
- *Games session* – I got lots of good, new ideas for playing theory games with my students.
- *Independent Music Teacher forum* – we shared tons of ideas about studio policies, make up lessons, tuition, and summer teaching.
- *Learning Style session* – specific strategies to use with students according to their preferred style of learning.
- *Jazz Repertoire session* – great pieces for elementary-intermediate students.
- Visiting and reconnecting with many friends from across the state.
- Excellent meals – boy was I stuffed!
- I picked up all my AiM workbooks for next year (postage free) and a nifty scale fingering aid from the exhibits.

Next year's conference is Nov. 2-4 at the University of Illinois. I already have it down in my calendar, be sure to save the date in yours as well!

Illinois State Music Teachers Association
Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

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Invitation to Students & Teachers

**THE EXPERIENCE &
CHALLENGE OF PIANO
TEACHING**

An opportunity to investigate, discuss and exchange ideas and
learning



INTRODUCTION TO PIANO PEDAGOGY
Music 2275 – 2 CREDITS



12 WEEK SESSION (begins 2nd February)
MONDAY/WEDNESDAY 1:30-2:40PM
McAninch Arts Centre – ROOM 288
COLLEGE OF DUPAGE

Please contact Dr. Karol Sue Reddington, 630.510.8475



The course structure is based on current pedagogical thought and information, focusing on the needs and interests of all enrollees. An initial survey will assist in defining the topics and path for insights and the literature for study. Course procedure will be interactive, including presentation, introduction and some assessment of available materials, tools and approaches developed in the history of piano teaching, including a cumulative project.

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