



**Illinois State Music Teachers Association
Newsletter
West Suburban Chicago Area Chapter
www.wsismta.org**

January 2010

Diane Lindsay, Newsletter Editor

Ruth Daube, Mailing Coordinator

IMPORTANT AIM PERFORMANCE EXAM DATES:

Saturday, February 13, 2010 – Enrollment Deadline

Saturday, March 13, 2010 – AIM Performance Exam

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thurs. Jan. 79:30 a.m. **Monthly Meeting & Presentation: Jonathan Buis: Piano Repertoire of Black Composers.** Trinity Episcopal Church.

Thurs. Jan. 219:30 a.m. **TIE Meeting – Duets.** Location: TBA.

Thurs. Feb. 49:30 a.m. **MANDATORY AIM Performance Judging Sessions.** Please arrange your schedules now so that you can attend this meeting, which will include breakout sessions for upper and lower levels. This meeting is particularly important for teachers new to the AIM program. Teachers are invited to submit questions or suggestions to Russell Callender or Debi Inch.

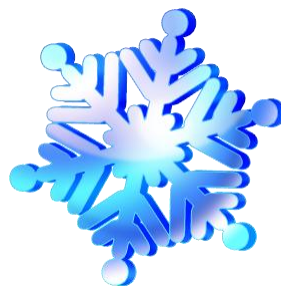
Sat. Feb. 6**DuPage Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Auditions,** Steinway of Chicago, 1205-A Butterfield Road, Downers Grove.

Sun. Feb. 7**Student Recital,** Wheaton College, Pierce Chapel Room 104. Coordinator: Ruth Daube at 630-620-6239. Fee is \$7.00.

Thurs. Feb. 259:30 – 12:30 pm. **West Suburban ISMTA Joint Worship, Wheaton College. “Turning Double Trouble ... into Twice As Nice.”** By Alan and Alvin Chow.

Sat. Mar. 13.....**AIM Performance Exams,** Wheaton College.

Sun. April 17.....**Berkley Pendell Piano Competition.** Check wsismta.org for information. Contact: Marilyn Anderson.



DEADLINES

- Fri. Dec. 18*DEADLINE* for **one duet or duo piano team to perform at next February's workshop** and master class with Alan and Alvin Chow. Please contact Bonnie Brewster at (630) 665-6911 or bonniebrewster1954@gmail.com. Give students' names and ages, the composer, title and duration of the piece.
- Thurs. Jan. 4.....*DEADLINE* to **request repertoire substitutions** for the March 13, 2010 AIM Performance Exams. See details in the AIM information section.
- Sun. Jan. 24.....*DEADLINE* for **Student Recital Information**. Coordinator: Ruth Daube at 630-620-6239.
- Fri. Jan. 15.....*DEADLINE* for **February Newsletter**. Please send articles and information to Diane Lindsay via email dmlindsay@ameritech.net or 630-363-7513.
- Fri. Jan. 15.....*DEADLINE* to request **repertoire substitutions** for the March 13, 2010 AIM Performance Exams. See details in the AIM information section.
- Sat. Feb. 13*DEADLINE* for **Registration (Enrollment) for the AIM Performance Exams**. Forms can be submitted personally or by mail to either Russell Callender or Debi Inch – on or before February 13. See instructions in this newsletter.
- Mon. Feb. 15*DEADLINE* to pre-register for **West Suburban ISMTA Joint Workshop “Turning Double Trouble ... into Twice as Nice** master class with Alan and Alvin Chow. See information in this newsletter.

SPEAKER PRESENTATION

Johann S. Buis, Associate Professor of Musicology, held positions at the Center for Black Music Research (CBMR), Columbia College Chicago and the University of Georgia, where he was tenured in musicology. He holds degrees and diplomas from London University, Ball State University, the University of Cape Town, and the Orff Institute, Mozarteum Academy, Salzburg, among others.

He held a Fulbright Fellowship in 1982-83 and was a Rockefeller Resident Research Fellow during 1995-96 at the CBMR. His scholarship ranges from early music performance history to the aesthetics and reception history of black music between the United States and urban centers in Africa. He has had articles and reviews published in *College Music Symposium*, *Issue*, *Ethnomusicology*, *Early Music America*, *MLA Notes*, and other periodicals, and he was a co-author with Art and Margot Rosenbaum of *Shout Because You're Free! The Ring Shout Tradition in Coastal Georgia* (University of Georgia Press, 1998). During the last several years he has been very active in interdisciplinary scholarship integrating musicology, ethnomusicology, and cultural theory.

He has been in demand as a lecturer for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the Art Institute of Chicago, and other organizations. In addition, he held seminars in the USA, the Caribbean, and Germany. His professional activities include service on standing committees of the American Musicological Society (AMS) and the Society for American Music (SAM). His international activities include conference and seminar presentations, consultation, and service as an external examiner for doctoral dissertations.

TEACHING PIECES I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT!

My newest find is the *American Popular Piano* series by Christopher Norton and Scott McBride Smith. I don't have much jazz pedagogy or improvisation in my personal experience, so I have found this to be so helpful in preparing my students to play in middle school jazz band. The series currently has 8 levels.

Each level contains books in Repertoire, Etudes, Technique and Skills. I have, so far, only used Repertoire and Etudes books. My students really love the pieces in the Repertoire books. What I love most is the structured approach to improvisation in the Etudes books. I have learned so much and so have my students. And, as the series title states, it's not just jazz music, but many popular styles, including rock, Latin, country and many others. To learn more, visit www.nvmusicgroup.com. There are some helpful videos about how to use these books in your studio, and you can see and hear samples. Hal Leonard is the distributor.

DIRECTORY UPDATES!

HAS YOUR DIRECTORY INFORMATION CHANGED? PLEASE CONTACT KATHY CHRISTIAN AT 630-784-0200 AND YOUR NEW INFORMATION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN AN UPCOMING NEWSLETTER.

The **Glen Ellyn -Wheaton Music Club** will sponsor its annual scholarship contest on Saturday, February 20, 2010. There are divisions for senior high piano, and junior and senior high bowed strings and winds. Cash prizes are given to winners of the divisions as well as a public recital to be held at Windsor Manor on Sunday, March 7, 2010. Participants must study privately and reside in DuPage County. For complete information and registration forms contact JoAnn Snyder, Scholarship Chairman at 630-306-0938 or zieglerhouse@yahoo.com or Judy Linhardt at 630-653-0449 or hanford9@sbcglobal.net

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF GETTING INVOLVED IN A MONSTER CONCERT THAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN 2011 FEATURING THE STUDENTS OF THE WEST SUBURBAN ISMTA?

If this intrigues you, please consider joining a committee to help plan this event at COD. It will be put on with Steinway of Chicago and should be a world-class event featuring beginning to advanced piano students. We will be joining the Salt Creek Chapter and the Naperville Chapter of the ISMTA to pull this event off. The planning is only at the beginning stages (which is why we need your input!). So far this is what we have:

1. The Monster Concert (not the title of the event, which hasn't been chosen yet) will be held in Oct.2011 or March 2011.
2. We need a committee of 3 - 5 people from each chapter - the first meeting will be held Thursday, January 28.
3. Pieces will be reviewed and selected by the monster concert committee - so if you have or know of great duet/trio literature, you should join up.
4. It is most likely that we will have 3 programs on one day to keep the concerts from getting too long. Each program will feature one ISMTA chapter with the same music and possibly the same conductor for all the programs.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you can be a part of this exciting event. As you know, without teacher support this won't happen - let's not let this opportunity for our students to be involved in something big slip by.

Hope you have a wonderful Christmas!
Lynette Zelis

AIM PERFORMANCE EXAM INFORMATION 2010

Performance exams for all levels, 1A, 1B, 1C through 12 will be given on Saturday, March 13, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at McAlister Hall, Wheaton College. The deadline for submitting enrollment and repertoire sheets is Saturday, February 13. Copies of these forms can be found in the 2005 handbook or our chapter website, www.wsismta.org.

ENROLLMENT SHEETS: Please duplicate your enrollment sheets and return 3 copies with student's names and levels following these instructions. The first two columns should remain blank.

- * Alphabetize all students by last name, which means put their last name first.
e.g. *Brown, James*
- * Please type or print legibly.
- * Place an asterisk before the names of students who are participating in AIM for the first time.
- * The fees for levels 1A, 1B, 1C, and 2 are \$15.00 (Fees for levels 3-12 were already paid last fall).
- * Include one check made out to WEST SUBURBAN ISMTA for all fees. Have your student reimburse you.
- * Use Arabic numbers (NOT ROMAN NUMERALS) to indicate levels.
- * If a student needs a morning or afternoon time, two or more family members coming together, or a student needs a make-up, please indicate the reason in writing on the enrollment sheet. **DO NOT ATTACH NOTES!**

REPERTOIRE SHEETS: Submit only one sheet per student. Please follow these instructions:

- * Type or print legibly
- * Use Arabic numbers (NOT ROMAN) to indicate levels.
- * Be sure the pages listed are SYLLABUS pages and not the page numbers of individual piano books.
- * All repertoire must be from the new (2003) AIM repertoire list. (See below for substitutions).

MEMORY POINTS: From level 4-12, two "memory pieces" are the stated syllabus requirement. If additional piece(s) are memorized, additional bonus points will be added allowing for a possible total score in excess of 100 points.

DEADLINE: Deliver enrollment and repertoire sheets and fee payment to one of the co-coordinators by Saturday, February 13, 2010:
Russell Callender, 999 S. Lorraine Rd., #2D, Wheaton, IL 60189
Debi Inch, 308 Arbor Ave., West Chicago, IL 60185

REPERTOIRE SUBSTITUTIONS: The deadline to request substitutions is Friday, January 15. Please send a copy of the piece (first and last pages if long) plus a written request to : *Marie Rutter, 1731 Epping Place, Schaumburg, IL, 60194-4010*. If more than one request is included, please be sure that they are organized according to level and list. Pieces on the National Federation lists do not need approval by Marie Rutter, but do

need approval for level by Rita Brown. **Any repertoire from past syllabus lists that are not on the current, revised list (2003) must be approved by Marie Rutter.**

UPPER LEVEL JUDGES: There is a special need for your services. Two judges are required for level 12 if an AIM Exam is taken in lieu of a recital.

STUDENTS: All students taking the Performance Exams levels 3-12 must have taken the Theory Exam this past fall 2009. Students in levels 1A-8 will receive a certificate, level 9 will receive a plaque, and higher levels will receive a bar to add to their plaque. The average score for theory and performance needs to be 80 or higher to qualify for the plaque and bars.

TEACHERS:

- * All teachers who enter students are required to give at least 4 hours of judging time on March 13.
- * All judges **MUST** attend the Judging Session on February 4, 2010.
- * All teachers must attend **TWO** complete business meetings and programs before the Performance Exams.
- * All fees are non-refundable. Absolutely no exceptions will be made. Each teacher is responsible for any fees not reimbursed by their students.
- * You will receive a copy of the enrollment sheet listing the time and room number for each of your students 1-2 weeks before the exam. No changes in schedule will be made after Sat. February 27.
- * **Reminder: BE SURE YOU ARE USING THE REVISED TECHNIQUE REQUIREMENTS (2003) FOR ALL LEVELS. The fingering listed in the syllabus (pages A-11 to A-13) is to be used for technique, unless a form for alternate fingering is submitted by the teacher (form available at meetings).** There are no longer any oral questions at any level. Sight-reading will only be for levels 1A, 1B, 1C, and 2.

LEVEL 11 AND 12 RULE CHANGES (made in 2006):

1. Of the four required style period pieces in Level XI, 3 pieces must be chosen from the XI (or XII) repertoire list. The required 4th style period piece may be chosen from Level X. For example, a student who has already chosen a Classical, a Romantic, and a Contemporary piece, but is having trouble finding a Baroque piece may choose an easier Baroque piece from Level X. Alternatively, a student who has already chosen four pieces this year, but is finding the Impressionist piece too difficult, might consider replacing it with an easier piece from Level X.
2. Of the four required style period pieces in Level XII, 3 pieces must be chosen from the XII repertoire list. The required 4th style period piece may be chosen from Levels X or XI. Level XII students must play 3 pieces from the XII repertoire list, but may look back to X or XI for the required 4th style period piece.
3. There is no longer a 30-minute minimum playing time for the XII exam or recital. (Some of the more difficult pieces are short.)

REMINDER NOTES:

In addition to the required four new pieces from four style periods that are evaluated for a Level XII recital, the student may choose to perform additional pieces he or she has performed at earlier levels, or even end with a "Novelty" or ensemble piece.

While sending in the Level XII program for Marie Rutter's approval, teachers should also send a copy of the previous year's Level XI program ONLY if the student chose to perform the Sonata-Allegro movement the previous year.

WEST SUBURBAN ISMTA MEMBER'S CD GAINS INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM

Four years ago, Alexander Djordjevic gave a presentation to our chapter entitled "Late and Little-Known Liszt," featuring the late piano works of that composer. In 2009, Alexander's latest CD release featuring many of those same pieces, "Gray Clouds: Piano Music of Franz Liszt," was made available to the public and has earned rave reviews.

"Djordjevic brings great subtlety to this well programmed Liszt Disc," proclaims Gramophone Magazine, which is published in the U.K. and is one of the foremost classical music magazines in the world.

"...Djordjevic's mastery and commitment are never in doubt. Listen to the first Elegie's carefully gauged climaxes, the subtle gradations in tone that help flesh out *Nuages gris'* sparse textures, the warm *legato* that embraces *Romance oubliée's* soft chords, or how the pianist imbues the *Bagatelle ohne Tonart's* grace notes with a convincing jazzy flair."

"...a fine young pianist."

Jed Distler - Gramophone Magazine (Aug, 2009)

Phoenix Classical writes:

"Gray Clouds: Piano Music of Franz Liszt" is the latest CD release from pianist Alexander Djordjevic which features a variety of solo piano works from Liszt's late period. Known most often for his great, powerful Romantic works (B minor Sonata, et al), Liszt was a master at smaller scale works as well, and many of these are beautifully intimate works which often feature great harmonic and musical invention. As with any Liszt works, these shorter pieces require a pianist of utmost skill and artistry, and Alexander Djordjevic brings formidable talent and technique to these works, coupled with a profound poetic sensitivity to the music.

"Gray Clouds" features a number of Liszt's "sacred" works for solo piano - the "Stabat Mater", "Vexilla Regis Prodeunt" & "Sancta Dorothea" are among those on this collection, and Djordjevic gives each of these works a stately, yet reflective tone, bringing out their grasping for the Divine, while works such as the well-known "En Reve Nocturne" exude the spirit of Romanticism, and the incredibly original "Bagatelle Sans Tonalite" points towards the 20th century. Through all of these works, Djordjevic displays a deep affinity for Liszt's music, showcasing by turns their profundity, their thoughtfulness and their joy, and in every case transcending any limitations of technique. "Gray Clouds: Piano Music of Franz Liszt" by Alexander Djordjevic is a stirring collection of works from one of music's most original artists.
- Phoenix Classical

"Gray Clouds: Piano Music of Franz Liszt" has also been featured on more than 30 classical radio stations throughout the United States and Canada.

For more information, please visit <http://www.adjpiano.com>.

Joint Workshop Duo/Duet Recital and Master Class

February 25, 2010 9:30 am – 12:30 pm Pierce Chapel

Turning Double Trouble into Twice as Nice: The Problems and Possibilities of Playing Four Hands at One and Two Pianos.

We are thrilled to welcome Alan and Alvin Chow for our February 25, 2010 workshop and master class at Pierce Chapel at Wheaton College. The first half of the workshop will consist of a duo/duet recital by the Chows, and after the break, they will conduct a master class with four teams of players from the local ISMTA associations. Please find the registration form on the last page of this newsletter.

Alan Chow

Acclaimed for his “elegant poetry and virtuosic fire”, Alan Chow won First Prize at the Concert Artists Guild, the Palm Beach Invitational, and the UCLA International Piano Competitions. He won the Silver Medal at the Gina Bachauer Piano Competition and also placed in the William Kapell International Piano Competition.

A Steinway artist, Mr. Chow has performed in recital and with orchestra from coast to coast in over forty states. Alan Chow regularly tours China, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan and Singapore. He is an avid chamber musician, as part of the Cheng-Chow Trio with pianists Alvin Chow and Angela Cheng. Also in demand for his teaching, Mr. Chow has given master classes throughout North America and Asia at conservatories, universities and summer festivals.

Alan Chow studied with Nelita True at the University of Maryland, where he graduated Co-Valedictorian with his twin brother Alvin, with Sascha Gorodnitzki at the Juilliard School, and with Menahem Pressler at Indiana University. Formerly Artist-in-Residence at the University of Arkansas, Mr. Chow currently serves as chair of the piano program at Northwestern University.

Alvin Chow

Alvin Chow has appeared throughout North America and in Asia as orchestral soloist and recitalist. In addition, he has performed extensively in duo-piano recitals with his wife, Angela Cheng, and his twin brother, Alan. A native of Miami, Florida, he graduated as Co-Valedictorian at the University of Maryland, where he was a student of Nelita True. Mr. Chow studied with Sascha Gorodnitzki at the Juilliard School, and with Menahem Pressler at Indiana University.

Alvin Chow has received top prizes in the University of Maryland and the New York Piano Teachers Congress International Piano Competitions, the MTNA Collegiate Artists Competition, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and the National Symphony Young Soloists Competitions.

Mr. Chow has been a juror at many competitions, and has presented master classes and lectures throughout the United States and abroad. He has been heard on National Public Radio’s “Performance Today” and on CBC Radio in Canada. Formerly a professor at Missouri State University and the University of Colorado, Alvin Chow is currently chair of the piano department at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

(a) WEST SUBURBAN ISMTA JOINT WORKSHOP

(b) ALAN AND ALVIN CHOW

(c) Turning Double Trouble Into Twice As Nice: The Problems and Possibilities of Playing Four Hands at One and Two Pianos

(d) Piano Duo/Duet Recital and Master Class

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Times:.....Registration begins – 8:40 a.m., Workshop – **9:30 am – 12:30 pm.**

Article II. **Place:** .Pierce Chapel, Washington & Franklin Sts., Wheaton, IL 60187

Sponsor:Joint West Suburban ISMTA Local Associations

More Information: Call Bonnie Brewster (630) 665-6911 H or (630) 615-0413 C or email bonniebrewster1954@gmail.com, or call Karin Edwards at (630) 653-4967.

DirectionsFrom Roosevelt Rd - Turn north at Washington St (between President St. and Naperville Rd.).

From Geneva Rd. -Turn south at the stoplight at President St. Turn west at Harrison St. (four way stop) and south at Washington St. From I -88 - Exit at Naperville Rd. North. Continue on Naperville Rd across Roosevelt Rd and turn right at the four-way stop at Willow; then left (N) at Washington St.

From all directions: Continue on Washington St. to Pierce Chapel at Wheaton College

Parking.....Parking is available behind Edman Chapel or on the street.

1) **PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2010 TO RECEIVE THE PRE-REGISTRATION DISCOUNT!**

YES, I will attend the workshop on Thursday, February 25, 2010.

Make checks payable to the WS-ISMTA Joint Fund.

Pre-Registration Only: Adults \$25 _____ Students \$5.00 _____

*For Pre-registration, checks must be received no later than February 15, 2010.

Registration at the door – Adults \$30.00

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

**Mail to: Sonja Epting
2095 Colonial St.
Aurora, IL 60503**

Email _____

YOUR ISMTA LOCAL ASSOCIATION _____

Diane M. Lindsay
242 S. Edgewood Avenue
Lombard, IL 60148