



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

January 2009

Diane Lindsay, Newsletter Editor

Ruth Daube, Mailing Coordinator

IMPORTANT AIM PERFORMANCE EXAM DATES

Friday, February 6, 2009 – Enrollment Deadline. NOTE: The directory incorrectly lists the deadline as Sat. Feb. 7. Please disregard.

Saturday, March 7, 2009 – AIM Performance Exam

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thurs. Jan 8, 2009..... 9:30 a.m. **Monthly Meeting, DVD – “From Mao to Mozart - Isaac Stern in China” and MANDATORY Performance Judging for AIM.** Please arrange your schedules now so that you can attend this meeting, which 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 Adrienne Rose or Russell Callender.

Thurs. Jan. 22, 2009..... **Executive Board Meeting** at Bonnie Brewster’s home is **CANCELLED.**

Thurs. Jan. 29, 2009..... 9:30 a.m. **TIE Meeting** at home of Michael Fritsch, 1401 Blackburn, Wheaton. Please call if you plan on attending – 630-690-1169.

Sun. Feb. 1, 2009 3:00 p.m. **Student Recital.** Pierce Chapel Room 104, Wheaton College. Contact Coordinator Liz Mackenzie if you want to be included. Liz’s phone number is 630-790-9823 or email lizmackenzie@earthlink.net. Deadline: Sun. January 18, 2009. See information in this newsletter.

Thurs. Feb. 5, 2009..... 9:30 a.m. **Monthly Meeting & Presentation:** Daniel Horn “Mendelssohn Lecture-Recital. Trinity Episcopal Church.

Sat. Mar 7, 2009 **AIM Performance Exams,** Wheaton College.

Sat. Apr. 25, 2009 **Berkley-Pendell Piano Competition,** McAninch Arts Center, College of DuPage. Applications are available online from our chapter’s website. Contact Marilyn Andersen at 630-834-2704 if you have questions. Send all forms to Deb Bridenbaugh, 346 Normandie Drive, Sugar Grove, IL 60554. Her phone number is 630-308-0349 or dbbridenbaugh@yahoo.com. Postmark deadline is March 20, 2009. All the information, rules and forms are on the West Suburban ISMTA website. Go to www.wsismta.org and click on Berkley-Pendell Competition.

DEADLINES

Thurs. Jan 15, 2009..... **DEADLINE** to request repertoire substitutions for the March 7, 2009 **AIM Performance Exams.** See details in the AIM information section.

Sun. Jan. 18, 2009 **DEADLINE** for February 1 **Student Recital.** Coordinator: Liz Mackenzie.

Fri. Feb. 6, 2009..... *DEADLINE* for **Registration (Enrollment) for the AIM Performance Exams**. Forms can be submitted at the meeting or by mail to either Adrienne Rose or Russell Callender - on or before Feb. 6. See instructions in this newsletter.

Fri. Mar. 20, 2009 *POSTMARK DEADLINE* to send **Berkley-Pendell Piano Competition** forms to Deb Bridenbaugh, Competition Chairman. Her address is listed above.

LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

- DIRECTORY UPDATE. Beverly Griffith's correct email address is bevg54@aol.com.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Congratulations to our group for having the highest attendance at the state conference! Please see Carol Ishman's letter in this newsletter about our award. We had a unanimous vote to accept the constitutional changes that were presented in November, and voted on at the December meeting. We will post the revised constitution on the website in the near future.

Hope everyone is ready for the holidays, and not too exhausted from the concerts, recitals, parties, and extra church services! Happy Holidays to all of you, and see you in the New Year!

Bonnie Brewster

SPEAKER PRESENTATION

Our January 8th monthly meeting includes viewing the DVD "From Mao to Mozart - Isaac Stern in China". Isaac Stern's cultural tour of China is seen, with the master violinist performing and mentoring young Chinese musicians. He visits rehearsals of the Peking Opera, meeting with their musicians who use traditional Chinese instruments, and visits a sports academy and other venues. The lingering effects of the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), which opposed any western influences and oppressed those who introduced western approaches, are evident in the lack of skill development among many of the young musicians and the emphasis on technical skill rather than artistic interpretation. This highly acclaimed DVD lasts 83 minutes - so plan on arriving early to watch the entire movie.

AIM PERFORMANCE EXAM INFORMATION 2009

Performance exams for all levels, 1A, 1B, 1C through 12 will be given on Saturday, March 7, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at McAlister Hall, Wheaton College. The deadline for submitting enrollment and repertoire sheets is Friday, February 6. Copies of these forms are 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 students 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 Friday, February 6, 2009 or bring them with you to the monthly meeting: **NOTE: The directory incorrectly lists the deadline as Sat. Feb. 7. Please disregard.**

Adrienne Rose, 0S469 Winfield Rd., PO Box 216, Winfield, IL 60190
Russell Callender, 999 S. Lorraine Rd., #2D, Wheaton, IL 60189

REPERTOIRE SUBSTITUTIONS: **The deadline to request substitutions is Thursday, 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 2008. 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 7.
- * All judges **MUST** attend the Judging Session following the program on January 8, 2009.
- * All teachers must attend **TWO** complete business meetings and programs before the Performance Exams.
- * All fees are non-refundable.
- * 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 28.
- * **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 be for levels 1A, 1B, 1C, & 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.

The *Glen Ellyn-Wheaton Music Club* will sponsor a scholarship contest for young musicians on Saturday, February 7, 2009. There is a division for high school pianists. Eligibility includes residence in DuPage County and performance of 2 pieces of contrasting styles. Winners will receive cash prizes and an opportunity to perform in a winners' concert in March 2009. For additional information and registration forms, please contact Chairman JoAnn Snyder (630-629-9032 or zieglerhouse@yahoo.com) or Judy Linhardt (630-653-0449 or hanford9@sbcglobal.net).

The next WSISMTA recital will be February 1, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in Pierce Hall, Room 104 at Wheaton College. Please consider entering your students. We provide this opportunity for them to perform and to listen to original music such as repertoire listed in the AIM performance syllabus. The fee is \$5/student and each teacher can enter up to 3 students but not more than 15 minutes of music. Submit your forms and fees to me by January 18.

Liz Mackenzie

The Wheaton College Conservatory of Music is presenting an unofficial faculty piano festival as part of its ongoing Orange and Blue On Stage series.

The programs will include:

- *Daniel Paul Horn celebrating the two-hundredth birthday anniversary of Felix Mendelssohn with music of Mendelssohn, Messiaen, Debussy, Faure and Liszt on Tuesday, February 3, 2009.*
- *jazz pianist Bradley Williams performing with his trio on Thursday, February 12, and*
- *Sung Hoon Mo giving a recital on Monday, February 23.*

All programs will be in Pierce Chapel, except for the Brad Williams Trio, which performs in Barrows Auditorium. Performances begin at 8 p.m.; Tickets are available at the door for \$6 general admission, and \$4 for students and seniors (60+).





The 2009 MTNA National Conference will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, March 28–April 1, at the Westin Peachtree Plaza. It marks MTNA's 123rd National Conference.

Performance coach **Don Greene** will give the Conference's keynote address Sunday, March 29, touching on ways a musician can transform pre-performance anxiety into onstage success. Workshops such as the MTNA-NPF Recreational Music Making and Group Teaching Track, the MTNA-IAEKM Technology Track and, for the first time ever, a Collaborative Performance Track, will be offered. Saturday through Tuesday of the conference will feature the finals of the MTNA Student Performance Competitions and the Winners Concerts. The Annual Business Meeting will take place Tuesday, March 31, and MTNA 's Awards Brunch to be held at the Plaza Ballroom, Westin Peachtree Plaza, Wednesday, April 1.

Immediately following the Opening Session, renowned pianist **Margo Garrett** and collaborators will be in performance. On Tuesday, March 31, Russian pianist **Olga Kern** will perform in recital. The MTNA Gala, a black-tie-optional affair, is at the Georgia Aquarium.

There will be three pre-conference sessions—Pedagogy Saturday "Music For A Lifetime: Learning And Teaching Strategies For Adults" headlined by **Robert Roush**, of the Huffington Center on Aging at Baylor College of Medicine. He will focus on teaching adults and meeting the needs of adult students of all ages. Professional Studio Saturday, "*A Studio Without Walls*", will focus on extending the reach of the teacher beyond the studio setting. The Collegiate Expo will discuss the transition from student to professional teacher. Master classes, teaching demonstrations, and exhibits will also take place.

For more information or to register, visit <https://members.mtna.org/Conference2009/index.html>. A full schedule is now available. Remember the early registration deadline is February 16, 2009.

West Suburban ISMTA Joint Workshop

Brain Gym® with Barbara Bednarz
Thursday, February 26, 2009

- Time:** Workshop – **9:30 am – 12:30 pm**. Registration begins – 8:40 a.m.
- Place:** Trinity Episcopal Church, 130 N. West St., Wheaton, IL 60187
- Sponsor:** Joint West Suburban ISMTA Local Associations
- More Information:** Call Carol Ishman (630) 790-2769, Karin Edwards (630) 653-4967 or ask the workshop representative in your local group
- Directions**
From Roosevelt Rd - Turn north at West St (two stoplights west of Naperville Rd.). Cross the railroad tracks and turn left into the church parking lot.
From Geneva Rd. Turn south at the stoplight at Main St. Turn west at Wesley St. stop light and continue to Trinity church at the corner of Wesley and West Streets.
From I -88 Exit at Naperville Rd. North. Continue on Naperville Rd to Roosevelt Rd and turn left (west) on Roosevelt Road. Turn right on West St., cross the RR tracks and turn left into the church parking lot or park on Wesley St.
- Parking** Parking is available behind the church or on Wesley St.

Brain Gym® - Connect the Neurons and Improve Your Performance

Are you tearing out your hair because your students:

- *Have wooden fingers?*
- *Are playing without musicality?*
- *Are unfocused?*
- *Can't remember?*
- *Have poor coordination?*
- *Can't tell a C from an F?*
- *Have poor visual skills?*

If you answered "yes" to any of the preceding questions, then you need this workshop!

Brain Gym® is a phenomenal tool that can provide immediate and profound improvements in performance for all students, regardless of age or skill level. Through simple, gentle movements and processes, Brain Gym® stimulates brain/body communication. Physical coordination, memory, musicality, focus, attitude, and self-esteem improve immediately with Brain Gym®. Muscle control and coordination improves. Stress is released and learning blocks melt away in all students, even in those with learning disabilities and ADD/ADHD.

Please wear loose-fitting, comfortable clothes and bring a large bottle of water. What you learn in this morning workshop, will improve your afternoon lessons!

Our Clinician Barbara Bednarz is a licensed Brain Gym® instructor/consultant and veteran teacher in the Chicago Public Schools. Barbara took piano lessons from mid-elementary school through early college and, in retrospect, sincerely wishes that Brain Gym® had been available to her during those years! Currently Barbara operates the Move Smart Center, where she sees individual clients for Brain Gym® consultations and teaches Brain Gym® classes. She also travels throughout the Midwest to teach Brain Gym® to teachers, parents, administrators, counselors, therapists, health-care professionals, and others.

SAVE AND SEND IN YOUR REGISTRATION EARLY!

1) **PLEASE RETURN WITH PAYMENT BY February 10, 2009**

YES, I will attend the workshop on Thursday, February 26, 2009. Make checks payable to the WS ISMTA Joint Fund.

Students \$5.00

***Pre-Registration Only - Adults \$20; ----- Registration at the door – Adults \$25.00**

*For Pre-registration, checks must be received no later than February 13, 2009.

NAME _____	
PHONE _____	
ADDRESS _____	

Email _____	
Your ISMTA Local Association _____	
	Mail to: Ai-Lin Lai 915 Dakota Circle Naperville, IL 60563-1496

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Dear Members of the West Suburban ISMTA Chapter,

As you may know, each year an award is given to the local association that has the largest number of attendees at the Annual Conference. An additional award is given to the local association that has the largest percentage of members attending.

It is my pleasure to tell you that West Suburban had 37 members attending the Annual Conference in Wheaton in November. (That is 50%!) You will receive a check from ISMTA for \$50 as an award for your Local Association. The Decatur MTA had a record 75% attendance! Naturally, they will also receive an award.

Congratulations to everyone who came to the Annual Conference. I encourage each member to attend the next Annual Conference next year.

Best wishes for a successful and musical holiday season.

Sincerely,

Carol Ann Ishman
ISMTA 2nd VP for Local Associations

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