



# West Suburban MTA

*www.wsismta.org*

An Affiliate of the Illinois State  
Music Teachers Association

*Monthly Newsletter*

**May 2011**

**Diane Lindsay, Newsletter Editor**

**Ruth Daube, Mailing Coordinator**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thurs. May 5 ..... 9:30 a.m. **Monthly Meeting and Presentation: Bruce Berr: Demonstration Teaching on Notated Jazz Pieces (Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced).** Trinity Episcopal Church, Wheaton. **A salad and sandwich luncheon will follow the presentation. Bring a salad, tray of sandwiches, or dessert to share. Water will be provided.**
- Sun. May 15 ..... 3:00 p.m. **Student recital** at Wheaton College, Pierce Chapel Room 104. This was formerly scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup>. Coordinator Russell Callender at 630-668-1532. Student Fee is \$7.00. **Information Deadline has changed to Sat. April 30<sup>th</sup>.**
- Thurs. May 19 ..... 9:30 a.m. **Board Meeting** at the Home of Lynette Zelis. Bring 2 copies of your reports to this meeting. Contact Lynette at 630-260-9544 or 630-260-9315 if you are unable to attend, and send her a copy of your reports prior to the meeting.

## DEADLINES

- Sat. April 30 ..... **INFORMATION DEADLINE for May 15<sup>th</sup> Student Recital.** Contact Russell Callender at 630-668-1532.
- Wed. June 15 ..... **DEADLINE for Summer Newsletter.** Please send articles and information to Diane Lindsay via email [dmlindsay@ameritech.net](mailto:dmlindsay@ameritech.net) or 630-363-7513. Issue will be sent out Thurs. June 16, 2011

# SPEAKER PRESENTATION

## **Bruce Berr: Demonstration Teaching on Notated Jazz Pieces (Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced)**



An independent piano teacher for many years, BRUCE BERR has also served on the faculties of numerous institutions, including Washington University in St. Louis and Roosevelt University in Chicago where he taught piano and was coordinator of piano pedagogy for thirteen years. His articles on music and piano teaching have appeared in the major keyboard journals, and he has been associate editor for *Keyboard Companion* and *Clavier Companion* magazine since 1997. His highly popular column on personal observations, "ad lib," appears regularly on the last page of *American Music Teacher* magazine.

Dr. Berr is also a composer and arranger of educational piano music. He served as a consultant, composer, and clinician for Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation's piano method series for children. His most recent publication is *Barcarolle Impromptu*. Hal Leonard also distributes his arrangements of Chanukah and Passover holiday music, as well as several arrangements of patriotic duets for young pianists. Berr also has several books of compositions with other publishers, including *At the Seashore*, Vols. I and II, by FJH Music Company; these volumes were on the Federation List. When he first started publishing educational music in the early 1990s, *Clavier* magazine featured two of his pieces in its "Commissioned by Clavier" pages. Berr has travelled extensively to twenty states and the District of Columbia to present workshops and master classes. He has done programs and demonstration teaching for the World Piano Pedagogy Conference, MTNA National Conferences, the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, and for dozens of local professional teacher associations throughout the country.

Bruce Berr received his degrees in piano and pedagogy from Washington University in St. Louis and Northwestern University, where his principal piano teachers were William Schatzkamer and David Kaiserman. He also studied in New York with Etsko Tazaki, Jonathan Feldman, and Edna Golandsky. His pedagogy teachers have included Frank Murphy, Frances Larimer, Marcia Bosits, and Elvina Pearce. As a young child, his first piano teacher was Thelma Mildé.

Berr's hobbies include watching movies and old sitcoms on TV, playing with computers, studying linguistics, listening to world-band radio on the internet, and participating in ham radio. He holds a General Class amateur radio license and is heard on the international ham bands as W9KBR. Bruce Berr and his wife, Jennifer Merry, live in Glenview, Illinois with their dog Frango, and their cats Tiger and Seiko. Despite being a rational person in most other respects, inexplicably, he is still a Chicago Cubs fan. Bruce Berr can be reached via e-mail at [bberr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bberr@sbcglobal.net).



MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

**MTNA Membership Renewal 2011-2012**

Membership renewals are being sent via email and postal mail in early April. Please send in your renewal as soon as you receive this. It makes the compiling and printing our group's directory much easier to do.

Members can go online to or [mtnanet@mtna.org](mailto:mtnanet@mtna.org), using their member number and zip codes, to facilitate this process. Now, more than ever, is the time to connect with your colleagues and the music teaching profession.



The NCKP (National Council on Keyboard Pedagogy) convention will be held July 27-30, 2011 at the Westin Yorktown in Lombard. Register today at 1-800-824-5087 or [online at www.francesClarkCenter.org](http://www.francesClarkCenter.org).

Linda Krueger reports that the March 12<sup>th</sup> AIM Performance Exams were successful. She wishes to thank everyone who participated and helped with this year's exam. There were five Level 12 entered this year. Congratulations to all.

**UPCOMING NEWSLETTER DEADLINES**

The deadline for our group's next newsletter is not until June 15<sup>th</sup>. There is no newsletter distributed in mid-May. Please take a look at the issue names and deadlines below. If you miss these deadlines you can still send your information to Diane Lindsay at [dmlindsay@ameritech.net](mailto:dmlindsay@ameritech.net), who will forward your email to most of our members.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline Date</u>
Summer 2011	June 15
September 2011	August 15

The new brochures for WS-ISMTA are available at monthly meetings! Pick up several copies to share in your communities. Lynette Zelis asks for suggestions or feedback on them.

Former member Phyllis Gunther passed away on March 6<sup>th</sup>. MTNA is asking us for any information regarding her teaching and membership in order to assist those planning a memorial service for her. Please contact Lynette Zelis if you have any information.

**Marcel Dupont** won first place in the junior division of the annual CSA scholarship competition at Wheaton College. He also performed in the Honor's Recital held in Pierce Chapel on Sunday February 27, 2011. Marcel is a student of Carol Beilke. Congratulations to all!

**THANK YOU WILLIAM PHEMISTER**  
Due to a last minute mix-up with our scheduled presenter at our April 7<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting, our group was treated to an impromptu presentation by William Phemister on the topic of Phrasing in Brahms's Intermezzos. Dr. Phemister started as the TIP person that day, and shared an additional 30 minutes of material on this topic. Our sincere thanks to Dr. Phemister for his generosity and flexibility.

## WEST SUBURBAN GROUP MEMBER OF YEAR NOMINEES

*Plan to attend our next monthly meeting on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> when we will vote for our next Member of the Year. Rita Brown presented 3 candidates: Bonnie Brewster, Kathy Christian, and Stephanie Myers. Below are their biographies for our organization. Please read this over prior to the meeting. All will be honored at the State Convention next fall.*

### **Kathy Christian**

Kathy Christian has been a member of West Suburban ISMTA for 17 years, joining in 1993. She has had the pleasure of serving the West Suburban group in some capacity every year since joining: including Membership Chairman (twice), Treasurer (twice), AIM scheduler, Awards Coordinator, Publicity/Historian (twice), mailing coordinator, and Certification Coordinator. Kathy has been a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music since 1995.

Kathy has benefited greatly from being an active member of this group. The opportunities range from entering students in the AIM programs or recitals to receiving motivation and new ideas from workshops, master classes and monthly meetings. She values all of these programs in addition to the enrichment gained from interaction with colleagues at monthly meetings, TIE meetings, teacher performance groups and conferences.

### **Stephanie Myers**

Stephanie has been an ISMTA member for 24 years, and MTNA certified for 20 years. She first became affiliated with ISMTA as a student member in the Salt Creek group. She has been with the West Suburban group since 1992. Stephanie has served as program chair in 1992-1994, then again for this past two years. She has also served as theory AIM chair (two terms); Performance AIM Chair; and Certification Chair. Other positions include scheduler for both theory and performance AIM for the past six years, as well as in 1998-2000; and TIP coordinator. She has served as a judge for the Scholarship Competition, for the West Suburban ISMTA AIM Level 12 recitals, and for the Naperville ISMTA Levels 11 & 12 performance exams.

Being in the West Suburban ISMTA gives her great professional networking, and she appreciates the continuing music education from our monthly meetings.

### **Bonnie Brewster**

Bonnie Brewster has been a member of West Suburban ISMTA since 1983, when we met in the band room at Wheaton College when Sally Bauer was president. Since then, this group has since grown and split into 5 separate groups. Bonnie has been newsletter editor, directory coordinator, program vice president, workshop committee representative, and president. She is currently directory coordinator for West Suburban, and serves the joint area groups as joint workshop chair and joint board president.

Bonnie finds the monthly speakers, the workshops, and our AIM programs enrich her teaching immeasurably. She also treasures the friendships she has made over the many years of membership.

Diane M. Lindsay  
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