



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

September 2009

Diane Lindsay, Newsletter Editor

Ruth Daube, Mailing Coordinator

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thurs. Sept. 10... 9:30 a.m. **West Suburban Monthly Meeting and AIM Panel Discussion.** Trinity Episcopal Church, Wheaton.

Thurs. Sept. 17... 9:30 a.m. **T.I.E. Meeting.** Location TBA.

Thurs. Sept. 24... 9:30 a.m. **Board Meeting at Home of Lynette Zelis**, 203 E. Hawthorne Blvd., Wheaton. 630-260-9544.

Sat. Nov. 21..... AIM Theory Exams – Wheaton College

Sat. March 13 AIM Performance Exams – Wheaton College

DEADLINES

Tues. Sept. 15.... **DEADLINE for October Newsletter.** Please send articles and information to Diane Lindsay via email dmlindsay@ameritech.net or 630-363-7513.

SPEAKER PRESENTATION

For September program, we are having a panel discussion on AIM. We will cover both Theory and Performance. If you have any questions that you would like to see discussed with the panel members, please send your questions to Stephanie Myers (myers_stephanie@yahoo.com , 630-690-4088).



**Illinois State Music
Teachers Association**

Our next STATE CONFERENCE will be held on November 6 & 7 at
Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

**TEACHING PIECES I CAN'T LIVE
WITHOUT!
From Stephanie Myers**

Duet Favorites

- Razzle Dazzle by Lee Evans (Hal Leonard) – Elementary
- The Royal Seven by Naoko Ikeda (Willis) – Early Int.
- Christmas Liszt for Two by Weekley & Arganbright (Kjos) – Mid/Late Int.
- Concerto No.3, Op.50 by Kabalevsky (Hal Leonard) – Early Adv.

Jazz Favorites

- Jazz, Rags, Blues, Book 2 by Martha Mier (Alfred) – Mid. Int.
- Jazz Moods for the Pianist by Tony Caramia (Belwin Mills) – Mid. Int.

Recital Favorites

- Thumper by Vandall (Myklas) – Late Elem.
- Celestial Dreams by Naoko Ikeda (Willis) – Mid/Late Int.
- Gypsy Dance by Christos Tsitsaros (Hal Leonard) – Mid. Int.

AIM MENTOR PROGRAM

If anyone is interested in participating in the Achievement in Music program for the first time this year, please contact our Mentor Coordinator, Linda Krueger (630-665-8276, lkruegerpno@comcast.net). She will match you up with a mentor who will answer your questions and guide you through the student preparation process as well as help you prepare for judging students. Our board instated this mentoring program 2 years ago to encourage participation and to ensure the successful preparation of each teacher new to AIM.

Thank you to teachers who have acted as mentors the past 2 years. Please continue to check in with those you have been mentoring as they add new levels. Anyone willing to mentor new teachers this year may also contact Linda Krueger.

2009-2010 ISMTA Speakers

- Sep.10.....AIM Theory – Panel Discussion
- Oct. 1.....Elvina Pearce: Revisiting Two Old Favorites -- Tips for teaching, practicing, and performing Mozart's "Fantasy in D Minor" and the Grieg "Nocturne, Op. 54."
- Nov. 5.....Craig Sale – Rhythm 9-1-1: Help! I Can't Find a Pulse!
- Dec. 3.....Dr. Nina Mounts, Northern Ill. Univ. “Keeping Teens Connected to Music: Developmental Changes and Music”.
- Jan.7.....Jonathan Buis – “Piano Repertoire of Black Composers”, Wheaton College
- Feb. 4.....AIM Performance
- March 4.....Alexander Djordjevich –“Lecture Recital: Chopin Etudes, Op.10”

April 8.....Chris Goldston - "Discovery and Rediscovery: The Music of Christopher and Margaret Goldston

May 6.....Mike Fritsch - **Masterclass**



July 2008

Dear Teachers, Students, and Performing Pianists,

You are invited to join 400+ of your pianist colleagues in three performances of **American Grands XIV** on Saturday, January 31, 2009 at 1:00, 4:00, or 7:00 p.m. at the Elgin Community College Visual & Performing Arts Center (VPAC). Once again, we will present this music extravaganza on 12 new **Yamaha** grand pianos, showcasing both classical and popular music in arrangements for multiple pianos. Colin Holman returns as conductor and Jon Mortensen as percussionist.

Rehearsals & Performances

Although performances will be held on the main stage of the ECC Arts Center, the first rehearsal takes place at Cordogan's Pianoland on Route 38 in Geneva, with the three remaining rehearsals at VPAC. You will be given a specific time for the rehearsal of your assigned piece(s) when you purchase your music. You will only attend two of the three rehearsals at VPAC. It is mandatory that all performers attend all three rehearsals, but not for the full duration of each, as well as assigned performances. Performers may be required to play in two concerts. The rehearsal and performance schedule is as follows:

- Saturday, January 10 from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Cordogan's Pianoland. Early Elementary level only with Mary Hooper.
- Sunday, January 11 from 2:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Cordogan's Pianoland
- Tuesday January 27 from 4:00 to 7:30 at VPAC
- Wednesday, January 28 from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. at VPAC
- Friday, January 30 from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. at VPAC
- Performances: Saturday, January 31 at 1:00 p.m., 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. at VPAC

We will again provide a performance opportunity for very young students at the Early Elementary Level. Students must be at least six years old and reading on the musical staff. The additional rehearsal on Saturday, January 10th is required for this group. Mary Hooper will conduct this rehearsal.

Performance Level Guidelines

In order to more clearly identify a performance level, please consult with your teacher about your level.

Teachers: You must use this method below for your evaluation. No other method will be accepted.

| Level | Alfred Method Books |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Early Elementary | Level 1A |
| Elementary | Level 1B |
| Late Elementary (LE) | Level 2 |
| Early Intermediate (EI) | Level 3 |
| Intermediate (I-4) | Level 4 |
| Intermediate (I-5) | Level 5 |
| Late Intermediate (LI) | Level 6 |
| Early Advanced (EA) | Level 6 + |
| Advanced/Teacher/Professional (A) | Beyond Level 6 + |

(Continued on next page)

Application Process & Music Pick-Up

Your application is enclosed. Please fill it out **completely** and accurately to ensure your consideration as a performer. **Applications not completely filled out, including all teacher and student information, will not be accepted.** Applications must be postmarked by September 20, 2008. Applicants who have been accepted will be notified by mail the second week of October. Performers must purchase and pick up their music from Cordogan's Pianoland in Geneva between November 10 - 16. No music will be mailed. The estimated cost for music ranges from \$10 to \$35 depending on the performance level and the number of pieces to be performed. **This will be your only opportunity to verify the correct spelling of your name for the poster and the program book.**

Performer Expectations

Please sign your application, as this tells us that you are committed to making this a successful event!

Your commitment includes the following:

- Acquire and prepare your music
- Attend all rehearsals and performances
- Arrive at rehearsals **20 minutes prior** to your designated time
- Agree to allow Elgin Community College to document this performance for archival and not-for-profit promotional use and to release your name and photo for promotional purposes.

Performance Attire

We must look as sharp as we sound, please observe our formal dress tradition with lots of dash and elegance.

Volunteers Needed

Parents, Spouses, and Friends - We definitely need additional adults to help backstage, at the check-in tables for rehearsals/performances, and other duties. Call Beth Lawniczak at 630-661-2947.

Questions

Please feel free to call or email me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Larry Dieffenbach
Music Director, American Grands
ldieffenbach@elgin.edu
(847) 214 - 7404

Additional support for American Grands is provided by the Daily Herald, the ECC Arts Center's CenterStage season sponsor, and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency



WHAT I LEARNED AT THE NCKP CONFERENCE

July 29 – August 1 – Westin Hotel, Lombard

There were many members of our ISMTA local individuals who were energized and again inspired from the proddings/talent/vision/generosity/artistry/work of our mutual colleagues, and the burgeoning legion of incredible young artists of our profession. I think the most important awareness is that we all ultimately never do work in isolation; our experience is common....all the concerns, wishes, hope, endeavor..However, I believe the importance of this attendance was not only of this camaraderie, very explicitly expressed by all presenters, but also the confirmation of the stewardship and humanity of all professionals in our field. Personally I reconnected with dear individuals in our field (graduate days to current enterprise), and we really are empowered with immense opportunities to create a more gentle world (~~wish I had said that ~~~). -- Karol Sue

The Publisher Showcase Sessions were an excellent opportunity to learn about new method books and repertoire materials. Each presenter also included some very fine teaching tips as well. One of my favorites was the duet session presented by Weekley & Arganbright. Noteworthy one piano, four hand pieces and books: Lightly Row (elementary) WP 1149, Chinese Lullaby (late elem.) WP 1148, and Duet Repertoire, Level 5 (includes pieces by Mendelssohn, Spindler Schumann, and Satie) WP592. Six Pieces for Six Hands by Gürlitt WP581 is also a worthwhile supplement. All pieces are arranged by Weekley & Arganbright and published by Kjos. There are also some exciting solo pieces by Robert Vandall in the style of toccatas and tarantellas that would be very suitable for those students who enjoy playing fast. Check out Celebrated Virtuoso Solos Book 3 and 4 (published by Alfred). -- Diane Jankiewicz

Marvin Blickenstaff in his Pedagogy 101 workshop, emphasized the importance of working on rhythm with beginning students. This needs to be experienced and felt before it is seen or labeled. He mentioned various activities such as "Kum ba yah" to help feel short, short, long, doing a chant of head-head nose, nose, etc., tapping with the hand in cluster position. These examples help instill a strong sense of rhythm. -- Liz Mackenzie

While I thoroughly enjoyed almost every aspect of the NCKP this summer, the most rewarding and beneficial (hopefully) part for me was the "Create Your Studio Website Today!" pre-conference workshop lead by Alejandro Cremaschi. We prepared our content ahead of time via email instructions so that on the day of the workshop we were ready to use free software Kompozer to put all of the elements of our website together and launch them onto the internet via Cyberduck or CoreFTP. It took me a few extra days to complete and refine the details, but I now have my own studio website! -- Linda Krueger

This was my first NCKP Conference. I appreciated the common teaching objectives no matter what our teaching situation or our student's experience. I enjoyed meeting and consulting with the various workshop teachers and exhibitors and appreciate their eagerness for the best possible materials for our students. Lastly, I LOVED seeing and spending time with my fellow West Suburban ISMTA members. We are an amazing and talented group!

– Diane Lindsay

I really enjoyed reading new materials for ensemble playing (and again, the importance of having students play together) from Alfred in the "Keyboard Ensemble Expedition" presented by Dr. Lisa Zdechlik. Chopsticks Rag for Three by Joyce Grill is really cute and Hot Pursuit by Vandall - also for 3 players - is a pupil saver. The other workshop which was very interesting and helpful was "Music and the Brain". One item I remember now as I teach every lesson from this workshop - students remember the first and last portions of the lesson the most. The middle gets lost - so I'm making sure the most important information comes in right away with students or at the end and I try to keep the middle fun or funny to aide comprehension. Also, practicing the day of the lesson and the next day are vital to improvement. -- Lynette Zelis



With the school year just around the corner, MTNA would like to help you to develop strategies to improve your studios and profits.

MTNA has formed a partnership with Nova Merchant Services, which allows members' businesses to begin to accept credit cards for payments. This service will ensure consistent payment cycles and will improve your billing process for both your studio and your students. For more information on the potential benefits of taking advantage of this partnership, click <http://www.mtna.org/Programs/MerchantServices/tabid/598/Default.aspx>.

Another way to sustain business is to increase services and develop creative marketing strategies like branching out into Recreational Music Making (RMM). This concept focuses on teaching retirees or adults with some disposable income and time. Along with expanding your studio, you also can branch out to this market by visiting country clubs, retirement communities, nursing homes and so on. For more information, check out the special focus on the RMM program and the adult learner at the 2010 MTNA National Conference. More information about this track will be available soon.

To promote excitement with current students eager to learn and to retain those in your studio who may be ambivalent about continuing, look to develop new programs. Check out MTNA's "Music for Everyone Programs." Maybe you can develop a studio festival or extra recital program! Click this link for information <http://www.mtna.org/Programs/MusicForEveryone/tabid/280/Default.aspx>.

MTNA continues to work on your behalf as the national mouthpiece for the importance of music. In times like these, it is important to remind the decision makers that music and the arts have an important and necessary position in all lives. MTNA will work to assist you in whatever we can and offer ideas and solutions to the independent music teacher.

Also, be sure to attend the 2010 MTNA National Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This will be MTNA's 124th National Conference and will once again be the largest gathering of independent and collegiate music teachers in the country. To find out more about the conference or to register, visit <http://members.mtna.org/conference2010/index.html>, and check out the December/January MTNA Conference Preview Issue of *American Music Teacher*.

MTNA Staff

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| | |
|---|---------------------------|
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