

WSMTA NEWSLETTER



March 2021

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

Thursday, March 4, 2021, 9:30am

Meeting & Program:

Dr. Steve Pierson, 'We Sang Ourselves Free – Development (Educational Influence) and Uses of Music Among Estonian Christians from Repression to Independence'

Meeting via Zoom

Saturday, March 6

AIM Performance Exams

Thursday, April 8, 9:30am

Meeting & Program:

Janna Williamson, '20/20 Vision for Piano Teachers: Building a Foundation for Expressive Performance'

Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, April 15, 9:30am

TIE Meeting

(Teacher Information Exchange)

Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, April 29, 9:30am

Teacher Performance Group

Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, May 6, 9:30am

Meeting & Program:

Dr. Geoff Duce, 'Advanced Level Masterclass'

Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, May 13, 9:30am

West Suburban Board Meeting

Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, May 27, 10:00am

Joint Chapter Meeting

Location TBD

From the President...



Dear Members,

Our next monthly meeting is Thursday, March 4. Members will receive a Zoom invitation at least one day prior to the scheduled meeting with the link to connect to the meeting. Coffee and conversation begin at 9:00 a.m. The Business Meeting is at 9:30 a.m. Our program follows immediately after the business portion of the meeting. Our presenter is Dr. Steve Pierson. His topic is "We Sang Ourselves Free-Development (Educational Influence) and Uses of Music Among Estonian Christians from Repression to Independence".

The Election for board positions will take place at our March meeting. The nominees are Janel Greaves for President, Liz Mackenzie for 1st Vice President for Programs and Debi Inch for 3rd Vice President for Membership. Additional nominations will also be accepted at the business meeting. Voting will then take place at the meeting. The new officers will take over in their new positions at the May Board meeting. Congratulations to our nominees!

The AIM Performance Exams are March 6 (March 5 at noon for pre-recorded students). Janna Williamson and Debi Inch are doing a great job organizing our AIM Performance Exams during our pandemic. It is wonderful we can offer our students an opportunity to continue with the AIM program. Teachers and students will need to adjust to the new procedures that are in place for this year.

The MTNA Virtual Conference is March 13-17, 2021. This is an opportunity for everyone to attend a national conference without having to leave your home. Check your email or the MTNA website for more details.

Please plan to attend the March 4 meeting to vote for our new executive board members.

Diane Jankiewicz

March Meeting & Program – March 4, 9:30am

Dr. Steve Pierson, 'We Sang Ourselves Free – Development (Educational Influence) and Uses of Music Among Estonian Christians from Repression to Independence'

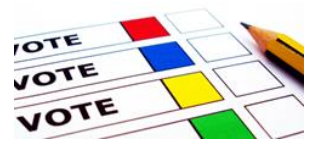


With its unusually large national song festivals, the small Baltic state of Estonia has often been called “The Singing Nation.” In this presentation, the available history of Estonia’s singing culture will be examined along with its educational function in society. In addition, more recent academic publications focusing on music participation and overall academic development will be presented.

A native of Illinois, Steven J. Pierson, graduated with a Bachelor’s and Master’s in Music Education from the University of Illinois. While at U of I, Decca Recording Company engaged Pierson on a part time basis. This allowed him to participate in several award-winning recordings of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with conductor Sir Georg Solti, pianist Vladimir Ashkenazy and mezzo soprano Marilyn Horne. Possessing academic level fluency in Swedish, he later served for 15 years as an instructor, dean of students and academic dean of a small post-secondary school in west central Sweden. During this time, Pierson became acquainted with the music of Eastern Europe, particularly the Baltic States. With the relaxed policies of the latter Soviet Union, students from Latvia and Estonia were accepted to the school, further deepening Pierson’s interest. During his Ph.D. studies in international education, Pierson’s supervising professor, Dr. Ted Ward, worked together with him on plans to research Estonian choir music and its relationship to their cultural identity, history and general education. Articles based on this research have been published by Pierson in Estonian, Finnish, Swedish and English. Pierson currently teaches part time at the College of Dupage and is a member of horn section of the DuPage Symphony Orchestra. His horn teachers included Ethel Merker of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Bernhard Scully of the Canadian Brass. In addition, he has presented pre-concert lectures for The New Philharmonic Orchestra, resident at the College of DuPage.

2021-2022 Slate of Officers

The nominating committee is proud to present the Slate of Officers for the upcoming Election on March 4:



President – Janel Greaves

1st Vice President for Programs - Liz Mackenzie

3rd Vice President for Membership - Debi Inch

Stephanie Myers, Janel Greaves, Kathy Sbarboro, Nominating Committee

AIM Level 12 Repertoire Information

Here is the link that describes level 12 requirement for approvals: <https://ismta.org/AIM>

Stephanie Myers



Dr. William Phemister's December Presentation



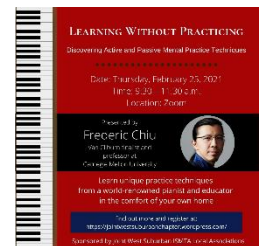
As there was a technical difficulty in Dr. William Phemister's Dec. presentation, this information underlines that his arrangements, as a composer, of Christmas Carols was successfully published. They are entitled *Carols for Christmas ~ 12 Inventive Settings of Timeless Carols*

This is now available through JWPepper. Having asked Dr. Karol Sue Reddington to offer a synopsis and review of the arrangements, the works and review are available: through JWPepper (#11318345).

Dr. Karol Sue Reddington

WS Joint Chapter Workshop – Feb. 25

The *Joint Chapter Workshop* is coming up on Thursday, February 25, 2021. This year, as we all know is unique. We will have an amazing speaker, Professor Frederic Chiu, and our workshop will also be conducted using Zoom. Please consider signing up!



'Learning Without Practicing' is a highly interactive workshop focusing on techniques for learning music without using an instrument. This session focuses on non-traditional score-study techniques mixing solo work with collaborative work, a rarity for the usually insular pianist. In addition to the active Mental Practice techniques, participants also have a chance to experience passive Mental Practice techniques through a specially customized approach to Meditation for Pianists.

In this workshop, 12 active participants will interact and perform a short musical segment on a piano, publicly via Zoom (specific music settings for Zoom will be sent to all confirmed participants). An unlimited number of auditor participants will be accepted who will receive materials to do the exercises on their own, but not interactively or publicly. I personally have tried some of these and highly recommend you experience them both for to try yourself and help your students.

Frederic Chiu performs at major venues on five continents and collaborates with Classical music friends Joshua Bell, Pierre Amoyal and the St Lawrence String Quartet. Prof. Chiu was runner up at the Van Cliburn and studied at Indiana University as well as the Julliard School with major pedagogues including Dr. Karen Shaw, Abbey Simon, Aube Tzerko, Marvin Wolfthal and Marian Rybicki. Frederic Chiu has recorded the most extensive complete piano works of Prokofiev. Across 28 albums, he has also recorded works of Chopin, Liszt, Ravel, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Rossini and Grieg. He is on the faculty at Carnegie Mellon University and The Hartt School. He accepts a limited number of undergraduate and graduate students, who learn the lesson that Chiu himself has learned: Music is not an escape from life; it is a doorway into life.

Register ASAP to reserve your spot! This can be online by following the directions on the website:

<https://jointwestsuburbanchapter.wordpress.com/registration-2/>

Or register using the *form at the bottom of this newsletter*. Print it out and mail it with your check to the address on the form. If you prefer to pay online using Googlepay, email your name, phone number, address,

email and ISMTA chapter (if applicable) to jointboard.westsuburban.ismta@gmail.com Upon receipt of this information, you will be sent a request to pay electronically.

After payment is processed you will be sent a Zoom link to access the workshop. We hope to see you all at the workshop on February 25!

Dr. Anne Marie Kuhny, Joint Workshop Chairperson
630-433-0687

WSMTA Business Meeting Minutes February 4, 2021



The (virtual) meeting was called to order by Diane Jankiewicz at 9:30. There was no Monthly Music today, due to the AIM Performance judges meeting.

The Minutes of the January 7th meeting were read by Marcia Lehe. There were no additions or corrections. A motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Karol Sue Reddington and was seconded by Stephanie Myers.

The Treasurer's Report given by Linda Krueger indicates a balance of \$11,152.08.

There was no TIP today, due to the AIM Performance program.

The Membership report given by Janel Greaves announces a new member, Bojan Kolevski, who teaches at the School of Rock in Wheaton.

The Slate of Officers for 2021-23 was announced by Kathlyn Sbarboro:

1st Vice President for Programs – Elizabeth Mackenzie

3rd Vice President for Membership – Debi Inch

President – Janel Greaves

The election of nominated positions will take place at the March business meeting.

Diane Jankiewicz thanked members of the nominating committee, and all who have accepted being nominated. She urged other members to be open to requests for service in the future as well.

Anne Marie Kuhny reminded us of the Joint Chapter Workshop, to be held on February 25, 2021. Frederic Chiu, who is an Assistant Professor of Piano at Carnegie Mellon University, and a teacher at the Hartt School, will present "Learning Without Practicing, a highly interactive workshop focusing on techniques for learning music without using an instrument." This session focuses on non-traditional score study techniques. Twelve active participants will publicly interact and perform a short musical segment on a piano via Zoom. An unlimited number of auditor participants will receive materials to do exercises on their own.

Anne Marie thanked those who have already volunteered to be public participants, but added that we still need a few more.

Our next month's program will be presented by Dr. Steve Pierson on March 4, 2021. The title of his presentation is "We Sang Ourselves Free—Development (Educational Influence) and Uses of Music Among Estonian Christians from Repression to Independence."

Lynette Zelis reminded us of the March 13 – 17, 2021 NMTA (virtual) Conference. It is easier to attend this year, since it is all virtual. Some sessions will be pre-recorded, and other sessions will be conducted live. Janna Williamson asked how much of the Conference will be (virtual) interactive, and how much will be pre-recorded.

Lynette will send this information to us. Meanwhile, she encourages us to attend the interactive division meetings especially. The sessions that will be pre-recorded will be available for viewing until June 1, 2021.

Stephanie Myers reminds us that students' repertoire for level 12 must be approved by the new deadline of March 31.

Carol Beilke asked when Level 12 recital program notes are due, and Janna Williams answered that it will probably be a week before the AIM exams, but she will confirm later.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lynette Zelis, and Linda Krueger seconded the motion.

The February Program: The AIM Performance Judging Session was led by Debi Inch and Janna Williamson.

Marcia Lehe, Recording Secretary

Quote of the Month

'There are two means of refuge from the miseries of life: music and cats.' —
Albert Schweitzer



From the Editor

The WSMTA Newsletter is published monthly September through May, with one summer issue in July. The deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication. For example: the September newsletter deadline is August 15 and is published by Aug. 20. Articles must be 'print ready' when submitted.



This newsletter is sent via the WS Google Group, wsmta@googlegroups.com. You must subscribe to the group in order to receive it and other important communication from our group. Past issues of the WSMTA Newsletter are available on the WSMTA website, www.wsismta.org.

Kathlyn Sbarboro, WSMTA Newsletter Editor


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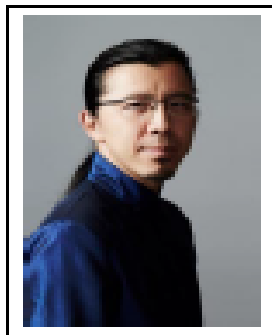


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WS Joint Chapter Workshop Registration Form:



LEARNING WITHOUT PRACTICING:

DISCOVERING ACTIVE AND PASSIVE MENTAL PRACTICE TECHNIQUES

by Prof. Frederic Chiu

Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021

Time: 9:30—11:30 a.m.

Location: Zoom

Sponsored by:
Joint West Suburban ISMTA
Local Associations

Proceeds from this workshop benefit
Berkeley - Pendell Piano Competition
Fund

Learning Without Practicing is a highly interactive workshop focusing on techniques for learning music without using an instrument. This session focuses on non-traditional score-study techniques mixing solo work with collaborative work, a rarity for the usually insular pianist. In addition to the active Mental Practice techniques, participants also have a chance to experience passive Mental Practice techniques through a specially customized approach to Meditation for Pianists.

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Register by Mail or Online: Register by mail using form below. Or pay online by visiting the Joint West Suburban Chapter Workshop Website: <https://jointwestsuburbanchapter.wordpress.com/>. When payment has been received, you will receive an email with the Zoom link for the workshop.

PLEASE RETURN WITH PAYMENT BY FEBRUARY 21, 2021

Yes, I will attend the workshop on Thursday, February 25, 2021. Make checks payable to the WS ISMTA Joint Fund.

Pre-Registration (by Feb. 21, 2021—Adults \$25 and Students \$5.00. Last-minute adult registration \$50. Mail this form and your check (postmarked by Feb. 21, 2021) to address below.

Or email your RSVP and contact information to rvalanciute@yahoo.com and mail your check (by Feb. 21) to address below.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Mail to:

_____ Russ Valancius

Email _____ 2312 Modaff Road

Your ISMTA Local Chapter (if applicable) _____ Naperville, IL 60563