

WSMTA NEWSLETTER



April 2021

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

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 April meeting is on the second Thursday of the month due to Spring Break. The date of the meeting is April 8. Members will receive a Zoom invitation at least one day prior to the scheduled meeting with the link to join the meeting. Coffee and conversation begin at 9:00 a.m. The Business meeting is at 9:30 a.m. The program follows immediately after the business portion of the meeting. Janna Williamson, member of our own West Suburban Chapter, will present a program "20/20 Vision for Piano Teachers: Building a Foundation for Expressive Performance". Please plan to attend.

Congratulations to AIM teachers and students! The Performance Exams went well despite having to adjust to a new format this year. Janna Williamson, Debi Inch and Peggy Liu did a wonderful job handling the AIM Office at Noteable Notes on March 6. Many thanks to Lynette Zelis for the use of her Studio for In-person exams. Janna deserves much credit for planning procedures and providing details to teachers and students.

The election of new Officers for 2021-23 took place at the March business meeting. Congratulations to Janel Greaves (President), Liz Mackenzie (1st Vice President for Programs), and Debi Inch (3rd Vice President for Membership). New officers will take over in their new positions at the May Board Meeting.

We hope to have member participation at the April 15 TIE Meeting via Zoom. Linda Krueger is the coordinator and will provide details at the April 8 meeting.

I encourage everyone to get vaccinated if you have the opportunity. There are indications we are making progress in the right direction. I hope everyone has a relaxing and enjoyable Spring Break. Take time to enjoy the warmer weather.

Diane Jankiewicz

April Meeting & Program – April 8, 9:30am

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



Imagine a student exiting your studio after a decade or more of study with you, moving from the earliest beginner stage to a capable, accomplished student. Do you have intentional strategies for how to achieve that vision? In this session, Janna Williamson will discuss the importance of a clear vision and examine how having a vision specifically for expressive advanced performance can inform our teaching at the elementary and intermediate levels. Musical expression can and should be strategically taught at the lowest levels, and our own experience as more advanced musicians and performers should be incorporated in how we train even the least advanced students. By way of comparison, Janna will perform a Bach Prelude from the Well-Tempered Clavier and a movement of a Mozart Sonata in order to compare them with lower level pieces, such as the Bach Minuet in D Minor, BWV 132, and the easy Spindler Sonatina in C Major (first movement). This session is intended to be exceedingly practical for all levels of teaching and will have direct applications for teachers using the AIM curriculum.

Janna Williamson, NCTM, is a pianist, educator, and collaborator. She has always loved to perform and is passionate about the importance of sharing and thinking about art. Janna enjoys high retention in her independent piano studio as well as the rewards of students who have gone on to enjoy a lifetime of music. A teacher of teachers, she mentors less experienced piano teachers around the country through her online Teacher Consultation service. Janna works freelance as a collaborative pianist with singers and instrumentalists of all levels, finding herself equally comfortable coaching less advanced students as working with professionals on the challenging sonata and chamber repertoire of the classical canon. Janna holds piano performance degrees from the Chicago College of Performing Arts (Roosevelt University) and Wheaton College Conservatory of Music (both *summa cum laude*).

Congratulations to our new Officers!

Please join us in thanking our new Officers for the 2021-2022 year for taking on these responsibilities:

President – Janel Greaves

1st Vice President for Programs - Liz Mackenzie

3rd Vice President for Membership - Debi Inch



Students needed for May 6 Master Class

Our May 6 program will be an advanced masterclass with Dr. Geoffrey Duce, associate professor from ISU. He wants to work with 3 students playing music from ~ AIM levels 9-12. Each student should perform one polished piece; he mentioned that he especially enjoys teaching Mozart or classical period pieces but is open to whatever. He would like videos submitted to him a week in advance so he can study them and then he will work with the students on May 6 via Zoom. Please contact me soon if you have a student you wish to be considered for this opportunity



Program suggestions welcome for '21-'22

Thanks for the opportunity to be the program chair for the next 2 years. If you have any suggestions for programs or presenters you'd like, let me know. I will begin working to line up programs beginning this spring. We don't know yet whether these will be virtual or in person so at this point, I think it best to have Chicago area presenters.

1st Vice President for Programs, Liz Mackenzie

AIM Performance Follow-Up

Many thanks to all of the teachers involved in this year's AIM Performance exams. I want to give a huge thank you to all of our teachers for figuring out the technology and making it all work smoothly.



We are greatly indebted to Lynette Zelis and Noteable Notes for generously hosting us for in-person exams. I don't know what we would have done without the use of Lynette's studio! Thank you also to Peggy Liu, who ran an amazingly efficient office!

We had 185 students registered for the exams and 19 teachers involved. 18 students were nominated for the Honors Recital. The Honors Recital will be presented on YouTube on Friday, April 16, 7:00pm. (The video will premiere at that time but will be available for viewing after that date as well.)

Janna Williamson, AIM Performance Coordinator

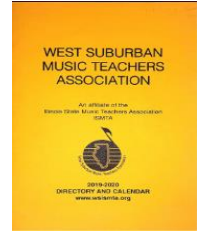
AIM Level 12 Repertoire Information

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

Stephanie Myers, AIM Repertoire Approval

Directory Update

Please welcome Mike Messer back to our chapter!
Be sure to update your directory with the following:



WSMTA Business Meeting Minutes March 4, 2021



The meeting was called to order by President, Diane Jankiewicz at 9:32 AM.
Monthly music was not scheduled today.

The Minutes of the February 4th meeting were read by Marcia Lehe. Since there were no additions or corrections to the minutes, a motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Liz Mackenzie and seconded by Rita Brown.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Linda Krueger. The current balance is \$9943.87.

A TIP was presented by Lynette Zelis. Based on an idea from Peter Mack, who uses gnomes or an abacus to aid students with mindful practice, Lynette asked a contact on Etsy to create a "practice wand". She gave one to each student that might benefit from using it.

The Etsy contact is kimandrewsjewelry@gmail.com

This practice wand is a single rod or dowel with beads that students can move from side to side to keep track of the number of times a section or piece is practiced.

Lynette encourages students to practice a different way every time a section or piece is practiced. Suggestions included practicing slowly, staccato, one hand staccato and one hand legato, etc.

Lynette also encouraged the use of music by women composers. She demonstrated some music by French composer, Louise Farrenc. Much of her music is out of print or difficult to obtain, but some, such as Etudes op. 50, is available on www.imslp.org.

Membership - Janel Greaves announced that former member Mike Messer has rejoined the group.

AIM Performance – Janna Williamson mentioned that currently about 50% of the pre-recorded exams have been uploaded. Make sure students have uploaded videos of performance and copies of music. Since many students have recorded music from home, we should be aware that a variety of instruments will be used. Please do not make comments on the type or quality of the instrument.

Call Janna after 8 am on Saturday if there are last minute concerns or questions.

Election of Officers - Diane presented the slate of officers selected by the nominating committee and asked for additional nominations from the floor. There were none. Marcia Lehe and Lynette Zelis motioned that the slate be elected. A vote was taken and successfully passed.

- President – Janel Greaves
- 1st VP for Programs – Elizabeth Mackenzie
- 3rd VP for Membership – Debi Inch

The new officers will take over at the board meeting in May.

Announcements:

- Liz Mackenzie asked for suggestions for speakers to present next year's meetings.
- The MTNA National Conference (Virtual) is on March 13-17. Lynette Zelis encouraged all to attend. Even if you have not signed up for the conference, consider attending the Division meeting, which is free. The Division meeting is at 4pm on Sunday. Good ideas for programs are available at the meeting.
- The next WSMTA Meeting and Program will be on April 8, which is on the second Thursday in April. The presenter is Janna Williamson.
- TIE Meeting - April 15 - Linda Krueger will host on Zoom
- The ISMTA State Conference 2021 will be remote on November 5 – 6, 2021. It may be possible for an in-person conference in 2022.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Debi Inch and seconded by Anne Marie Kuhny. The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ann Ishman,
Recording Secretary, pro tem

Quote of the Month

'Jazz is the music of the body. It is the body's vibrations which ripple from the fingers. And the mystery of the withheld theme, known to jazz musicians alone, is like the mystery of our secret life. We give to others only peripheral improvisations.' - Anais Nin



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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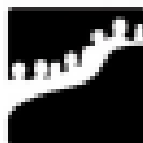
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