

WSMTA NEWSLETTER



October 2021

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

Thursday Sep. 23, 10:00 AM

Joint Chapter Meeting

Trinity Episcopal Church

Thursday Oct. 7, 9:30 AM

Lynette Zelis - 'AIM Theory Judging'

Trinity Episcopal Church

Thursday Oct. 14, 9:30 AM

TIE Meeting

Coordinator Carol Ishman

Thursday Oct. 21, 9:30AM

Teacher Performance Group

Coordinator TBD

Thursday Nov. 4, 9:30 AM

Stephanie Myer - 'S.O.S. How Can I help My students? Technical and Musical Problem-Solving in Commonly Taught Repertoire'

Trinity Episcopal Church

Friday Nov. 5 - Saturday Nov. 6

ISMTA State Conference

Virtual Conference

Sat. Nov. 13

AIM Theory

Bethany Chapel

Thursday Dec. 2, 9:30 AM

Michael Messer - 'Beyond Fast Fingers: Nurturing Virtuosity in the Piano Studio'

Trinity Episcopal Church

Thursday Jan. 6, 9:30 AM

Vonnie Mrozinski - 'Music and the Healthy Brain'

Trinity Episcopal Church

From the President...

Dear Members,

It was wonderful to see many of you at our September meeting. I think those of us who attended all came away with some new, out-of-the-box ideas for how to create just the right "vibe" throughout our studios. Thank you also to those who attended virtually via Zoom. We had a great turnout for our first meeting back in person.

We have a lot of events coming up in October. Please join us in person or via Zoom for our next chapter meeting on October 7th. Lynette Zelis will be going over judging procedures and many more details related to the AIM Theory Exam. Attendance at this meeting is mandatory for all teachers registering students for the AIM Theory Exam in November.

On October 14th, we will have our next Teacher Information Exchange (TIE) meeting. This is a great opportunity to meet other members, share ideas, and discuss teaching challenges. Carol Ishman will be coordinating this event. The following Thursday, October 21st, will be our next Teacher Performance Group coordinated by Marcia Lehe. This is an opportunity to share music and get feedback from other members. Pieces can be polished and performance ready or works in progress, and you are also welcome to just come and listen without any pressure to perform.

The last October event will be the AIM packet stuffing meeting at the home of Lynette Zelis on Thursday, October 28th. If you are able to help put together AIM packets, please join us. This is a big job, but it goes very quickly with lots of help.

Lastly, I want to welcome all of our new members who have joined our chapter over the summer. I hope that you will find your membership as worthwhile as I have and that you will take advantage of all the programs and opportunities this chapter provides. I hope to meet you all at one of our events soon!

Janel Greaves



October Meeting & Program – October 7, 9:30am

Lynette Zelis - 'AIM Theory Judging'



This is a mandatory meeting for all teachers participating in the 2021 November 13th, AIM Theory exams. Even if you are not currently participating, it is an opportunity to familiarize yourself with the AIM program and to get to know other teachers better. Perhaps there are aspects like transposition, harmonization, and sight reading you may want to incorporate into your lessons.

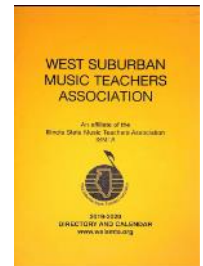
At this meeting we will cover the When, Where, and How To's of the 2021 AIM theory exams. We will go through how to test your own students properly for the playing portions of the test, how and when you will receive these tests from Lynette Zelis. We will also be giving you tips on some of the best ways to prepare your students for the Aural Skills and Written portions of the AIM Theory exams. Then we will leave time for Q & A for you!

Submit any questions you want answered or thoughts about the ISMTA theory exams you want to share at this meeting between now and Oct 6th to Lynettezelis@gmail.com

Membership News

We want to welcome our new members!

Tanya Carey
Stacey DeGaris
Deborah Gillette
Natalie Kollman
Heesun Kwon
Jim Molina
Gretchen Munaretto
Robert Parlier
Chia-Shing Yang.



We are so glad you have joined us for a great year of sharing the wealth of teaching experience and music making opportunities we all bring together each month. New members who joined after August 31st will have their contact information listed in the newsletter for all of us to see and will be sent the 2021-2022 West Suburban MTA directory.

We look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings!!

Warmly,
Debi Inch, Membership Coordinator

West Suburban ISMTA Theory Exams Fall 2021



The WSMTA AIM Theory Exam is Saturday, November 13 for Levels 3-12 at Bethany Chapel in Wheaton, 404 N President Street.

WHEATON COLLEGE has informed us that we will not be able to use the Conservatory for the Fall AIM Exams. This is the reason we are now using Bethany Chapel. This location has 3 large rooms in the lower level that we will use. One room for aural skills and the other for theory exams and then one for the office. The aural and written exams will be conducted in person, so that there is more consistency with grading. Last year the office location was too small for all the paperwork. ****Only a medical condition will be accepted as an excuse to not do the tests in person.**

Keyboard skills and playback (levels 3 - 6) portions of the exam will still be given by the student's teacher. The pages for this portion of the exam will be emailed to the teachers the week before exams and can be completed during the students' lessons or at a special time set aside by the teacher. These results (student scores only) need to be sent to lynettezelis@gmail.com no later than November 27th.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT FORM

All teachers must fill out a student enrollment form for each participating student. The link for the enrollment form is here: <https://forms.gle/ZcmchiraQjmGQEDu9> and can be accessed through our chapter's website soon. When selecting time preferences Please reserve the request of morning or afternoon for students with existing conflicts. Note specific requests other than morning or afternoon cannot be accommodated. Please double check all student information before submitting the form. Be sure to email Lynette Zelis with corrections rather than re-submitting the form.

JUDGE'S FORM - Each teacher must sign up by October 1. The link for the enrollment form is here: <https://forms.gle/wxsALhEtAdEvb5VbA> and will be available through our chapter's website. All teachers must work the required hours on the AIM Theory Exam Day as listed on the sign-up form depending on the amount of students enrolled.

AIM JUDGES MEETING - There is an AIM judges meeting on Thursday, October 7 at 9:45 am. Anyone entering students AIM Theory Level 3 or above must attend the entire meeting. The AIM theory judges meeting is mandatory for teachers entering students in AIM exams. It is also mandatory for teachers to attend two meetings and programs before February 1, 2022. Making the AIM exam a positive experience for students is our top priority. It is important for judges to explain why points are taken off and also give supportive comments. Clear comments can also support the teachers in what they are conveying to their students.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT FEE - The \$30 per student enrollment fee is due by October 7. Please submit one check for all students made payable to West Suburban Music Teachers Association. The check can be given to Lynette Zelis or mailed to her home.

SCHEDULING DETAILS - Teachers will be given the exact times for their students' exams 2-3 weeks prior to the exam date. Once the times are set, changes cannot be made to the schedule. All students will complete their Aural Skills portion then move on to the Written tests.

MAKE-UP EXAMS - Any student with a conflict on exam day can do make-up with a participating teacher. Students who need a makeup exam will be required to pay a \$25 makeup fee directly to the teacher who judges the makeup exam. The deadline for completing the make-up exam is November 27.

PACKET STUFFING DAY! Please consider helping out for our AIM exams by coming to our packet stuffing day on October 28th - 9:30AM at the home of Lynette Zelis - 203 E. Hawthorne Blvd, Wheaton.

Any questions regarding the AIM Theory Exam may be directed to Lynette Zelis (lynettezelis@gmail.com) or Carol Beilke (carolb9480@gmail.com).

September Meeting Minutes



September 2, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Janel Greaves at 9:30, and she gave a warm welcome to returning members present in person and on Zoom, and to new members and visitors.

There was no student scheduled to present Monthly Music; however, Rita Brown asked teachers to contact her if they have students who will be prepared to perform in November and December. She hopes that we take full advantage of these opportunities for our students this year.

The Minutes for the May 6, 2021 Business Meeting were read by Secretary Marcia Lehe. Janel corrected the name of one of our new members to Michelle Russell. A motion to accept the Minutes as corrected was made by Janna Williamson and the motion was seconded by Karol Sue Reddington.

Treasurer Linda Krueger reported \$9,545.66 in our Chapter's account.

The TIP was presented by Janna Williamson, during which she distributed a handout and discussed helpful podcasts for piano teachers.

Judit Mohai introduced two visitors, Hyejin Cho and Jun-Hee Han, and Debbie Gillette was introduced as a new member. Mary McGinty was also introduced.

Janel announced upcoming events:

- September 9 – Board meeting (Zoom) at 9:30. Attendance is taken. No written reports are required—just a brief verbal report.
- October 7 – An AIM Theory Judging meeting will follow the (shortened) Business meeting at 9:45, and is mandatory for all AIM teachers entering students in Level 3 or above. It will be coordinated by Lynette Zelis.
- October 14 – TIE meeting at home of Carol Ishman (Let Carol know your plans.)
- October 21 – Teacher Performance Group at home of Marcia Lehe (Let Marcia know in advance if you plan to attend, and particularly if you are able to share a piece on which you are working or preparing for performance.)
- October 28 – AIM Packet Stuffing at home of Lynette Zelis
- November 5-6 – ISMTA Conference (virtual)
- November 13 – AIM Theory Exam

Lynette Zelis said that Oral and Written AIM Theory Exams for Levels 3-12 on November 13 will be held at Bethany Chapel in Wheaton, 404 N. President Street. There are two levels at the church, and an elevator is available for those unable to use steps. There is adequate space to facilitate individual distancing during exams. Students must bring their own headphones to exam. Keyboard skills exam will be administered by student's own teacher. Students will need to have a medical reason for not attending exams in person. Signup deadline for Teachers is October 1.

Janel reported that there is one AIM teacher enrolling a student in the exams for the first time, who needs a mentor. (A mentor volunteered after the meeting.)

Janel also announced the arrival of the new Directory, and thanked Judit Mohai. She also said that we should all be receiving emails from the West Suburban Google Group. Let her know if you are not receiving chapter communications.

Karol Sue Reddington discussed the challenges of planning for the Berkley-Pendell Competition during these unusual times, with two of our four joint chapters struggling to survive financially with very small memberships. The future of this inspiring competition requires rising numbers of student entries and full support and participation from teachers and student families. Karol Sue urged a resurgence of new energy from everyone, as we try to offer new levels, and ways to bring greater response. She thanked all those who participated in the survey, but urges anyone who has not to contact her with ideas for invigorating B-P.

Lynette Zelis made a motion to adjourn, and Liz Mackenzie seconded the motion.

Liz introduced Andrea Miller, who presented a program titled "SENSEational Studio Branding".

Quote of the Month

'Music unites all qualities: it can exalt us, divert us, cheer us up, or break the hardest of hearts with the softest of its melancholy tones. But its principal task is to lead our thoughts to higher things, to elevate, even to make us tremble.' - Nietzsche



From the Editor

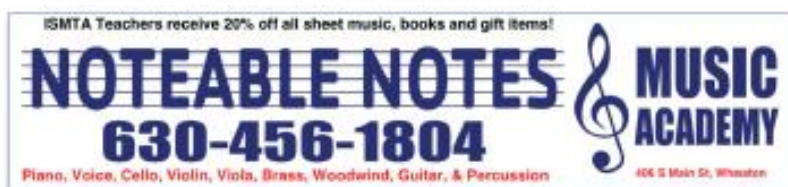
The WSMTA Newsletter is published monthly September through May, with one summer issue in July. The deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication. For example: the September newsletter deadline is August 15 and is published by Aug. 20. Articles must be 'print ready'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