

# WSMTA NEWSLETTER

September 2021



## Upcoming Events & Deadlines

Thursday Sep. 2, 9:30 AM  
**Meeting & Program:**  
**Andrea Miller - 'SENSEational Studio Branding'**  
Trinity Episcopal Church

Thursday Sep. 9, 9:30 AM  
**WSMTA Board Meeting**  
Meeting via Zoom

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  
**ISMATA State Conference**  
Virtual Conference

Sat. Nov. 13  
**AIM Theory**  
Bethany Chapel

## *From the President...*

Dear Members,

I am looking forward to seeing many of you again soon as we begin the 2021-22 school year! I hope you have had a chance to recharge this summer. We are all hopeful that this year will be more "normal" than last school year, but even if it doesn't turn out exactly as we hope, the last eighteen months have taught us all to face these changes with flexibility and adaptability.

At this point, we are planning to have our monthly chapter meetings in-person at Trinity Episcopal Church. Our first meeting will be on Thursday, September 2nd. Trinity has just this month updated their COVID mitigation policy. They are now requiring everyone over the age of 2 to wear masks regardless of vaccination status. Also, no food is allowed, and social distancing of 3 feet must be maintained. I will keep you updated if there are any changes to these policies.

For those who are not comfortable attending in person or who are not comfortable with Trinity's requirements, the meeting will be available to watch via Zoom. If you are interested in joining this Zoom meeting, please contact me directly, and I will send you the link for the meeting.

I want to thank Lynette Zelis for all of her work to make sure that our fall AIM theory exam goes smoothly again this year in the midst of a lot of unknowns. We have just heard definitely that we will NOT be able to use Wheaton College for our theory exam. Details about this fall's AIM exam are included in this newsletter.

We are still hoping to be able to use Wheaton College for the spring performance exam, but we do not expect to get a definite answer from Wheaton for some time. The AIM performance exam will be held on March 5th, and Janna Williamson will be planning how best to proceed.

As I said, I am looking forward to seeing many of you on September 2nd for our first in-person chapter meeting since March of 2020! Let's continue to make music, collaborate, and grow as teachers and musicians as we face any unexpected challenges together!

Janel Greaves



## **September Meeting & Program - September 2, 9:30am**

Our September 2 program will feature Andrea Miller from St. Louis. Our business meeting starts at 9:30 followed by the program and will be held in person at Trinity Episcopal Church in Wheaton. This should be a wonderful way to start our school year.



### **'SENSEational Studio Branding,' Andrea Miller**

Branding may seem like an unnecessary “extra” but, when done well, it serves a very practical purpose: it connects us with our ideal students! Not the students who will enroll for a month and then disappear, but the ones who will stay in our studios for years and bring their friends with them.

Learn to identify the unique aspects of your studio and creatively communicate these differences to students using all the senses: sight, hearing, touch, taste, smell, and even a few more!

**Andrea Miller** became a piano teacher on accident in 2003, when she taught her first lesson from her parents' living room. She hasn't stopped since.

She went on to get degrees in Entrepreneurship and Piano Performance and then combined her passions for business and music by opening a multi-teacher studio. Since then, Andrea has led a double life as a music teacher and entrepreneur and has been part of launch teams for several startups in various industries, including legal publishing, STEM education, EdTech, and (of course) music.

Today Andrea hosts the Music Studio Startup podcast as a way of feeding her endless curiosity for all things entrepreneurial. She would like to start ALL the businesses, but until she finds a Time Turner, she lives vicariously through the 70+ music teachers and studio owners she has had the privilege of coaching through their business adventures. [www.MusicStudioStartup.com](http://www.MusicStudioStartup.com)

### **WSMTA Programs - Mark your Calendars!**

Here is a list of programs we will have for the upcoming year. Looks like a fantastic lineup!

#### **2021-2022 Programs, West Suburban MTA**

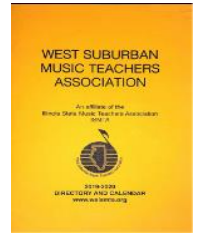
- September 2 'SENSEational Studio Branding' Andrea Miller
- October 7 'AIM Theory Judging,' Lynette Zelis
- November 4 'S.O.S. How Can I help My students? Technical and Musical Problem-Solving in Commonly Taught Repertoire,' Stephanie Myer
- December 2 'Beyond Fast Fingers: Nurturing Virtuosity in the Piano Studio,' Michael Messer
- January 6 'Music and the Healthy Brain' Vonnie Mrozinski
- February 3 'AIM Performance Judging,' Janna Williamson
- March 3 'Advanced Master Class,' Winston Choi
- April 7 'A Look at Clara Schumann, S.C. Eckhardt-Gramatté, Lita Grier, and Florence Price,' Karin Edwards
- May 5 'Integrating the Alexander Technique in Your Teaching,' Jill Burlingame

Liz Mackenzie, Program Coordinator

## Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership!

Renewal notices have been mailed out, and you can now renew your membership by mail, by phone (888-512-5278), or online ([www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org)).

Membership offers crucial benefits such as legal FAQs, compiled lists of helpful resources, webinars, and the MTNA eFestival, just to name a few examples. In addition, our West Suburban chapter will continue to provide opportunities to exchange ideas and collaborate with other local teachers.



As you renew, be sure to double check your contact information (address, email, phone, and teaching areas) to ensure that your directory listing for the coming year is correct. If you have already renewed and want to double check your contact information, it's not too late to log in to your account at [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org) and confirm that everything is listed correctly.

Please contact Debi Inch, 3rd VP for Membership, with any questions regarding membership benefits or renewals.

---

## AIM Mentor Program

**ATTENTION: Any teachers planning to enter students in AIM for the first time!**

*September 1* is the deadline for newly participating teachers to notify the AIM coordinators of their intent to enroll students in the Theory Exams (Level 3-12) and to contact the mentoring coordinator to arrange for a mentor. This will allow the AIM coordinators to ensure that the teacher's names are on the enrollment form and that the teachers have a mentor in a timely fashion. NOTE! THESE ARE NOT ENROLLMENT DEADLINES, BUT NOTIFICATION DEADLINES.



If you have not entered students in AIM before or in the past 10 years, please notify the following people:  
Mentoring Coordinator: Linda Krueger Theory Exam (3-12) Coordinators: Lynette Zelis and Carol Beilke

The Performance Exam notification deadline (Levels 1A-12) will be January 1. Performance Exam (1A-12)

The AIM Mentor Program is intended to encourage greater participation by teachers new to the program, guide them in the successful preparation of their students, and most importantly encourage the highest level of preparation and understanding for first time judging and scoring of the exams by each teacher.

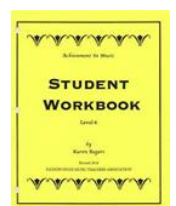
Linda Krueger, AIM Mentor Coordinator

---

## 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.

Attention new AIM teachers - Any teacher new to the AIM exam will have a mentor assigned to them by September 1. Please contact Linda Krueger if this is your first time participating in



the exam with our chapter. Also contact Lynette Zelis to have your name added to the list of participating teachers. \*New teachers must meet with their assigned mentor before entering students in the AIM Exam.

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 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 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 only 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 \$20 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

---

## Quote of the Month

‘Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent.’ — Victor Hugo



---

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.wsismta.org).

Kathlyn Sbarboro, WSMTA Newsletter Editor

---

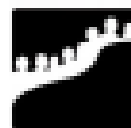
## Please patronize our Sponsors!

ISMTA Teachers receive 20% off all sheet music, books and gift items!

**NOTEABLE NOTES**  **MUSIC ACADEMY**

**630-456-1804**

Piano, Voice, Cello, Violin, Viola, Brass, Woodwind, Guitar, & Percussion 406 S Main St, Wheaton



piano *forte*  
chicago



- Fine Pianos
- Pianos with Technology
- Band Instrument Rentals
- Orchestra Instrument Rentals
- Fine Guitars

**Digital Pianos**  
Clavinova CLP - CVP

**Hybrid Pianos**  
AvantGrand - Disklavier  
Silent Pianos- TransAcoustic

**Acoustic Pianos**  
Upright- Grand- Premium Pianos

**Yes... Now You Can!**  
Connect Wirelessly To Your Piano  
↓  
*Ask Us How*





**NAPERVILLE  
MUSIC.COM**  
636 E. Ogden Ave  
Naperville, IL 60563

**Yamaha Pianos**  
With And Without Technology  
**New and Used**

**630-355-1404**

**CORDOGAN'S  
PIANOLAND** 33W441 RL 38 / P.O. Box 514  
Geneva, IL 60134  
(630) 584-5000

**www.chicagopianos.com**

*Illinois' largest piano store -  
proudly supporting music education since 1950!*

- PIANO SALES
- RENTALS
- TUNING
- MOVING
- STORAGE
- APPRAISALS
- CONSIGNMENTS



*New & Used Grand, Vertical, Digital, Hybrid and Player Pianos*  
KAWAI, SHIGERU KAWAI, ESTONIA, WM KNABE, HALLET DAVIS, ROLAND, CASIO,  
YAMAHA, STEINWAY, BALDWIN, MASON & HAMLIN, CHICKERING