

WSMTA NEWSLETTER



December 2021

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

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

Thursday Jan. 13, 9:30 AM
TIE Meeting
Coordinator Karol Sue
Reddington

Thursday Feb. 3, 9:30 AM
Janna Williamson - 'AIM Performance Judging'
Trinity Episcopal Church

Sunday Feb. 6, 2:30 PM
Student Recital
Location TBD

Thursday Feb. 10, 9:30 AM
Teacher Performance Group
Coordinator TBD

Thursday Feb. 24
WS Joint Workshop

Thursday March 3, 9:30 AM
Winston Choi - 'Advanced Master Class'
Trinity Episcopal Church

From the President...

Dear Members,

We have just had a couple of busy weekends! It was nice to see so many students taking the aural and written portions of the AIM theory exam in person at Bethany Chapel on Saturday. Everything went so smoothly with the new location and procedures. Thank you to all who entered and prepared their students for the exam and to all who helped make the test run smoothly. I am also very thankful for Lynette, Carol B., and Peggy. They worked very hard to make adjustments so we could still put on the exam without the use of the facilities at Wheaton College.

The ISMTA virtual conference was a week ago now with many useful presentations, a couple of wonderful sessions by E.L. Lancaster, and a master class and recital by Ian Hobson. I hope many of you were able to take the opportunity to join in on those sessions.

At the conference, the executive board made the exciting announcement that ISMTA will be reimbursing the \$200 registration fee for the next 20 ISMTA members who complete their NCTM certification process. The goal of this incentive is to promote the NCTM program and also to draw in more members for our chapters. If you have been considering working towards your certification, now would be a great time to start the process. Also, if you know of anyone who might be interested in certification but is not currently a member, please let them know of this great opportunity.

Our next chapter meeting will be on Thursday, December 2. Michael Messer will be presenting on "Beyond Fast Fingers: Nurturing Virtuosity in the Piano Studio." I hope you will be able to join us either in person or via Zoom.

I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families and friends and have a chance to reflect on all that we have to be thankful for. I know that I am thankful for all of you and for all of your support this year!

Janel Greaves



December Meeting & Program – December 2, 9:30am

Michael Messer – ‘Beyond Fast Fingers: Nurturing Virtuosity in the Piano Studio’



Our program on Thursday, December 2 will be presented by Dr. Mike Messer. The business meeting will start at 9:30, followed by the program. Please join us for this thought-provoking program.

“Beyond Fast Fingers: Nurturing Virtuosity in the Piano Studio”

Piano virtuoso Franz Liszt stated that “technique is created from the spirit, not from mechanics.” As teachers, much of what we do involves fostering musical spirit; we strive toward the development of a passionate and rich musical understanding in our students! We also teach mechanics as we promote healthy playing technique. Mike Messer will present and lead a discussion on how to teach virtuosic piano technique. Discussion will revolve around questions such as:

What exactly is musical virtuosity?

What can we learn from the virtuoso pianists of old (and current ones)?

Some students just love playing fast! How can we affirm the enjoyment of playing fast music while also cultivating sensitive musical artistry?

Other students are more careful in their playing. How can we encourage them to take risks?

What repertoire is best suited for nurturing virtuosity?

Mike will perform a selection of piano etudes, including Karen Tanaka’s Techno Etudes, pairing each work with strategies for promoting virtuosic technique in the teaching studio.

Pianist **Mike Messer** performs music in a wide spectrum of styles and enjoys presenting audiences with less-familiar works while bringing fresh interpretations to more classic repertoire. An active teacher, he has adjudicated and presented at various local, state, and national music conferences and competitions. His article, “Learning to Listen: Instagram as a Supplement to Studio Class,” co-authored with pianist Kangwoo Jin, was published in American Music Teacher magazine in 2019.



Mike teaches individual lessons and piano-related courses at the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music and maintains an ever-growing studio at the Wheaton Yamaha Music School. His private teachers have included pianists Karin Redekopp Edwards, Winston Choi, and Christopher Taylor. In 2021, Mike completed a doctorate in piano performance at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where he specialized in music composed between 1900 and 1950.

October Meeting Minutes

Business Meeting -- November 4, 2021



The meeting was called to order at 9:33 by Janel Greaves.

There was no monthly music this month since the student had to cancel.

The Minutes of the October 7 Meeting were read by Marcia Lehe. There were no additions or corrections. Liz Mackenzie made the motion to accept the Minutes as read, and Diane Jankiewicz seconded the motion.

The Treasurer's Report by Linda Krueger announced \$13,348.47 in the WS account.

Anne Marie Kuhny presented the TIP on the topic of the Student/Parents/Teacher Triangle.

Debi Inch announced that there are no new members and no visitors today.

Upcoming Events/Reminders:

November 5-6 – ISMTA Conference (virtual)

- Kathy Sbarboro reminded us about the Group Piano Forum at 1:00-1:25 at the ISMTA virtual conference. She invites us to join online for a sharing time and open discussion about teaching piano in groups.

November 13 – AIM Theory Exam

- Lynette Zelis reminded us that the exams will be at Bethany Chapel.
- Lynette discussed what to do about scheduling make-up tests. Oral skills for makeups will be in the teacher's packet. Oral tests and written tests will be in the folder. Lynette will send the link Tuesday. Please check out all before sending questions to Lynette and send her the scores by the due date.
- Teachers are welcome to bring snacks the day of the exam.

Janel thanked Lynette for all the extra work required to hold theory AIM exams this year.

- Rita reported some extra information on Level 8 AIM exams, particularly in regard to students needing reminders to raise the 7th note in the "c# harmonic minor" key. Lynette suggested that the words "harmonic minor" be circled.
- Major 3rd and minor 3rd: Rita suggested teachers start teaching 3rds to students with the three all-white keys creating 3rds.

December 2 –WSMTA December Program

- Michael Messer will present our Chapter program: "Beyond Fast Fingers: Nurturing Virtuosity in the Piano Studio".

February 6th – the date for a scheduled Student Recital

- We need a Coordinator for the February Student Recital. Notify Janel if you can fill this role. You can also choose the format for the recital.
- Lynette informed of a new space available for recitals, next to the Prairie Path Bookstore in Danada, where the empty space by the store has a Petrof grand piano. It is being made available for rental for public events. They are charging \$75 an hour for this large space.

New Items:

Janna Williamson reported that her 12-year-old son is responding well to material he has accessed from next month's WSM TA scheduled program.

Janna said that Wheaton College waited a long time to give an answer to our question about having in-person AIM performance exams in the Spring, and so we will now proceed to plan alternative locations and retain the March 5th date for the exams. Karol Sue Reddington suggested that Janna contact COD regarding space for holding exams.

Stephanie Myers said there is a special form for Level 12 AIM Performance exams on the website. Janna will send info to teachers with level 12 students.

Janna also asked if there are any AIM level 11 and 12 students planning to perform on March 5th. She knows of two students who might plan on that date. Janna suggested that because of cramped space, those students may do their exam by private appointment with judges.

A Motion to Adjourn was made by Carol Ishman. Karol Sue seconded the motion.

Stephanie Myers was Introduced by Liz to present the program: "S.O.S. How Can I Help My Students? Technical and Musical Problem-Solving in Commonly Taught Repertoire".

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Lehe, Secretary

Quote of the Month

'So, I purchased a music notation face mask to augment my collection thinking that it would look sharp, but my expectations fell flat. After wearing it for an interval, I developed a staff infection and a clef chin. I should have known buying it would lead to treble. It wound up not being a major problem but a minor inconvenience. I do have a diminished opinion of the product though. Not sure if I should throw it out because I don't know how long it will take to decompose.'

- Author Unknown, 2020



From the Editor

The WSM TA 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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