

# WSMTA NEWSLETTER



January 2022

## Upcoming Events & Deadlines

Thursday Jan. 6, 9:30 AM  
Meeting & Program  
**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  
Meeting & Program  
**Janna Williamson - 'AIM Performance Judging'**  
Trinity Episcopal Church

Sunday Feb. 6, 1:30 PM  
**Student Recital**  
Windsor Park  
Deadline: Jan. 22  
Coordinator Karol Sue  
Reddington

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

Thursday Feb. 24, 9:30  
**WS Joint Workshop:**  
**Winston Choi**  
Trinity Episcopal Church

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

Saturday March 5  
**AIM Performance Exam**  
Location TBA

## *From the President...*



Dear Members,

As we come to the end of another year, I am thinking back on all that has happened not only in these last twelve months, but also in the last two years of the pandemic. It's hard to believe that just this spring, we were preparing our students to send in recordings of themselves for the AIM performance exam. Less than a year later, we have successfully completed a mostly in-person AIM theory exam with plans in place for a fully in-person AIM performance exam, in-person recitals, and hybrid options for the Joint Workshop. We have adapted over and over during the pandemic as circumstances brought us new challenges, and through it all we have been there for our students to inspire them and encourage them through these hard times.

I will never forget one of my students early on in the pandemic who at the end of her lesson begged me to give her more music to work on that week. "Piano is the only normal thing in my life right now," she said. As music teachers, we have such a wonderful opportunity to be there for our students. As a chapter, we have been able to touch the lives of hundreds of students this year. That's why we keep on adapting and adjusting our plans even when it's hard - not only because we want to give our students the gift of music but also because we want each of them to thrive as individuals even in hard times.

I hope you have a wonderful holiday season, a chance to enjoy listening to and making beautiful music, and some time to recharge before another busy season of teaching! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Janel Greaves

## January Meeting & Program – January 6, 9:30am

### **Vonnie Mrozinski - 'Music and the Healthy Brain'**



Research in recent years has shown that musical engagement is good for keeping the brain healthy. Just a few of the benefits of this engagement include strengthening of memory and reading skills, increases in the ability to process multiple things at once, and increases in the brain's executive function. The workshop will review recent research and introduce music activities that develop these cognitive functions of the brain. Come ready to have fun in a relaxed environment full of rhythm, singing, and musical movement.

**Levonne Mrozinski, NCTM**, has been teaching piano for 30 years. At Harper College since 1989, she has taught students of all ages through credit programs, the Community Music Center and the Life-Long Learning Institute. Additionally, she has taught piano, music and the brain, and recorder classes at the Arlington Heights Senior Center.



A member of Northwest Music Teachers Association, Levonne served as president from 2008-2010. She has also served as first vice-president and program chair and co-chair of the Awards Competition committee. Since 2010, she is a co-chair of the AIM Performance committee. She has given workshops at the local, state and national level. She has adjudicated for area music teacher associations and school districts.

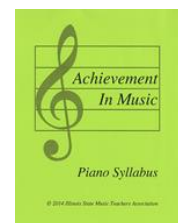
Mrs. Mrozinski has a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma. She has also done post-graduate work at the University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana. Her performance teachers include Francis Whang, Jane Magrath and Kenneth Drake. She studied pedagogy under Duke Miles, E.L. Lancaster and Reid Alexander.

Mrs. Mrozinski has an independent piano studio in Arlington Heights, IL. She is married to Mark Mrozinski, vice president of workforce development and executive dean of community education at Harper College and co-author of *Celebrate Piano!*, a beginning piano method. Mark and Levonne have two young adult children. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking and running. She has completed three marathons, four half marathons, five Soldier Field 10-mile events, Fort2Base 2018, and too many 5K's to count!

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## 2022 AIM Performance Exam News

AIM Performance Exams will be March 5, 2022. The deadline for all forms is February 1, 2022, and participating teachers must submit fees and attend the meeting on February 3. All other information will be sent directly to participating teachers regarding all the details for this year. Please note that enrollment forms have been updated again for this year. Your attention to the locations and other pertinent information is greatly appreciated.



Thank you! If you have any questions, please contact Janna at [jannawilliamson@gmail.com](mailto:jannawilliamson@gmail.com)

## AIM Theory Wrap-Up

Dear AIM teachers,

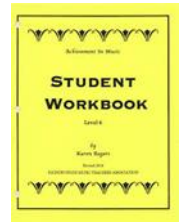
A sincere thank you to all of the AIM teachers and volunteers this past fall! All of the scores were reported and sent to me by November 25th! The testing went very smoothly and this couldn't have happened without help from all of you. We had 150 students and 20 teachers participating in AIM this year so far, which is a very healthy number for our chapter.

It's encouraging to see so many students in the upper levels as this shows continued commitment in their music studies. For your information, here's the breakdown of students and levels:

Level 3	14
Level 4	16
Level 5	18
Level 6	21
Level 7	19
Level 8	18
Level 9	13
Level 10	20
Level 11	6
Level 12	5

We really appreciate all of your help to make this exam a positive experience and successful experience for all involved!

Lynette Zelis & Carol Beilke



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## Enter Your Students in our Chapter's Student Recitals!

Our first student recital will be held at Windsor Park on February 6th at *1:30PM*. (Please note that the start time of 2:30PM that is listed in the directory has been changed to 1:30PM.) Please consider entering your students. This is a wonderful performance opportunity for students who have performance-ready pieces. To enter students, please fill out the enrollment form which is posted on our web site and send it to the recital coordinator, Karol Sue Reddington, before the January 22 deadline. Additional student recitals are also scheduled for March 6 and April 3.



## December Meeting Minutes

### Business Meeting - December 2, 2021



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

The student planning to perform today had to cancel.

Rita Brown took that time to give her TIP of the day, titled "Pupil Savers." Rita passed out a sheet with lists of AIM Syllabus pieces and performed some of them as well.

The Minutes of the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting were read by Marcia Lehe. A motion to approve them was made by Anne Marie Kuhny and seconded by Janna Williamson.

The Treasurer's Report showed \$12,948.22 in our account.

There were no new members or guests at the meeting today.

#### Upcoming Events/Reminders:

January 6 – Vonnie Mrozinski is the speaker for January: Music and the Healthy Brain

January 13 – TIE meeting – Karol Sue, location TBA

February 3 – AIM Judges Meeting – Attendance is required for all AIM judges.

February 6 – Student Recital – Karol Sue will coordinate (at Windsor Park)

February 10 – Teacher Performance Group – Karol Sue, location TBA

February 24 – Joint Chapters Workshop: Anne Marie:

Anne Marie announced that the Joint Chapters Workshop will take place Thursday, February 24, 2022 from 9:30 to 12:00 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Wheaton, and can also be viewed on Zoom. Professor Winston Choi, head of the piano department at Roosevelt University's Chicago College of the Performing Arts, will be our speaker. His topic will cover the power of the subconscious mind, which is capable either of empowering one to achieve transcendental feats, or to constantly chip away and undercut ourselves. This interactive workshop explores how certain bad habits have been instilled in musicians from an early age, and what we can do to draw upon the most positive qualities from our vast musical experiences to constantly better our musical selves--getting out of our own way. Specific practicing methods will be explored, as well as the discussion of the underlying principles behind the most successful performances that enter the elusive "flow state".

The website with all information to sign up for the workshop is:  
<https://jointwestsuburbanchapter.wordpress.com/>

Janel thanked Lynette again for the successfully held AIM theory exams, and Lynette thanked all the teachers involved. She affirmed that it went very smoothly, and that her own students thought they were really taking a test, even though their own teacher administered part of it. They and their parents took it very seriously, and this year they received their scores right away, and left very happy with the results. It looks as if every year now will be an adventure as to where we can have the exams.

Lynette plans to attend the National Conference this year and suggested that there may be an opportunity for some teachers to carpool.

## New Items:

Janna reported concerning space for AIM Performance exams, saying there will be some room available at COD, but not enough to host the entire exam. We do plan to use a room for the office there and will play there all day. Some other exams will be held at Noteable Notes and at other schools. Instructions provided by teachers to their students should be impeccable for the student to arrive at the correct place, since everything will be different this year than in the past.

The March 3<sup>rd</sup> program will be a Master Class with Winston Choi. Let Liz McKenzie know if you have students who can play at the Master Class.

Bill Phemister announced that Windsor is able to have recitals there again, and he also mentioned the availability of his CD performance and score of arrangements of Christmas music that he has made. Karol Sue confirmed hearing them and spoke of how wonderful the arrangements are.

A Motion to Adjourn was made by Anne Marie Kuhny and seconded by Diane Jankiewicz.

Liz introduced the Program presented by Mike Messer - "Beyond Fast Fingers: Nurturing Virtuosity in the Piano Studio."

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcia Lehe, Secretary

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## Quote of the Month

'Music is at once the most wonderful, the most alive of all the arts — it is the most abstract, the most perfect, the most pure — and the most sensual. I listen with my body, and it is my body that aches in response to the passion and pathos embodied in this music.'

-Susan Songtag



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## 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

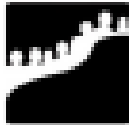
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