

# WSMTA NEWSLETTER



March 2023

## Upcoming Events & Deadlines

Thursday Feb. 23, 9:30AM  
**West Suburban Joint Chapters Workshop 'How to Build Technique and Musicality from Scratch and Practical Teaching'**  
Dr. Jeff Kleinsorge

Thursday Mar. 2, 9:30 AM  
**Meeting & Program: 'Lecture Recital on the Music of Florence Price,' Lia Jensen -Abbott**  
Trinity Episcopal Church

Saturday Mar. 4, all day  
**AIM Performance Exam**  
Wheaton Conservatory

Friday Mar. 10, 6:30 PM  
**AIM Honors Recital**  
Windsor Park

March 25-29  
**MTNA National Conference**  
Reno, Nevada

Thursday Apr. 6, 9:30 AM  
**Meeting & Program: 'Intermediate Master Class, Janna Williamson**  
Trinity Episcopal Church

Thursday Apr. 13, 9:30 AM  
**TIE Meeting**  
Home of Debi Inch

Sunday Apr. 16, 1:30 PM  
**Student Recital**  
Windsor Park

Thursday Apr. 20, 9:30 AM  
**Teacher Performance Group**  
Home of Anne Marie Kuhny

Sunday Apr. 23, all day  
**Berkley-Pendell Competition**  
College of DuPage

## From the President...

Dear Members,

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 2. Lia Jensen-Abbott will be presenting a lecture recital on Florence Price and her compositions. I hope that many of you, and especially our new members, will be able to join us. Some members will be going out for lunch after the meeting, and everyone is welcome.

We are in the final countdown before the AIM Performance Exam on March 4. It is wonderful that we can be back at Wheaton College again this year for our exam. The Conservatory staff have been wonderful in accommodating our needs for this event. If you appreciate being back at the Conservatory and know any of the staff or faculty, please be sure to let them know how excited we are to be able to use their facility! Also, keep in mind that everyone is welcome to attend the AIM Honors Recital which will be held at Windsor on Friday, March 10, at 6:30 PM.

There is still time to register for the MTNA National Conference in Reno, Nevada on March 25-29th. Conference information and registration details are outlined at [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org). Some of our members are already planning to attend.

This year's nominating committee has been working hard to find nominees to fill the positions of our officers whose terms are expiring. At our February meeting, they presented the new slate of officers which we will be voting on at the March meeting. *Janna Williamson has been nominated for President. Carol Beilke has been nominated for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for Programs, and Linda Krueger for 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Membership.* I want to thank nominating committee members Diane Jankiewicz, Linda Krueger, and Kathy Sbarboro for all their work!

We have had a number of new members join our chapter in the last few months. If you are one of them, I hope that you will try attending one of our events! We would love to meet you!

Happy March!

Janel Greaves



## **March Meeting & Program – March 2, 9:30am**

### **‘The Unsung Voice of Florence Price: Her Teaching and Performing Repertoire as Framed by Her History’ -Dr. Lia Jensen-Abbott**



This interactive lecture recital will explore the historical and cultural significance of the life of Florence Price as seen through her teaching and performing piano music. Understanding the difficult times of Price’s life and work will allow us to hear and understand her music in more expressive depth and context. Working with a definitive text as a backdrop, participants will hear demonstrations of excerpts of Price’s teaching and advanced repertoire. There will also be opportunities to explore Price’s music through small practice segment demonstrations and to ask questions about teaching strategies in order to incorporate this music into the studio. Guthrie Ramsey, Jr. writes “Clearly, Rae Linda saw this book as a statement of African American Studies and black feminism as much as it is a music studies one. Throughout it she uses intersectional frameworks—though they aren’t named as such—to explain Price’s family history, migrations, and class status, as well as the politics of skin color within African American communities. The arch of the story reaches from slavery through Reconstruction, the Harlem and Chicago Renaissances, the Depression, and up to the dawn of the Civil Rights Movement. We follow Price from the Deep South to New England and Chicago. Each environment carried different forms of discrimination. We learn how she navigated an abusive marriage and found the fortitude to provide for her children as a black single mother. We see how she strategically built networks of support among women (both black and white), in much the same way that Brown did in her career. And we witness the challenges faced by an African American woman who dared to view herself as a creator of art music even as she tackled various forms of structural inequalities in that art world. Price fought her entire life to be heard and seen.” (Preface to *The Heart of A Woman: The Life and Music of Florence B. Price*, by Rae Linda Brown, xii).

**Dr. Lia Jensen-Abbott** is Professor of Music and Director of the Prentiss M. Brown Honors Program at Albion College. Awarded the Arthur Andersen New Faculty of the Year award in 2016 from Albion College, Lia is well known for her interdisciplinary lecture recitals based on semiotic analysis, Fanny Hensel, Florence Price, Beethoven and Anton Diabelli, and the connections between athletics and music. Her solo and collaborative performances with Dr. Karen Kness have taken her around the United States, Europe, and Central America. In 2012 she performed at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall in New York City.

As a clinician and adjudicator, Lia has been invited to judge the MTNA National Finals in San Antonio and Chicago, as well as a judge for the WPTA International Piano Competition, in addition to many regional, state, and local competitions. Her scholarly lecture recitals have been presented at MTNA National Conferences, a CMS International Conference, the International Affiliation of Women in Music 2022 Conference, and three WPTA Conferences. Recently, Lia has recorded a three-volume CD set entitled **The Albion College Diabelli Squared Project**, which presents Beethoven’s Op. 120, the original Fifty Variations written for Anton Diabelli’s philanthropic project, and thirteen newly commissioned variations on the same Waltz theme. Lia has recorded video teaching modules and live webinars for the Frances Clark Center. For the October/November 2022 issue of the *American Music Teacher*, Lia was invited to write a pedagogical submission about teaching advanced pedaling. An active member of the Music Teachers National Association, Lia is a Past President of the Michigan MTA where she received the Distinguished Service Award in 2022. She is a member of the European Piano Teachers Association and the World Piano Teachers Association, and President of the WPTA Michigan Chapter. Lia earned degrees from The University of Nebraska-Lincoln (BM, DMA), Indiana University (Performer Diploma), and The Pennsylvania State University (MM, MA). Her teachers have included Timothy Shafer, Edmund Battersby, Jeremy Denk, and Mark Clinton. She is a co-founder of the Albion College International Piano Festival and Competition and lives in Albion, Michigan with her husband, pianist Dr. David Abbott, their son Charlie, and two dogs. In her spare time, Lia competes in triathlons, plays golf, and reads.

## Joint West Suburban Chapter Workshop – February 23



### How to Build Musicality from Scratch AND Practical Teaching

by Dr. Jeffrey Kleinsorge

Date: Thursday, February 23, 2023

Time: 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Location: Trinity Episcopal Church and Zoom

Sponsored by:

Joint West Suburban  
ISMTA Local Associations

Proceeds from this  
workshop benefit the  
Berkeley-Pendell Piano  
Competition Fund

#### How to Build Technique and Musicality from Scratch

This presentation will lay out the foundation for piano technique, a pedagogy for teaching it to a beginning student, and a way to tie it in to a method book. It will marry technical ideas to repertoire and emphasize technique as a way of expressing musical ideas. Since we'll be talking about building these things from scratch, the presentation will focus on the early stages of learning.

#### Practical Teaching

Not enough time, and too much to teach? In presentation we will explore ways to streamline lesson planning and tie various aspects of the lesson - from reading to ear training, and from theory to technique, into a unified whole. It will treat different parts of a typical lesson - performance, technique, learning new material - as playgrounds for different teaching topics that reinforce rather than distract from the main purpose of those parts of the lesson. Yes, this does take planning - although with experience, you can do much of it on the fly. Nonetheless, we'll discuss ways to make that planning as efficient and speedy as possible, while still being effective.

*Dr. Jeffery Kleinsorge is the director of the Preparatory and Community Piano Program at Concordia University Chicago, and teaches university courses in piano pedagogy and keyboard techniques. He is currently the president of ISMTA and was formerly on the faculty of the New School for Music Study, where his mentors included Louise Goss and Marvin Blickenstaff. Dr. Kleinsorge has studied with some of the most important pianists of our generation, such as Ralph Votapek, Constance Keene, John Browning, and Gary Graffman, and can trace his pedagogical pedigree—working backward from student to teacher—to Chopin, Liszt, Beethoven and Haydn.*

**Register by Mail or Online:** Register by mail using form below. Or pay online by visiting the Joint West Suburban Chapter Workshop Website: <https://jointwestsuburbanchapter.wordpress.com/> **When payment has been received, you will receive an email with the Zoom link for the workshop.**

#### PLEASE RETURN WITH PAYMENT BY FEBRUARY 19, 2023

Yes, I will attend the workshop \_\_\_\_\_ via Zoom \_\_\_\_\_ In-Person on **Thursday, February 23, 2023.**

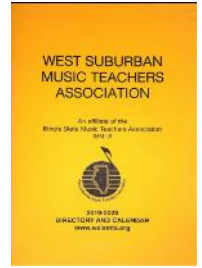
Make checks payable to the WSISMTA Joint Fund. Pre-Registration (by Feb. 19, 2023)- Adults \$30 and Students \$5. Last minute adult registration \$35 at the door. Mail this form and your check (postmarked by Feb. 19, 2023) to the address below. Mail to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Rasa Valancius  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ 2312 Modaff Road  
\_\_\_\_\_ Naperville, IL 60565  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Local ISMTA Chapter (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

## Directory Supplement - March 2023

Please welcome our newest member, Adrienn Molnar, and add her to your directory. We hope to see you soon at our meetings, Adrienn!

Molnar, Adrienn A., Piano



## Condolences

Our deepest sympathy to Ruth Tremper, one of our long-time chapter members. Sadly, Ruth's husband, Doug, passed away last Friday. Please keep Ruth and her family in your thoughts and prayers.



A visitation will be held at Gary United Methodist Church, 224 N Main St, Wheaton, IL 60187, on Friday, February 24, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the memorial service at 10:00 a.m. with a time of refreshments to follow.

## Guitar4Vets

Here is an opportunity to help veterans with PTSD and other issues and declutter your home or studio at the same time. Guitar4Vets is looking for donations of guitars or money for the program



Guitar For Vets is in the process of establishing a chapter to serve the veterans at the Aurora, IL VA clinic. Guitars for Vets is a 501(c)3 tax exempt charity that believes in putting "The Healing Power of Music in the Hands of Heroes". G4V offers a musical wellness program to veterans, especially those battling PTSD. G4V provides instruments and 10 weeks of guitar instruction to the veterans. Musical instruction and guitars are free, as while in the program. Those completing the program are given a guitar to keep. Lessons will be taught by volunteer G4V instructors.

Monetary donations will go to the purchase of these guitars and their accessories. Donations of gently used acoustic & electric guitars are accepted and a receipt from G4V will be provided.

<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/guitars-for-vets/guitars-for-vets-midwest-shelter-for-homeless-veterans?ref=bf68a762-7141-4e16-a5e4-e5d74b6bd6c0>

## West Suburban Music Teachers Association Meeting Minutes- February 2, 2023



Janel Greaves called the meeting to order at 9:31am at Trinity Episcopal Church.

No monthly music was heard. The minutes of the January 12, 2023 meeting were read by Dr. Anne Marie Kuhny. A motion was made to accept them as read by Linda Krueger and seconded by Diane Jankiewicz.

Treasurer Diane Lindsay reported that the account balance.

No TIP was given this month. Linda Krueger reported that there were no guests or new members present.

### Upcoming Events/Reminders:

February 9 – Teacher Performance Group – Karin Edwards

February 23 – Joint Chapters Workshop- Dr. Jeff Kleinsorge “How to Build Musicality from Scratch AND Practical Teaching” -Trinity Episcopal Church and Zoom 9:30am-12pm

#### **How to Build Technique and Musicality from Scratch**

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March 2 – Lia Jensen-Abbott: Lecture Recital on the Music of Florence Price

Some are going out for lunch after the program. All are welcome to join.

March 4 – AIM Performance Exam

March 10 – AIM Honors Recital, 6:30 PM at Windsor

March 25-29 – MTNA Conference in Reno, Nevada

April 16 – Student Recital at Windsor- Coordinated by Dr. Anne Marie Kuhny

April 23 – Berkley-Pendell Competition – Dr. Karol Sue Reddington

### New Items:

Need 2 or 3 intermediate students for April masterclass. Each to play one polished piece. Contact Liz if a student is interested in playing. Janna Williamson will be teaching.

Nominating Committee Report: Diane Jankiewicz reported that Linda Krueger has been nominated for 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Carol Beilke has been nominated for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for programs and Janna Williamson has been nominated for President.

## Additional Announcements

- The Joint Board is currently in need of a new treasurer. Please contact Marcia Lehe if you or someone you know is interested.

A motion to adjourn was made by Rita brown and seconded by Carol Ishman.

The monthly program was given by Janna Williamson and Debi Inch on AIM Performance Judging.

## Quote of the Month

'That is the quality which dance music has - no other: it stirs some barbaric instinct - lulled asleep in our sober lives - you forget centuries of civilization in a second, and yield to that strange passion which sends you madly whirling round the room - oblivious of everything save that you must keep swaying with the music.'

– Virginia Wolf



## 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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