

WSMTA NEWSLETTER



December 2023

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

Thursday, Dec. 7, 9:00 AM
Meeting & Program
"The Piano Music of Charles
Griffes," Dr. Michael Fritsch
Windsor Park Auditorium

Thursday, Jan 11, 9:00 AM
Meeting & Program
"Busy Teens- Should They
Stay or Go?" Christina
Whitlock
ZOOM MEETING ONLY

Thursday, Jan. 18, 9:30 AM
**Teacher Information
Exchange (TIE) Meeting**
Coordinator: Linda Krueger

Thursday, Feb. 1, 9:00 AM
Meeting & Program
"AIM Performance Judging
Session," Debbie Gillette and
Debi Inch
**Mandatory for all AIM
teachers**
Windsor Park Auditorium

Thursday, Feb. 8, 9:30 AM
Teacher Performance Group
Home of Janna Williamson

Thursday, Feb. 22, 9:30 AM
Joint Chapters Workshop
Trinity Episcopal Church
130 N. West, Wheaton

Sunday, Feb. 25, 1:30 PM
Student Recital
Entry deadline February 15
Windsor Park Auditorium

Thursday, Mar. 7, 9:00 AM
Meeting & Program
"Celebrating Rachmaninoff,"
Karin and Mark Edwards
Windsor Park Auditorium

Saturday, Mar. 9
AIM Performance Exams
Wheaton College
Conservatory

Sat. -Wed., Mar. 16-20
MTNA National Conference
Atlanta, Georgia

From the President...

Dear members,

Congratulations to all of the students who performed on the November recital, as well as their teachers. It was a very nice recital, with several well-prepared sonatinas and some dramatic upper-level 19th century repertoire, along with other selections.

The ISMTA conference on November 3-4 was a great success. Congratulations to our West Suburban members who contributed! As president, I attended some administrative meetings, and I am pleased to say that our state organization is in very good hands. Perhaps you have met Jeff Kleinsorge before; I'll take this opportunity to say that I think he is doing a very nice job as president of ISMTA.

December and January are quieter months for our organization, but I have three dates to mention:

- December 7 - chapter meeting, with a program given by Dr. Michael Fritsch on the piano music of Charles Griffes - I have taught only a couple of pieces by Griffes, and they are fantastic. I'm eager to learn more.
- January 11 - Christina Whitlock from Indiana will present "Busy Teens - Should They Stay or Go?" **Please note - this meeting will be on Zoom only!**
- January 18 - Teacher Information Exchange meeting at the home of Linda Krueger

I hope you all have a lovely and restful Thanksgiving. I am thankful for this group and each of its members!

Janna Williamson



December Meeting & Program – Dec. 7, 9:00am

"The Piano Music of Charles Griffes," Dr. Michael Fritsch

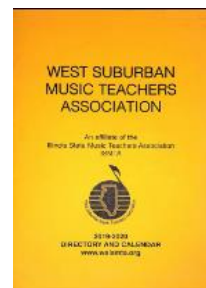
On Thursday, Dec. 7, Dr. Michael Fritsch will present a program on the piano works of Charles Griffes, modern American composer, for the West Suburban Music Teachers Association. The presentation will include brief biographical information, but will concentrate more on the repertoire, with a significant amount of performance of the pieces to illustrate the composer's style.



Michael Fritsch holds degrees in piano performance from Wheaton College, the University of Cincinnati, and Northwestern University, from which he received the Doctor of Music degree, studying with Donald Isaak. At Northwestern he also did extensive work in piano pedagogy with Frances Larimer. He was also elected to the music honor society, Pi Kappa Lambda. Dr. Fritsch has taught private piano at Wheaton College and private and class piano at the College of DuPage. He currently maintains an independent studio in Glen Ellyn. A life-long church musician, he is currently organist at Kingswood United Methodist Church. Dr. Fritsch has had an interest in a wide variety of American music since undergraduate days. He is particularly interested in 20th-Century American composers, especially Norman Dello Joio, Roy Harris, Aaron Copland, and Charles Griffes, and recently presented seminars on their piano works to his adult students. Dr. Fritsch lives in Warrenville with his wife Janis, and four-legged child Andy, a border collie, who keeps them both hopping.

Membership Directory Correction

Please note a typographical error in the past newsletter directory update about our newest member. Patricia's last name is Arzaga (not Argaza).



West Suburban Music Teachers Association November 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes



- Call to order - The meeting was called to order at 9:01 by President, Janna Williamson
- Monthly music - None
- TIP: Mary McGinty - Ensembles are energizing! Encourage students to play together!
- Minutes of October 5 meeting: Carol Ishman - Approved by Mary McGinty & Carole Beilke
- Financial report - Diane Lindsay reported the chapter balance
- Membership: - No visitors
- AIM Theory update - Lynette Zelis said that there were 22 makeup exams after the theory exam date. All have been completed. Twenty-one teachers and 152 students participated this year, up from 139. Numbers are continuing to rise, which is a good sign. If there are any comments about exams or complaints, please contact Lynette.

Upcoming Events and Reminders:

- ISMTA Conference November 3-4 - Some of our members are presenters. Attend for at least one day if you can.
- Debi Inch reminded everyone that the ISMTA Foundation provides community grants for students and for teacher self-improvement.
- TIE meeting Nov 9, Marcia Lehe's home. Teacher Information Exchange meetings are designed so that we can talk about any topic, question, problem or subject. You can even bring a game to try out.
- Chapter Recital Nov 12, 1:30pm - 11 or more students are signed up.
- Monthly meeting - The next meeting is on Dec 7, 2023
- January meeting will be ONLINE using Zoom

New Items:

- BP - Karol Sue Reddington encouraged teachers to have students participate in the Berkley-Pendell Competition which will be held on April 21, 2024. Applications should be postmarked by March 25, 2024. She gave out a one-page list defining the requirements for both the Competition Level and the Festival Level of the competition.
- It was noted that several publishers are having troubles. Several composers are self-publishing including Catherine Rollin. Music originally published by FJH is being distributed by Alfred. MTNA members can get discounts at www.MusicNotes.com using discount codes on the MTNA site. Note that the discount code changes monthly so check the code before ordering.

Adjournment - Lynette Zelis and Karol Sue Reddington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 am.

Program: Listening Through Soundtracks - Ruth Mudge

Carol Ishman, Secretary pro-tempore
Dr. Anne Marie Kuhny, Secretary

Quote of the Month

“Music... will help dissolve your perplexities and purify your character and sensibilities, and in time of care and sorrow, will keep a fountain of joy alive in you.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer



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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