

WSMTA NEWSLETTER



January 2024

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

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,

I never run recitals in December - it's just too busy! For the past few years, I've been using a free resource from our January speaker, Christina Whitlock, called the *December Performance Challenge*. Students get a special piece of paper on which to collect signatures whenever they perform for family or friends during the month of December.

It gets competitive in the studio because the student who comes back in January with the most signatures earns a prize. For some students, this is highly motivating. (For others, not so much!)

The goal? To encourage students to *share music* at a time when they are likely to celebrate the holidays with friends and family that they might not see during other times of the year.

As a professional musician, it can be easy to lose sight of this simple goal of sharing music if we have a lot of gigs or a strenuous schedule around the holidays. However, I've been struck this year as I attended my daughter's Nutcracker ballet, my sons' band concert, and (especially) my husband's professional choir concert, that it is a true joy and blessing to receive the gift of beautiful art.

So, thank you to all of you who are generously sharing your musical skills this month. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Janna Williamson

PS - Don't forget that our January 11th meeting featuring Christina Whitlock presentation "Busy Teens - Should They Stay or Go?" **will be on Zoom only!** You'll receive the link in your email.

January Meeting & Program – January 11, 9:00am – *Virtual, Zoom meeting!*

"Busy Teens- Should They Stay or Go?" Christina Whitlock



It is universally understood teenagers are more overscheduled and distracted than ever. As such, busy teens (and their teachers!) struggle to find success in a model that assumes significant independent practice time is required to make progress.

In this session, Christina Whitlock challenges the notion that at-home practice is the only path to success as a musician. It is surely a factor; there is no denying that. However, teachers must examine if they believe music study to be a worthy pursuit for everyone, or just for those who are willing to commit to hours of practice time each week.

Many teachers choose to draw a line in the sand here: Practice more or discontinue lessons. The tragedy here is the number of students who are left feeling as though they “failed” music lessons because they were unable to meet the expectations of their teachers. These emotions carry over into adulthood and can have lasting impacts on how these individuals feel about music study.

This presentation encourages teachers to find ways to help students feel successful at their instruments, regardless of limited schedules. In doing so, we will help up-and-coming generations build a new mental framework around music study.

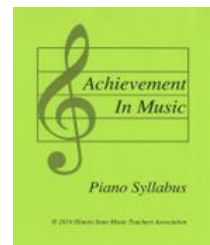
Christina Whitlock, M.M., N.C.T.M., operates a bustling independent studio in Muncie, Indiana, offering individual and group instruction for students of all ages. Christina began teaching in the private setting when she was only fourteen and has maintained a full studio roster ever since.

As host and producer of the weekly *Beyond Measure Podcast*, Christina enjoys connecting with studio music teachers from all over the world on a regular basis. She is a sought-after speaker, collaborator, and teacher of teachers. Christina has served on the Indiana Music Teachers Association Board of Directors since graduating in 2006, including a term as State President. She currently chairs the Independent Music Teachers Forum.

Having recently made the difficult decision to leave her adjunct collegiate teaching position, Christina is dedicating more time to writing and producing offerings for studio music teachers.

Her passions include exploring the legacy and lifelong impact of teacher-student relationships, and helping teachers establish necessary boundaries to ensure long-term contentment in our profession.

AIM Performance News



As we approach 2024, please take note of the following dates for AIM Performance exams:

- Exams will be held on Saturday, March 9 at Wheaton College
- The deadline for enrollment is February 1
- All judges must attend the mandatory meeting on February 1
- The deadline for requesting repertoire substitutions for pieces not on the AIM syllabus is January 15.
To submit a piece for consideration, send a scanned copy of the first and last page of your requested piece with Level and List (A, B, C, D) information to Stephanie Myers.
- The deadline for level 12 repertoire approval is 5 months prior to the exam date (no later than March 31) and teachers must use the specific fillable PDF form linked here:

<https://ismta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Level-12-Program-Approval-Submission-Fillable.pdf>

Debbie Gillette and Debi Inch, WSMTA AIM Performance Co-Chairs

West Suburban Music Teachers Association December 7, 2023, Meeting Minutes



Call to order at 9:03 am by chapter president Janna Williamson. No monthly music was heard. Debbie Gillette presented the TIP on technique, including teaching minor chord progressions and sharing handouts she uses and starting this learning early enough with the student. Teachers may need to be willing to spend an extra period of time on these elements of the lesson.

The minutes of the November 2 meeting were read by Dr. Anne Marie Kuhny and a motion was made to approve them by Linda Krueger and Rita Brown.

Treasurer was not present by a financial report was read by President Janna Williamson.

Membership reported that one guest was present: Phyllis Cooper.

Upcoming Events and Reminders:

- The January meeting will be held *completely online on January 11, 2024*; Zoom will open at 8:45am and the presenter will be Christina Whitlock.
- January 18 TIE meeting coordinator is Linda Krueger.
- February meeting will be as normal at Windsor; social meeting opens at 8:30am and business meeting at 9am.

New Items:

- Berkely Pendell report was given by Karol Sue Reddington. She informed us that all is on track for the upcoming competition,
- Karin Edwards said thank you to all for the member of the year nomination.
- Rita Brown reported that monthly music needs more participants; please consider and encourage students that are available to perform.
- The February recital is in need of a coordinator. Please contact Janna Williamson if you are able and willing to help.

Dr. Anne Marie Kuhny reported that CAMTA Sonata Sonatina Festival is open through December 17. Please enter your students in this excellent opportunity for feedback and performance.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Carol Ishman and seconded by Karol Sue Reddington.

Program: The Piano Music of Charles Griffes - Michael Fritsch

Quote of the Month

“Everything in me feels fluttering and free, like I could take off from the ground at any second. Music, I think, he makes me feel like music.” — Lauren Oliver



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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